



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
Christopher Seppanen  
Executive Director

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: September 26, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-010237  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Landis Lain

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and upon the Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on September 22, 2016. Petitioner [REDACTED] and her niece [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Petitioner. [REDACTED], Director of Care Management Services represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) Waiver Agency, the [REDACTED].

Respondent's Exhibit A-E were admitted as evidence. Petitioner's Exhibits 1-6 were admitted as evidence.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's MI Choice Waiver Program?

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Petitioner is a Medicaid beneficiary,
2. On July 14, 2016, Petitioner contacted [REDACTED] with a request to be placed on the MI Choice Waiver waiting list.
3. In accordance with Department policy, a telephone evaluation using the MI choice Intake Guideline (MIG) tool was completed.
4. Petitioner provided information during the evaluation and based upon the information provided, scored a Level B which is indicative of needing Homemaking services only.

5. The Intake Specialist determined that Petitioner's answers for the MIG were reliable.
6. The Waiver Agency is a contract agent of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and is responsible for waiver eligibility determinations and the provision of MI Choice Waiver Services.
7. The Waiver Agency determined that Petitioner did not meet medical eligibility criteria for the MI choice Waiver Program.
8. On July 14, 2016, the Waiver Agency informed Petitioner via Advance Action Notice/Termination of Services that his housekeeping and personal care services were suspended because he did not have a caregiver in the home.
9. On August 1, 2016, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System received Petitioner's request for an administrative hearing.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance Program is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

This Petitioner is claiming services through the Department's Home and Community Based Services for Elderly and Disabled (HCBS/ED). The waiver is called MI Choice in Michigan. The program is funded through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (formerly HCFA) to the Michigan Department of Community Health (Department). Regional agencies function as the Department's administrative agency.

Waivers are intended to provide the flexibility needed to enable States to try new or different approaches to the efficient and cost-effective delivery of health care services, or to adapt their programs to the special needs of particular areas or groups of recipients. Waivers allow exceptions to State plan requirements and permit a State to implement innovative programs or activities on a time-limited basis, and subject to specific safeguards for the protection of recipients and the program. Detailed rules for waivers are set forth in subpart B of part 431, subpart A of part 440 and subpart G of part 441 of this chapter.

*42 CFR 430.25(b)*

A waiver under section 1915(c) of the [Social Security] Act allows a State to include as "medical assistance" under its plan, home and community based services furnished to

recipients who would otherwise need inpatient care that is furnished in a hospital, SNF [Skilled Nursing Facility], ICF [Intermediate Care Facility], or ICF/MR [Intermediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded], and is reimbursable under the State Plan.

42 CFR 430.25(c)(2)

The policy regarding enrollment in the MI Choice Waiver program is contained in the *Medicaid Provider Manual, MI Choice Waiver*, April 1, 2014, which provides in part:

### **SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION**

MI Choice is a waiver program operated by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to deliver home and community-based services to elderly persons and persons with physical disabilities who meet the Michigan nursing facility level of care criteria that supports required long-term care (as opposed to rehabilitative or limited term stay) provided in a nursing facility. The waiver is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. MDCH carries out its waiver obligations through a network of enrolled providers that operate as organized health care delivery systems (OHCDs). These entities are commonly referred to as waiver agencies. MDCH and its waiver agencies must abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the waiver.

MI Choice services are available to qualified participants throughout the state and all provisions of the program are available to each qualified participant unless otherwise noted in this policy and approved by CMS. (p. 1).

\* \* \*

### **SECTION 2 - ELIGIBILITY**

The MI Choice program is available to persons 18 years of age or older who meet each of three eligibility criteria:

- An applicant must establish his/her financial eligibility for Medicaid services as described in the Financial Eligibility subsection of this chapter.
- The applicant must meet functional eligibility requirements through the online version of the Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination (LOCD).

- It must be established that the applicant needs at least one waiver service and that the service needs of the applicant cannot be fully met by existing State Plan or other services.

All criteria must be met in order to establish eligibility for the MI Choice program. MI Choice participants must continue to meet these eligibility requirements on an ongoing basis to remain enrolled in the program. (p.1, emphasis added).

\* \* \*

## **2.2.A. MICHIGAN MEDICAID NURSING FACILITY LEVEL OF CARE DETERMINATION**

MI Choice applicants are evaluated for functional eligibility via the Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination. The LOCD is available online through Michigan's Single Sign-on System. Refer to the Directory Appendix for website information. Applicants must qualify for functional eligibility through one of seven doors.

These doors are:

- Door 1: Activities of Daily Living Dependency
- Door 2: Cognitive Performance
- Door 3: Physician Involvement
- Door 4: Treatments and Conditions
- Door 5: Skilled Rehabilitation Therapies
- Door 6: Behavioral Challenges
- Door 7: Service Dependency

The LOCD must be completed in person by a health care professional (physician, registered nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN), licensed social worker (BSW or MSW), or a physician assistant) or be completed by staff that have direct oversight by a health care professional.

The online version of the LOCD must be completed within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of enrollment in MI Choice for the following:

- All new Medicaid-eligible enrollees

- Non-emergency transfers of Medicaid-eligible participants from their current MI Choice waiver agency to another MI Choice waiver agency
- Non-emergency transfers of Medicaid-eligible residents from a nursing facility that is undergoing a voluntary program closure and who are enrolling in MI Choice

Annual online LOCDs are not required; however, subsequent redeterminations, progress notes, or participant monitoring notes must demonstrate that the participant continues to meet the level of care criteria on a continuing basis. If waiver agency staff determines that the participant no longer meets the functional level of care criteria for participation (e.g., demonstrates a significant change in condition), another face-to-face online version of the LOCD must be conducted reflecting the change in functional status. This subsequent redetermination must be noted in the case record and signed by the individual conducting the determination. (pp. 1-2).

Petitioner's representative testified that Petitioner needs more help than she admitted to and is currently living in assisted living facility because she can no longer be left alone based upon her medical condition. The Waiver Agency's Clinical Manager indicated that since Petitioner was found to be not eligible for the Waiver program under any door, she may be eligible to receive Home Help Services through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, if needed.

Based on the information at the time of the LOC determination, Petitioner did not meet the Medicaid nursing facility level of care criteria. This does not imply that Petitioner does not need any assistance, only that she was not eligible to receive ongoing services through the MI Choice Waiver at the time the assessment was completed. Accordingly, the Waiver Agency properly determined that Petitioner only met Level B in the scoring of the MIG, which did not demonstrate a need for services and was thus, not eligible for MI Choice Waiver services. If her needs have changed, Petitioner and her Representative can contact the MI Choice program to be re-evaluated.

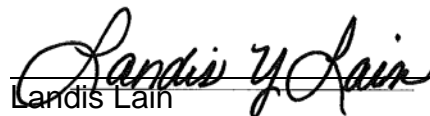
**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Waiver Agency properly determined that Petitioner was not eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program because she did not demonstrate a need for the services during the MIG evaluation.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

LL/sb



Landis Lain

Administrative Law Judge

for Nick Lyon, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30763  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

**DHHS -Dept Contact**

[REDACTED]

**DHHS -Dept Contact**

[REDACTED]

**Authorized Hearing Rep.**

[REDACTED]

**Community Health Rep**

[REDACTED]

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]