



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: November 7, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-014836
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Darryl Johnson

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on November 3, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner appeared on her own behalf, along with her husband, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Hearings Facilitator [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for Child Development and Care (CDC) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On August 2, 2016, Petitioner applied for CDC.
2. On August 19, 2016, the Department mailed a Verification Checklist (Exhibit 1 Pages 21-22) with a due date of August 29, 2016.
3. On August 25, 2016, the Department mailed a CDC Proof of Family Preservation Need (Pages 24-25) which was to be completed by her husband's doctor to verify that the husband's medical condition affected his ability to provide care for the couple's child.

4. The Family Preservation form listed Petitioner as the client, and did not identify her husband anywhere on the form.
5. The husband's doctor refused to complete the form because it did not have his patient's name.
6. The Department faxed the form to the doctor, but the doctor still would not complete the form.
7. The Department was unable to generate the form with the husband's name on it.
8. On September 16, 2016, the Department notified Petitioner that her CDC application was denied due to failure to verify the husband's medical condition.
9. The Department received Petitioner's hearing request on September 27, 2016, protesting the denial of the CDC application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

Per BAM 130 (10/1/14), at page 6:

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email or Mi Bridges document upload), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day.

Send a negative action notice when:

The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**

The time period given has elapsed and the client has **not** made a reasonable effort to provide it.

In this case, the Department required verification of the husband's medical condition. The necessary form was transmitted to the Petitioner, and to the husband's doctor. The doctor was unwilling to return the completed form. As explained in BAM 130 (7/1/16) p. 3, "The client must obtain required verification, but the local office must assist if they need and request help. If neither the client nor the local office can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If no evidence is available, use your best judgment."

There is no evidence that Petitioner was refusing to provide the verification. There is evidence that Petitioner made a reasonable effort to provide the verification. The verification was beyond the Petitioner's control. The Department was to use the best available information, and if no information was available, it was to use its best judgment. There is no evidence that the Department used any judgment in this case. It just denied the application because the husband's medical condition was not verified.

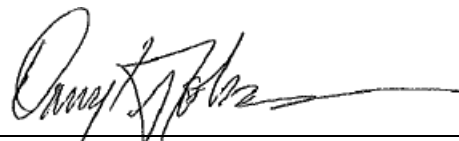
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's application for CDC.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Redetermine Petitioner's eligibility for CDC in accordance with Department policy as of the date of application.
2. Provide Petitioner with CDC if eligibility is established.



DJ/mc

Darryl Johnson
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 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

DHHS

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]