



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: October 3, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-010921
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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 September 6, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for MA 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. Petitioner was an MA recipient.
2. On [REDACTED], Petitioner submitted a Redetermination and pay stubs to the Department.
3. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice which notified Petitioner that her MA benefits would close effective [REDACTED].
4. On [REDACTED] Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner submitted a Redetermination and paystubs on [REDACTED]. Based upon the paystubs submitted, the Department determined Petitioner's household income to have exceeded the allowable limit of [REDACTED]. Petitioner testified that her work is seasonal and she would not earn the same income throughout the year.

Prospecting income means arriving at a best estimate of the person's income. Prospect income when estimating income to be received in a processing or future month. The best estimate may not be the exact amount of income received. Some of the reasons income fluctuates is because:

- The number of hours worked in a month may fluctuate.
- The amount of tips may vary from payday to payday.

Under Department policy, the following guidelines for prospecting income are to be used:

- For fluctuating earned income, use the expected hourly wage and hours to be worked, as well as the payday schedule, to estimate earnings.
- Paystubs showing year-to-date earnings and frequency of pay are usually as good as multiple paystubs to verify income.
- A certain number of paystubs is not required to verify income. If even one paystub reflects the hours and wages indicated on the application, that is sufficient information.
- If a person reports a pay rate change and/or an increase or decrease in the number of hours they usually work, use the new amount even if the change is not reflected on any paystubs... BEM 530 (January 2014), pp. 3-4.

Petitioner provided paystubs showing year-to-date pay information which showed that as of [REDACTED], she earned [REDACTED]. Given that Petitioner's income is not consistent throughout the year, it is likely that Petitioner's income will not exceed the income limit. Accordingly, it is found that the Department failed to establish that Petitioner's group exceeded the income limit for MA benefits.

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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it determined that Petitioner exceeded the income limit for MA benefits.

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 MA benefits effective [REDACTED], using prospecting income;
2. Issue supplements Petitioner was eligibility to receive but did not, effective [REDACTED]; and
3. Notify Petitioner in writing of its decision.

JM/hw



Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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]

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]