



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: February 27, 2017
MAHS Docket No.: 16-019296
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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. On January 26, 2017, the hearing was adjourned. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on February 16, 2017, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by his parents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by [REDACTED] Assistance Payments Supervisor, and [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist. The parties consented to have this hearing consolidated with another hearing, MAH Docket No. 16-019297.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA)?

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, the Department received Petitioner's application for Medical Assistance (MA) where Petitioner reported that he was not a U.S. citizen but claimed to have eligible immigration status. Exhibit A, pp 3-4.
2. Petitioner provided the Department with verification that he has a Permanent Resident Card, also known as a "green card," and a VISA coded R-L2. Exhibit A, pp 7-8.

3. On September 2, 2016, the Department notified Petitioner that he was approved for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits limited to Emergency Services Only (ESO) coverage. Exhibit A, p 6.
4. On December 1, 2016, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the determination of his eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) with Emergency Services Only. Exhibit A, p 1.

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.

A permanent resident alien is eligible for MA benefits but is limited to emergency services for the first five years in the United States. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 225 (October 1, 2016), pp 7-8.

On August 2, 2016, the Department received Petitioner's application for MA benefits. Petitioner provided the Department with verification that he has a Permanent Resident Card, which is also known as a "green card." On September 2, 2016, the Department notified Petitioner that he was approved for MA benefits limited to Emergency Services Only (ESO).

Petitioner's representatives argued that Petitioner has been a permanent resident alien in the United States for more than five years.

The production of evidence to support the department's position is clearly required under BAM 600 as well as general case law (see e.g., *Kar v Hogan*, 399 Mich 529; 251 NW2d 77 [1976]). In *McKinstry v Valley Obstetrics-Gynecology Clinic, PC*, 428 Mich167; 405 NW2d 88 (1987), the Michigan Supreme Court addressed the issue of burden of proof, stating in part:

The term "burden of proof" encompasses two separate meanings. [citation omitted.] One of these meanings is the burden of persuasion or the risk of nonpersuasion. The other is the risk of going forward or the risk of nonproduction. The burden of producing evidence on an issue means the liability

to an adverse ruling (generally a finding or a directed verdict) if evidence on the issue has not been produced. It is usually on the party who has pleaded the existence of the fact, but..., the burden may shift to the adversary when the pleader has discharged [its] initial duty. The burden of producing evidence is a critical mechanism[.]

The burden of persuasion becomes a crucial factor only if the parties have sustained their burdens of producing evidence and only when all of the evidence has been introduced.

McKinstry, 428 Mich at 93-94, quoting McCormick, Evidence (3d ed), Sec. 336, p. 946.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department failed to present sufficient evidence to establish how long it has been since Petitioner entered the county, and that this is an essential element of her eligibility for MA benefits.

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 determined that Petitioner is eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits limited to Emergency Services Only (ESO).

DECISION AND ORDER

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:

Initiate a determination of the Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits as of his application date on August 1, 2016, in accordance with policy with adequate notice to Petitioner.

KS/nr



Kevin Scully
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]