



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: August 11, 2017  
MAHS Docket No.: 17-008336  
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. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held on July 25, 2017, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner represented himself. The Department was represented by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

### **ISSUE**

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

### **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's son is an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. Petitioner's son is employed and receives countable income from [REDACTED] Exhibit A, pp 13-18.
3. Petitioner's son is over [REDACTED] years of age. Exhibit A, p 20.
4. The Department approved Petitioner for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits with a \$ [REDACTED] monthly deductible. Exhibit A, p 19.
5. On June 14, 2017, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the level of Medical Assistance (MA) benefits his son is receiving.

## 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.

The income limit to participate in the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) is 133% of the federal poverty level. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 246 (April 1, 2014), p 1.

Petitioner's son is an ongoing MA recipient and is employed. Petitioner's son receives earned income that is greater than 133% of the federal poverty level and the 5% disregard does not make him eligible for benefits. Petitioner did not dispute the amount of earned income the Department applied towards his son's Ma benefits.

A review of Petitioner's case reveals that the Department budgeted correct amount of income received by the Petitioner. Petitioner's "protected income level" is \$ [REDACTED] and this amount cannot be changed either by the Department or by this Administrative Law Judge. Department of Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 240 (December 1, 2013), p 1. Department's determination that the Petitioner has a \$ [REDACTED] deductible per month she must meet in order to qualify for MA for any medical expenses above is therefore correct.

Petitioner disputed the fairness of requiring a \$ [REDACTED] deductible before becoming eligible for MA benefits. Petitioner argued that his son is not eligible for MA benefits on the Federal Market Place and that there should be a place for him to get medical benefits without such a large monthly deductible.

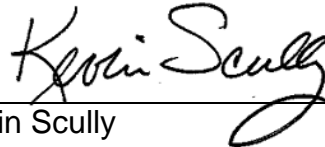
The Petitioner's grievance centers on dissatisfaction with the Department's current policy. The Petitioner's request is not within the scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judges have no authority to overrule promulgated regulations or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940).

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 acted in

accordance with Department policy when it determined the level of Medical Assistance (MA) benefits his son has been approved for.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



KS/nr

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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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]