



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: March 26, 2019
MAHS Docket No.: 18-013810
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. A hearing scheduled for February 14, 2019, was dismissed, but that order was vacated on February 28, 2019. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on March 20, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner represented himself. The Department was represented by Khaled Abou-Elazm and Gary Sadowski.

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. Petitioner is an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) recipient as a group of one.
2. Petitioner receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of \$1,699 in December of 2018. Exhibit A, pp 5-7.
3. Petitioner receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of \$1,652 in November of 2018. Exhibit A, pp 5-7.

4. On November 20, 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that he remained eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits effective January 1, 2019, but with a \$1,224 monthly deductible. Exhibit A, pp 13-16.
5. On December 26, 2018, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the level of Medical Assistance (MA) he is eligible for. Exhibit A, p 3.

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.

All earned and unearned income available is countable unless excluded by policy. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2017).

Persons may qualify under more than one MA category. Federal law gives them the right to the most beneficial category. The most beneficial category is the one that results in eligibility or the least amount of excess income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 105 (April 1, 2017), p 2.

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 was an ongoing MA recipient under the HMP category, and he was receiving RSDI in the gross monthly amount of \$1,652. Previously, the Department excluded a portion of Petitioner's social security benefits making him eligible for "full" Medicaid

under the HMP category. Effective January 1, 2019, Department policy changed requiring all of Petitioner's social security benefits to be countable towards his eligibility for MA benefits. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 503 (January 1, 2019), pp 29-30.

Petitioner receives a gross monthly income of \$1,699 as of December 1, 2018. This income is 163% of the federal poverty level, and Petitioner is not longer eligible for the HMP benefits as of January 1, 2019, based on his income.

The Department then determined whether Petitioner is eligible for MA benefits under other categories. Petitioner is not eligible for "full" MA under the AD-CARE category because his income exceeds 100% of the federal poverty level. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 163 (July 1, 20 17), p 1.

The Department then determined Petitioner's eligibility for MA under the MA-G2S category. 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 \$408, 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 \$1,225 deductible per month she must meet in order to qualify for MA for any medical expenses above is therefore correct.

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 Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA).

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/dh



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Robert Gordon, 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) 763-0155; 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

Montrece White
27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093

Macomb County, DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]