



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: April 23, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-002228
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ellen McLemore

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; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 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 April 18, 2019, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Sabrina Hopkins, Assistance Payments Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) benefit case?

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 November 29, 2018, Petitioner submitted an application for MA benefits.
2. On November 29, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting verification of his wages (Exhibit A).
3. On January 10, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice (HCCDN) informing him that his MA benefit application was denied (Exhibit C).
4. On January 18, 2019, Petitioner submitted pay statements (Exhibit B).
5. On March 4, 2019, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing.

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 an application for MA benefits on November 29, 2018. On November 29, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a VCL requesting verification of his wages. Proofs were due by December 10, 2018.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (April 2017), p. 1. To request verification of information, the Department sends a verification checklist (VCL) which tells the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. BAM 130, p. 3. For MA cases, the Department allows the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification that is required. BAM 130 (April 2017), p. 7. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department will extend the time limit up to two times. BAM 130, p. 8. The Department sends a negative action notice when: the client indicates a refusal to provide a verification OR the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, p. 7.

The Department presented Petitioner's electronic case file (ECF). The ECF consists of scanned documents, arranged by category and identified by a client name, recipient ID or case number, established for a particular client group. BAM 300 (October 2016), p. 1. The ECF contains all forms, documents and other evidence to the group's current and past eligibility. BAM 300, p. 1. The ECF revealed Petitioner did not return his verification of employment by the VCL due date. As a result, the Department denied Petitioner's MA application.

Upon certification of eligibility results, the Department automatically notifies the client in writing of positive and negative actions by generating the appropriate notice of case action. BAM 220 (January 2018), p. 2. Negative actions must be deleted in some situations. BAM 220, p. 13. One such situation is when the requirement is met before the negative action effective date. BAM 220, p. 13. The Department will enter the information the client provided to meet the requirement that caused the negative action into the system. BAM 220, p. 13. The Department will then take the additional following actions:

(i) reactive the program(s); and (ii) run eligibility and certify the results. BAM 220, p. 13. The negative action date is the day after the timely hearing request date on the notice of case action. BAM 220, p. 12. A timely hearing request is a request received within 10 days of the date the notice of case action was issued. BAM 600 (January 2018), p. 25. When the 10th calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday, holiday, or other non-workday, the request is timely if received by the following workday. BAM 600, p. 25.

According to the ECF, Petitioner did submit pay statements on January 18, 2019. The Department testified it was unsure as to what Petitioner submitted, only that he had submitted some form of employment verification. Per the HCCDN, the timely hearing request date was January 22, 2019. There was evidence that Petitioner satisfied the requirement prior to the negative action date. The Department did not present the documents that were submitted January 18, 2019, and therefore, did not establish that Petitioner failed to meet the requirement within the negative action date. Thus, the Department failed to establish that it properly followed policy when it did not delete the negative action.

DECISION AND ORDER

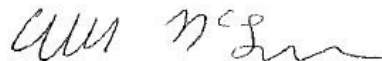
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Petitioner's MA application.

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. Reinstate and reprocess Petitioner's November 29, 2018 MA application;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for MA, provide him with coverage he is entitled to receive as of November 29, 2018; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.

EM/



Ellen McLemore

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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MOAHR 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. MOAHR will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MOAHR. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MOAHR Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

DHHS

Richard Latimore
MDHHS-Wayne-57-Hearings

Petitioner

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