



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: August 9, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-006684
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 August 8, 2019, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Aundrea Jones, Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) benefit application?

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 [REDACTED], 2019, Petitioner submitted an application for MA benefits (Exhibit A, pp. 5-8).
2. On May 15, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire (HCCSQ).
3. On June 5, 2019, Petitioner submitted the completed HCCSQ (Exhibit A, pp. 9-12).
4. On June 6, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice (HCCDN) informing him that his MA application was denied (Exhibit A, pp. 14-16).

5. On [REDACTED] 2019, Petitioner submitted 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 an application for MA benefits on [REDACTED] 2019. On May 15, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a HCCSQ. On the HCCSQ, Petitioner was advised to complete the form and submit verification of any income or assets indicated on the questionnaire. The form and proofs were due by May 28, 2019.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (April 2017), p. 1. Generally, 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. In this case, the Department sent a Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire to request verification. A Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire is used to gather additional information when the applicant indicates a disability on the MA application. BEM 105 (April 2017), p. 3. For MA cases, the Department allows the client 10 calendar days to provide the verification that is required. BAM 130, 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 testified that Petitioner noted that he had a pension and checking account. The Department stated that Petitioner did not return proof of his pension or his checking account. As a result, Petitioner's MA application was denied.

Petitioner testified that he is partially blind and wheelchair bound. Petitioner stated that he was assisted by a social worker during the application process. Petitioner testified that he obtained a bank statement and proof of his pension payment and provided the

documents to his social worker. Petitioner was advised by the social worker that the documents were submitted timely.

The Department sends a negative action 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. Petitioner clearly did not indicate a refusal to provide the verification and made a reasonable effort to comply with the requests for verification. Thus, the Department did not act in accordance with policy when it denied Petitioner's MA application.

DECISION AND ORDER

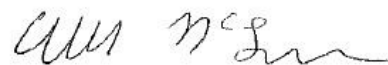
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's MA application.

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 [REDACTED], 2019 MA application;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for MA benefits, provide coverage he is entitled to receive; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.

EM/cg



Ellen McLemore
Administrative Law Judge
for Robert Gordon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

