



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: February 4, 2020  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-012823  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeffrey Kemm**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Upon the Petitioner's December 13, 2019, request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on February 4, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan.

Petitioner, ██████████, appeared with her housekeeper, Henritta Coakley. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Allison Pool, Appeals Review Officer, appear as its representative. The Department had one witness, Kenisha Smith, Independent Living Specialist (ILS). Neither party had any additional witnesses.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 34-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for Home Help Services (HHS)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Petitioner requested HHS from the Department.
2. Petitioner's medical provider certified that Petitioner had a medical need for services.

3. On September 17, 2019, the Department met with Petitioner face-to-face in her home to complete a comprehensive assessment. Petitioner was present with her housekeeper. The Department observed Petitioner move about her home without assistance; Petitioner walked around, sat down, and used her hands without assistance. The Department asked Petitioner about her need for assistance, and Petitioner indicated that she needed assistance with transferring, mobility, toileting, bathing, dressing, grooming, medications, shopping, laundry, housework, and meal preparation. The Department also asked Petitioner whether she watches any children (because the Department saw children's toys around the home), and Petitioner indicated that she sometimes watches her grandchild.
4. Based on the Department's assessment, the Department determined that Petitioner did not need hands-on assistance with any ADL's and that she did not have any complex care needs.
5. On October 3, 2019, the Department mailed a negative action notice to Petitioner to notify her that her request for HHS was denied because she did not have a need for hands-on assistance with at least one ADL.
6. On December 13, 2019, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision to deny her request for HHS.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance Program (MA) is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a health professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

In order to be eligible for HHS, an individual must have a need for services, based on a comprehensive assessment indicating a need for hands-on assistance with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) or a need for complex care. ASM 120 (February 1, 2019), p. 3. Those activities known as ADL's are eating, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and mobility. *Id.* at 2. Complex care includes such care as catheters, bowel programs, specialized skin care, suctioning, range of motion exercises, wound care, respiratory treatments, and injections. *Id.* at 4.

The comprehensive assessment is the Department's primary tool for determining a client's need for services. *Id.* at 1. Although a medical professional may certify a client's need for services, it is the Department who determines whether there is a need

for services through its comprehensive assessment. ASM 115 (January 1, 2018), p. 2. During the assessment, the Department documents a client's abilities and needs in order to determine the client's ability to perform activities. ASM 120 at 2.

In this case, the Department completed a comprehensive assessment following Petitioner's request for HHS. The Department met face-to-face with Petitioner in her home to complete the assessment. During the assessment, the Department observed Petitioner in her home and asked Petitioner about her need for services. Based on the Department's observations and Petitioner's responses, the Department determined that Petitioner did not have a need for services because she did not have a need for hands-on assistance with any ADL's and she did not have any complex care needs. The Department made this determination in part based on its observation of Petitioner moving about her home without assistance and based on Petitioner's response indicating that she cares for her grandchild.

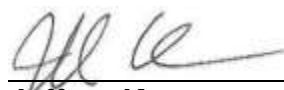
Petitioner did not present sufficient evidence to establish that the Department did not act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law. The Department's assessment supported the Department's decision to deny Petitioner's request for HHS, and Petitioner did not present any evidence to establish that the assessment was not completed properly. Therefore, I must find that the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for HHS.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for HHS.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT** the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

JK/dh



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**Jeffrey Kemm**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Robert Gordon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

