

## ISSUE

Did Respondent properly deny Petitioner's request for permanent placement in a nursing facility?

## 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 is enrolled to receive services through Respondent.

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2. Respondent is a service provider through the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
3. Petitioner lives with her spouse, REDACTED REDACTED. Petitioner's spouse is also enrolled to receive services through Respondent.
4. On November 18, 2019, Petitioner's daughter/power of attorney and son requested that Respondent permanently place Petitioner and her spouse in a nursing facility, Legacy Assisted Living, because they are not safe in their home.
5. Respondent conducted a face-to-face assessment of Petitioner.
6. While at Respondent's day health center, Respondent had Petitioner's family leave to see how they would do at the day health center. Respondent observed Petitioner for approximately 90 minutes. Respondent observed that Petitioner asked where her family was and whether it was time to go several times. Respondent also observed Petitioner discuss her hobbies and family. Respondent did not observe Petitioner try to leave or wander around.
7. During Respondent's assessment, Respondent noted that: (a) Petitioner suffers short term memory problems; (b) Petitioner's daily decision making ability is severely impaired, (c) Petitioner needs assistance with activities of daily living (ADL's) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL's), (d) Petitioner's daughter needs respite and other services to deal with caring for Petitioner; and (e) Petitioner would like to remain in her home.
8. Petitioner's interdisciplinary team (IDT) reviewed Petitioner's request and assessment. Petitioner's IDT discussed that Petitioner is dependent on her spouse for care and monitoring, Petitioner's spouse needs help caring for himself, and additional services are available to keep them in their home. Based upon the review, Petitioner's IDT decided to deny the request for permanent placement in a nursing facility because additional services are available. Additional available services include day health center attendance, home care, meals, and home environment modifications.
9. On November 21, 2019, Respondent mailed a notice of denial to Petitioner's daughter to notify her that her request for permanent placement in a nursing facility was denied.
10. On November 22, 2019, Petitioner's IDT met to discuss additional services that should be provided to keep Petitioner in her home. They discussed (a) having Petitioner and her spouse come in to the day health center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; (b) changing Petitioner's medication dispensers from blister packs to medication boxes to make it easier to administer medications; (c) educating Petitioner's spouse to make calls for assistance when Petitioner needs assistance with bowel changes; (d) talking about brief alternatives for Petitioner

to address bowel issues; (e) providing a home health companion to provide meal preparation and to check on medications; and (f) suggesting to family that they add a lock to the basement door to prevent anyone from going down the basement stairs.

11. On December 20, 2019, Petitioner's daughter appealed Respondent's November 21, 2019, denial.
12. Respondent forwarded Petitioner's internal appeal to its impartial third party, Huron Valley PACE, for a review.
13. Huron Valley PACE reviewed Petitioner's internal appeal and determined that Petitioner's IDT acted appropriately when it denied the request for permanent placement in a nursing facility.
14. On December 24, 2019, Respondent mailed a notice to Petitioner's daughter to notify her that her internal appeal was reviewed and Respondent's decision to deny the request for permanent placement in a nursing facility was upheld.
15. On December 26, 2019, Petitioner's daughter requested a hearing to dispute Respondent's December 24, 2019, notice.

#### 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.

Petitioner is receiving services through PACE, a program that provides comprehensive care for older adults through Medicaid and Medicare to enhance their quality of life, maximize dignity and respect for them, enable them to live in their community as long as socially feasible, and preserve and support their families. 42 CFR 460.4(b). PACE services provide an alternative to traditional nursing facility care. *MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual* (October 1, 2019), Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Chapter, Section 1, p. 1. When an individual enrolls in PACE, PACE becomes the sole source of services for Medicaid and Medicare for the individual. *Id.* at Section 2, p. 2. Petitioner enrolled in PACE, and Respondent is Petitioner's PACE service provider.

In this case, Petitioner is disputing Respondent's decision to deny her request for permanent placement in a nursing facility. Petitioner has not presented sufficient evidence to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent's decision was improper. Therefore, Respondent's decision must be affirmed.

The purpose of a PACE organization such as Respondent is to provide an alternative to traditional permanent placement in a nursing facility. Therefore, Respondent's objective

is essentially to do everything it can to keep Petitioner from being placed in a nursing facility. Respondent presented sufficient evidence to establish that it is able to provide services to keep Petitioner in her home. Although Petitioner requires assistance with her ADL's and IADL's, Petitioner has her spouse and Respondent to support her in her home, and Respondent is able to provide the additional services necessary to keep Petitioner in her home. Petitioner's evidence was insufficient to rebut Respondent's.

#### DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Respondent properly denied Petitioner's request for permanent placement in a nursing facility.

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent's decision is AFFIRMED.