GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: November 19, 2019 MOAHR Docket No.: 19-011211

Agency No.:

Petitioner:

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Lain** 

### **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 November 13, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner, was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Adele Sumption, Hearings Facilitator.

Respondent's Exhibit A pages 1-14 were admitted as evidence.

#### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly cancel Petitioner's SSI-related 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 was receiving Medical Assistance Program benefits based upon his receipt of SSI.
- 2. Petitioner's SSI was terminated by the Social Security Administration.
- 3. On August 1, 2019 the Department closed Petitioner's SSI related MA.
- 4. On September 19, 2019 the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice notifying Petitioner that the MA-SSI was terminated.
- 5. On September 30, 2019 the MA-SSI case was closed.

- 6. On September 30, 2019 the Department received a Request for Hearing to contest the negative action.
- 7. On October 1, 2019 the Department sent Petitioner a new application and Verification Checklist mailed out to client in order to determine possible ongoing eligibility.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a cash benefit for needy individuals who are aged (at least 65), blind or disabled. The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility.

In Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) supplements federal SSI payments based on the client's living arrangement. Thus, in this item SSI recipient means a Michigan resident who receives the basic federal payment, the state supplement, or both.

MDHHS administers MA for SSI recipients, including a continued MA eligibility determination when SSI benefits end. Ongoing MA eligibility begins the first day of the month of SSI entitlement. BEM 150, page 1

In this case, Petitioner's eligibility was based upon his receipt of SSI. The Department has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the

record, that it was acting in accordance with Department policy when it cancelled Petitioners MA-SSI related because his SSI was cancelled by the Social Security Administration. The Department's action must be upheld.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED** 

LL/nr

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** 

Fiona Wicks 12185 James St Suite 200 Holland, MI 49424

Ottawa County DHHS- via electronic mail

BSC3- via electronic mail

D. Smith- via electronic mail

EQAD- via electronic mail

**Petitioner** 

