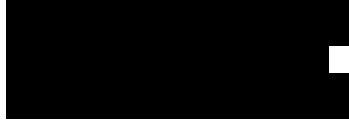




GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: March 13, 2020
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-000708
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 March 5, 2020, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present with her Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR), [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Kristen Crane, Assistance Payments Worker.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for Medical Assistance (MA) and Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits?

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 13, 2019, Petitioner submitted an application for MA and MSP benefits.
2. On January 3, 2020, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting verification of Petitioner's income from Furman Construction (Exhibit A, pp. 3-4).
3. On January 14, 2020, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice (HCCDN) informing her that her MA application was denied (Exhibit A, pp. 5-9).

4. On [REDACTED], 2020, 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 and MSP benefits on [REDACTED], 2019. On January 3, 2020, the Department sent Petitioner a VCL requesting verification of her income from employment at Furman Construction. Proofs were due by January 13, 2020.

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 testified that Petitioner failed to submit employment income for the previous thirty days. The Department stated that Petitioner only submitted one pay stub from the month of December 2019. As a result, the Department denied Petitioner's MA application.

Petitioner's AHR presented a screenshot of numerous items submitted to the Department by Petitioner on January 11, 2020 (Exhibit A, pp. 13-16). Petitioner's AHR contended that Petitioner submitted all of the requested verification in a timely manner. Petitioner's AHR also testified that Petitioner uploaded a request for an extension to the VCL due date on January 11, 2020.

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.

It should be noted that Petitioner's AHR stated at the hearing that Petitioner was also disputing the Department's decision to close her MA and MSP benefit cases. A client's request for hearing must be in writing and signed by an adult member of the eligible group, adult child, or authorized hearing representative (AHR). BAM 600 (April 2017), p. 2. Moreover, Department policy provides that a request for hearing must be received in the Department local office within 90 days of the date of the written notice of case action. BAM 600, p. 6.

The Department sent Petitioner a HCCDN on October 11, 2019, informing Petitioner that her MA and MSP benefit cases were closing effective November 1, 2019, ongoing. Petitioner did not submit the request for hearing in the present case until January 16, 2020, which is beyond the 90-day time limit. As a result, the issue was not addressed at the hearing.

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.

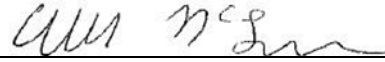
Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

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 application;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for MA benefits, provide her with coverage she is entitled to receive;
3. If Petitioner is eligible for MSP benefits, issue supplements in accordance with policy; and

4. Notify Petitioner of its MA and MSP decisions in writing.

EM/cg



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.

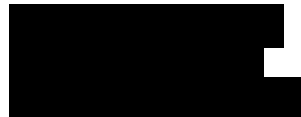
If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

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

Via Email:

MDHHS-Oakland-2-Hearings
D. Smith
EQAD
BSC4- Hearing Decisions
MOAHR

**Petitioner –
Via First-Class Mail:**



**Authorized Hearing Rep. –
Via First-Class Mail:**

