



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: June 6, 2018
MAHS Docket No.: 18-004041
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 June 6, 2018, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present and represented himself and his wife. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Chantel Wilbon, Eligibility Specialist and Gregory Folsom, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's wife's Medical Assistance (MA) benefit case?

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's wife was an ongoing MA recipient under the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) program.
2. On [REDACTED], 2018, Petitioner completed a redetermination for his and his wife's MA benefit cases (Exhibit A).
3. On March 14, 2018, the Department auto-renewed Petitioner's wife's MA benefit case and sent a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice stating she was eligible for full-coverage MA benefits (Exhibit C).

4. On April 5, 2018, Petitioner submitted verification of his wife's self-employment income (Exhibit F).
5. Petitioner's wife's household consisted of herself, her husband and their 19-year-old daughter.
6. Petitioner had Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits in the gross monthly amount of \$930.
7. On April 10, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing him that his wife's MA benefit case was closing effective May 1, 2018, ongoing (Exhibit G).
8. On April 13, 2018, 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 a request for hearing disputing the Department's decision to close his wife's MA benefit case. Petitioner's wife was an ongoing MA recipient under the HMP program. On [REDACTED] 2018, Petitioner submitted a redetermination for his MSP benefit case and his wife's MA benefit case. On March 14, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing Petitioner that his wife was still eligible for full-coverage MA benefits, as the Department had automatically renewed her eligibility. On April 5, 2018, Petitioner submitted verification of his wife's self-employment income. As a result, the Department redetermined Petitioner's wife's MA eligibility.

The Department concluded that Petitioner's wife was not eligible for HMP because the household income exceeded the applicable income limit for her group size. HMP uses a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. BEM 137 (October 2016), p. 1. An individual is eligible for HMP if his/her household's income does not exceed 133% of

the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) applicable to the individual's group size. BEM 137, p. 1. An individual's group size for MAGI-related purposes requires consideration of the client's tax filing status. In this case, Petitioner and his wife claimed their daughter as their dependent. The household for a tax filer, who is not claimed as at tax dependent consists of: (i) the individual; (ii) the individual's spouse; and (iii) the individual's tax dependents. BEM 211 (January 2016), pp. 1-2. Therefore, in determining Petitioner's MA status, the Department properly considered Petitioner's wife as having a group size of three.

133% of the annual FPL in 2017 for a household with three members is \$27,158.60. See <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>. Therefore, to be income eligible for HMP, Petitioner's and Petitioner's wife's annual income cannot exceed \$27,158.60. To determine financial eligibility under HMP, income must be calculated in accordance with MAGI under federal tax law. BEM 500 (July 2017), p. 3. MAGI is based on Internal Revenue Service rules and relies on federal tax information. BEM 500, p. 3. Income is verified via electronic federal data sources in compliance with MAGI methodology. MREM, § 1.

In order to determine income in accordance with MAGI, a client's adjusted gross income (AGI) is added to any tax-exempt foreign income, tax-exempt Social Security benefits, and tax-exempt interest. AGI is found on IRS Tax Form 1040 at line 37, Form 1040 EZ at line 4, and Form 1040A at line 21. Alternatively, it is calculated by taking the "federal taxable wages" for each income earner in the household as shown on the paystub or, if not shown on the paystub, by using gross income before taxes reduced by any money the employer takes out for health coverage, child care, or retirement savings. This figure is multiplied by the number of paychecks the client expects in 2017 to estimate income for the year. See <https://www.healthcare.gov/income-and-household-information/how-to-report/>.

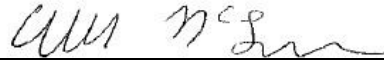
The Department presented the tax documents submitted by Petitioner. Petitioner's wife completed an IRS Tax Form 1040 which shows her yearly adjusted gross income was \$27,341. Additionally, the Department testified that Petitioner's husband also receives \$930 per month in RSDI benefits. Combined, the household total income is \$38,501, which well exceeds the income limit for a group size of three. Therefore, the Department acted in accordance with policy when it closed Petitioner's wife's MA benefit case.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's wife's MA benefit case.

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

EM/cg



Ellen McLemore
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, 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 Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS 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. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

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

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

Via Email:

MDHHS-Genesee-6-Hearings
D. Smith
EQAD
BSC2- Hearing Decisions
MAHS

Petitioner – Via First-Class Mail:

