



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: January 23, 2019
MAHS Docket No.: 18-011447
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. A hearing scheduled for December 13, 2018, was adjourned. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on January 2, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department was represented by Christine Brown.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly close Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) 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. Petitioner was an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) recipient when the Department received her Redetermination (DHS-1010) form on August 24, 2018, where she reported that she would be moving into a home due to medical reasons. Exhibit A, pp 16-23.
2. On September 24, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with an October 4, 2018, due date. Exhibit A, pp 24-25.
3. On October 9, 2018, the Department received a Change Report (DHS-2240) where Petitioner reported a change of address. Exhibit A, pp 6-7.
4. On October 18, 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) effective November 1, 2018. Exhibit A, pp 26-29.

5. On October 29, 2018, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the closure of her Medical Assistance (MA) benefits. Exhibit A, pp 4-5.

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.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (January 1, 2018), p 8.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (April 1, 2017), pp 1-10.

Petitioner was an ongoing MA recipient when the Department initiated a routine review of her eligibility for ongoing MA benefits based on the information she reported on the Redetermination (DHS-1010) form the Department received on August 24, 2018. On September 24, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with an October 4, 2018, due date. On October 9, 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that she was no longer eligible for MA benefits effective November 1, 2018.

Petitioner testified that she requested an extension to the October 4, 2018, due date, but failed to offer any evidence of her request. On December 5, 2018, Petitioner sent the Department the missing copy of her bank account information and verification of her pension income. Verification of the bank account was dated November 13, 2018, and verification of the pension income was dated November 12, 2018.

Reinstatement restores a closed program to active status without completion of a new application. Closed programs may be reinstated for complying with program requirements before the negative action date. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 205 (January 1, 2018), p 1.

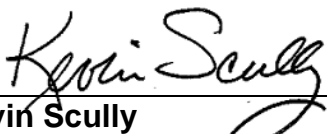
Petitioner had a duty to provide the Department with verification of her cash assets and her pension income to avoid an interruption of her MA benefits. The evidence supports a finding that all of the information the Department requested on September 24, 2018, was not returned in a timely manner. The missing information was submitted on December 5, 2018, but reinstatement is not appropriate because MA benefits closed effective November 1, 2018.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) benefits after she failed to provide the Department with information necessary to determine her eligibility to receive benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/dh



Kevin Scully
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 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

DHHS

Linda Gooden
25620 W. 8 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48033

Oakland County (District 3), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

EQAD via electronic mail

D. Smith via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED], MI