



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: December 9, 2019  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-010972  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**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 December 5, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner, [REDACTED]. Petitioner's friend, Bonnie Sours appeared as a witness. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Daniel Davis, Assistance Payment Supervisor.

Respondent's Exhibits A-D were admitted as evidence.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly cancel 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 a Medical Assistance benefit recipient.
2. Petitioner's case was scheduled for redetermination.
3. On August 5, 2019, the department sent Petitioner a verification checklist with information to September 4, 2019.
4. No information was received, and the Redetermination packet was not returned to the Department by September 4, 2019.

5. Therefore, the department cannot determine continued eligibility for assistance and the Petitioner's medical assistance case was canceled effective October 1, 2019.
6. On September 19, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination notice, notifying Petitioner of the closure effective October 1, 2019.
7. On October 3, 2019, Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing to contest the Department's negative action.
8. On October 16, 2019, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received a hearing summary and attached documents.
9. On November 22, 2019, Petitioner reapplied for Medical Assistance benefits.

### **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.

Pertinent Department policy dictates:

All Programs Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements.

Obtain verification when:

- Required by policy. Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) items specify which factors and under what circumstances verification is required.
- Required as a local office option. The requirement must be applied the same for every client. Local requirements may not be imposed for Medicaid Assistance (MA).
- Information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. (Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 130, page 1)

### **Medicaid**

Allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested. Refer to policy in this item for citizenship verifications. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, extend the time limit up to two times.

At renewal if an individual is required to return a pre-populated renewal form, allow 30 calendar days for the form to be returned.

At application, renewal, ex parte review, or other change, explain to the client/authorized representative the availability of your assistance in obtaining needed information. Extension may be granted when the following exists:

- The customer/authorized representative need to make the request. An extension should not automatically be given.
- The need for the extension and the reasonable efforts taken to obtain the verifications are documented.
- Every effort by the department was made to assist the client in obtaining verifications. (BEM 130, page 8)

In this case, the evidence establishes that the Redetermination form and required documentation was not received by the Department as requested. Petitioner has not established good cause for the failure to return the information to the Department. The Department's case is established by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

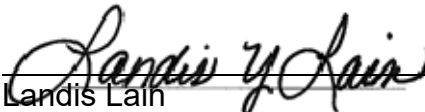
A preponderance of evidence is evidence which is of a greater weight or more convincing than evidence offered in opposition to it. It is simply that evidence which outweighs the evidence offered to oppose it *Martucci v Detroit Commissioner of Police*, 322 Mich 270; 33 NW2d 789 (1948).

**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 has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it cancelled Petitioner's Medical Assistance Program benefits when Petitioner failed to provide requested Redetermination documentation. The Department has established the case by a preponderance of evidence on the record.

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

LL/nr

  
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Landis Lain  
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**

Cindy Tomczak  
401 Eighth Street  
P.O. Box 1407  
Benton Harbor, MI  
49023

Berrien County DHHS- via electronic mail

BSC3- via electronic mail

D. Smith- via electronic mail

EQAD- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

