



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
SUZANNE SONNEBORN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: January 30, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-007666  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic**

**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 January 4, 2024, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself, ██████████ also appeared with Petitioner. No one appeared on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) benefit?

**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 MA-Freedom to Work (MA-FTW).
2. On August 4, 2023, redetermination paperwork was sent to Petitioner with a September 5, 2023, due date.
3. Petitioner submitted redetermination paperwork.
4. On October 5, 2023, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was sent to Petitioner informing her that she was approved for MA-Plan First and MA-G2 with a \$1,233 deductible.

5. On October 31, 2023, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the changes to her MA benefit.
6. No one appeared for the Department at the hearing and no MA budget was provided in the hearing packet.

### **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.

#### **Presentation of the Case**

All Programs: The local office and client or AHR will each present their position to the ALJ, who will determine whether the actions taken by the local office are correct according to fact, law, policy and procedure. In most cases, the client or AHR and local office staff will be together in the hearing room and will speak into a speaker telephone. The ALJ will be on the other end of the phone line. Following the opening statement(s), if any, the ALJ directs the MDHHS case presenter to explain the position of the local office. The hearing summary, or highlights of it, may be read into the record at this time. The hearing summary may be used as a guide in presenting the evidence, witnesses and exhibits that support the department's position. Always include the following in planning the case presentation:

- An explanation of the action(s) taken.
- A summary of the policy or laws used to determine that the action taken was correct.
- Any clarifications by central office staff of the policy or laws used.
- The facts which led to the conclusion that the policy is relevant to the disputed case action.
- The MDHHS procedures ensuring that the client received adequate or timely notice of the proposed action and affording all other rights.

Both the local office and the client or AHR must have adequate opportunity to present the case, bring witnesses, establish all pertinent facts, argue the case, refute any evidence,

cross-examine adverse witnesses, and cross-examine the author of a document offered in evidence. BAM 600

In this case, no one appeared at the hearing for the Department despite the Department receiving notice of the hearing. The Department did not provide a budget in their exhibit packet showing how the deductible was calculated. The Department did not meet their burden of going forward and did not fulfill their requirements under BAM 600. Therefore, there was an insufficient basis established to close Petitioner's MA-FTW benefit.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's MA-FTW benefit and approved MA-Plan First and MA-G2.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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 MA-FTW going back to the date of closure.

AM/cc

  
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**Aaron McClintic**  
Administrative Law Judge

