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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
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MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: September 13, 2024
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-008169
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Linda Jordan

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 hearing was held on August 14, 2024, via teleconference. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. Hannah Czechowski, Hearings Facilitator, appeared on behalf of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department). MDHHS' Hearing Packet was admitted into evidence at the hearing as MDHHS Exhibit A, pp. 1-22.

ISSUE

Did MDHHS properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medicaid (MA) coverage?

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 recipient of MA coverage.
2. On [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner submitted a redetermination for MA (Exhibit A, p. 5).
3. On March 28, 2024, MDHHS sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice indicating that Petitioner was approved for MA with a deductible of \$1,064.00, effective November 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, and MA with a deductible of \$1,112.00 per month, effective April 1, 2024 ongoing (Exhibit A, p. 11). Additionally, the notice indicated that Petitioner was approved for Plan First MA, a limited coverage category, effective May 1, 2024 ongoing (Exhibit A, p. 11).
4. On April 3, 2024, Petitioner requested a hearing regarding MDHHS' MA determination (Exhibit A, p. 3).

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).

Medicaid (MA) 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. MDHHS administers MA pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k. MA is also known as Medical Assistance. BEM 105 (January 2024), p. 1.

In this case, MDHHS determined that Petitioner was eligible for Group 2 Aged, Blind, Disabled (G2S) MA with a monthly deductible of \$1,112.00, effective April 1, 2024 ongoing, and Plan First MA, effective May 1, 2024 ongoing.

MA includes several sub-programs or categories. BEM 105, p. 1. To receive MA under a Supplemental Security Income (SSI)-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. *Id.* MA eligibility for children under 19, parents or caretakers of children, pregnant or recently pregnant women, former foster children, MOMS, MICHild, Flint Water Group and Health Michigan Plan (HMP) is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. *Id.* The terms Group 1 and Group 2 relate to financial eligibility factors. *Id.* For Group 1, net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. *Id.* The income limit, which varies by category, is for nonmedical needs such as food and shelter. *Id.* Medical expenses are not used when determining eligibility for MAGI-related and SSI-related Group 1 categories. *Id.* For Group 2, eligibility is possible even when net income exceeds the income limit. *Id.* This is because incurred medical expenses are used when determining eligibility for Group 2 categories. *Id.* Group 2 categories are considered a limited benefit because a deductible is possible. *Id.*

G2S MA is an SSI-related MA category available to a person who is aged (65 or older), blind, or disabled. BEM 166 (April 2017), p. 1. Income eligibility exists when net income does not exceed the Group 2 needs in BEM 544. *Id.* If net income exceeds the Group 2 needs, MA eligibility is still possible with a deductible. *Id.* Plan First MA is a MAGI-related limited coverage MA category, that covers services related to family planning and reproductive health. To be eligible for Plan First, a person must meet all non-financial eligibility factors, and their income cannot exceed 195% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). BEM 124 (July 2023), p. 1. Persons may qualify under more than one MA category. BEM 105, p. 3. Federal law gives them the right to the most beneficial category. *Id.* The most beneficial category is the one that results in eligibility, the least amount of excess income or the lowest cost share. *Id.*

To evaluate Petitioner's eligibility for MA, MDHHS must determine the MA fiscal group size, net income and assets. MDHHS determines fiscal and asset groups separately for each person requesting MA. BEM 211 (July 2019), p. 5. MDHHS determined that Petitioner had a group-size of one. There was no finding of excess assets. Petitioner did not dispute these determinations.

MDHHS based Petitioner's income calculation on the receipt of \$ [REDACTED] in Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) income. Petitioner did not dispute this amount. Petitioner was entitled to the \$20.00 disregard, which would bring the net unearned income to \$ [REDACTED]. BEM 541 (January 2023), p. 3. There was no evidence of other SSI-related MA income deductions.

Based on Petitioner's circumstances, he was potentially eligible for Ad-Care MA. The Ad-Care program is a group 1, full-coverage SSI-related MA program for disabled individuals who are income-eligible based on their MA fiscal group size. BEM 163 (July 2017), p. 1. However, net income for this program cannot exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), plus a \$20 disregard for RSDI income. *Id.* To be income eligible for this program, Petitioner's income could not exceed \$1,275.00 for a fiscal group-size of one. RFT 242 (April 2024), p. 1. Petitioner's income of \$ [REDACTED] exceeded this amount and therefore, he was not eligible for Ad-Care MA.

MDHHS alleged that Petitioner was eligible for G2S MA, which is an SSI-related Group 2 MA category. BEM 166, p. 1. MDHHS considers eligibility under this category only when eligibility does not exist under BEM 155 through 164, 170 or 171. *Id.* Income eligibility exists for G2S MA when net income does not exceed the Group 2 needs in BEM 544. *Id.*, p. 2. If the net income exceeds Group 2 needs, MA eligibility is still possible with a deductible, per BEM 545. *Id.* The deductible is equal to the amount the individual's net income, calculated in accordance with the applicable Group 2 MA policy, minus the applicable Group 2 MA protected income level (PIL). The PIL is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses that is based on the county in which the client resides and the client's fiscal MA group size. BEM 544 (January 2020), p. 1. The PIL for Genesee County, where Petitioner resided, for a one-person MA group, was \$408.00. RFT 200 (April 2017), p. 2; RFT 240 (December 2013), p. 1.

In determining the monthly deductible, net income is reduced by health insurance premiums paid by the MA group and remedial service allowances for individuals in adult foster care or homes for the aged. BEM 544, pp. 1-3. In this case, no evidence was presented that Petitioner resided in an adult foster care home or home for the aged. Therefore, he was not eligible for any deductions for remedial service allowances. Petitioner was approved for Medicare Savings Program (MSP) coverage, which paid for his Medicare Part B premium. Thus, Petitioner was not entitled to a deduction for health insurance premiums. Accordingly, Petitioner's countable income was to \$ [REDACTED] (Exhibit A, p. 20). Subtracting the PIL of \$408.00 equals \$ [REDACTED]. The record shows that MDHHS properly determined that Petitioner was eligible for G2S MA with a monthly deductible of \$ [REDACTED], effective April 1, 2024 ongoing.

Additionally, Petitioner was eligible for Plan First MA, because his annual income of \$[REDACTED] was less than 195% of FPL, or \$29,367.00. See ASPE, Poverty Guidelines, available at <<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>> (last accessed September 12, 2024).

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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for MA coverage.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, MDHHS' decision is **AFFIRMED**.

LJ/pt



Linda Jordan
Administrative Law Judge

