



Date Mailed: May 1, 2025

Docket No.: 24-038359

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

HEARING DECISION

On December 12, 2024, Petitioner [REDACTED] [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Medicaid determination. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on April 29, 2025. Public assistance hearings are held 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; 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

The parties appeared for the scheduled hearing. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Hearing Facilitator Caleb Nygren appear as its representative. There were no other participants.

Both parties provided sworn testimony, and one exhibit was admitted into evidence. A 24-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility?

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 is not married.
2. Petitioner is a resident of [REDACTED] County.
3. Petitioner is a senior or disabled individual.
4. Petitioner does not pay any health insurance premiums, and Petitioner does not pay for any remedial services.
5. Petitioner has Medicare coverage.
6. Petitioner has had Medicaid with a monthly deductible since October 2023.
7. In 2024, Petitioner was receiving a gross benefit of \$[REDACTED] per month from Social Security RSDI.
8. In October 2024, the Department completed Petitioner's Medicaid redetermination to determine Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility. The Department determined that the best Medicaid coverage that Petitioner was eligible for was Medicaid with a monthly deductible and type SLMB Medicare Savings Program coverage.
9. On October [REDACTED] 2024, the Department mailed a health care coverage determination notice to Petitioner to notify her that she was eligible for Medicaid with a \$[REDACTED] monthly deductible, effective December 1, 2024.
10. In 2025, Petitioner began receiving a gross benefit of \$[REDACTED] per month from Social Security RSDI.
11. On March [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner reapplied for Medicaid coverage.
12. The Department redetermined Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility, and the Department determined that the best Medicaid coverage that Petitioner was eligible for was Medicaid with a \$[REDACTED] monthly deductible and type SLMB Medicare Savings Program coverage.
13. Petitioner is disputing her Medicaid coverage because Petitioner would like full-coverage Medicaid.

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 is known as Medical Assistance (MA). The 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 administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute her Medicaid coverage because the Department found Petitioner eligible for Medicaid with a monthly deductible, and Petitioner wants full-coverage Medicaid. The issue is whether the Department properly determined that the best Medicaid coverage that Petitioner was eligible for was Medicaid with a monthly deductible.

Full-coverage Medicaid is available to eligible individuals through the Healthy Michigan Plan. In order for a client to be eligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the Healthy Michigan Plan, the client must not be qualified for Medicare coverage. BEM 137 (January 1, 2024), p. 1. Petitioner was qualified for Medicare coverage, so the Department properly determined that Petitioner was ineligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the Healthy Michigan Plan.

Full-coverage Medicaid is also available to eligible individuals through the AD Care program. In order for a client to be eligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program, the client must be aged or disabled, and the client's group's net income must not exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). BEM 163 (July 1, 2017), pp. 1-2. For AD Care, the client's group size consists of the client and the client's spouse. BEM 211 (October 1, 2023), p. 8. In this case, Petitioner's group size consisted of one because Petitioner did not have a spouse. The FPL for a group size of one in 2024 was \$15,060.00. 89 FR 2962 (January 17, 2024). The applicable FPL was equal to a monthly income of \$1,255.00.

When group members receive income from Social Security RSDI, the gross amount received from Social Security RSDI is countable. BEM 163 at 2. However, \$20.00 is disregarded from unearned income such as Social Security RSDI income. BEM 541 (January 1, 2025), p. 3. In this case, Petitioner was receiving \$[REDACTED] per month from Social Security RSDI in 2024. After the \$20.00 disregard, the countable amount of her Social Security RSDI was \$[REDACTED] per month in 2024. Petitioner's countable Social Security RSDI was over the income limit for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program. Thus, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was ineligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program for 2024.

Petitioner's Social Security RSDI increased to \$[REDACTED] in 2025, and the FPL increased to \$15,650.00 in 2025. 90 FR 5917 (January 17, 2025). The applicable FPL was equal

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to a monthly income of \$1,304.17, and the countable amount of Petitioner's Social Security RSDI was \$[REDACTED] after the \$20.00 unearned income disregard. Thus, Petitioner's countable Social Security RSDI was still over the income limit for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program. Therefore, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was ineligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program for 2025.

Since the Department determined that Petitioner was ineligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program, the Department properly determined that the best Medicaid coverage that she was eligible for was Medicaid with a monthly deductible. Medicaid with a monthly deductible is known as Group 2 Medicaid. Group 2 Medicaid is available to clients who are aged or disabled and ineligible for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program. BEM 166 (April 1, 2017), p. 1. Group 2 Medicaid eligibility is determined on a monthly basis. In general, Group 2 Medicaid provides coverage from the date a client met her deductible through the end of the month.

A client's deductible is determined by calculating the client's net income and then subtracting the client's needs as defined by BEM 544. *Id.* at 2. Thus, the first step is determining a client's net income. A client's net income is a client's countable income as defined by policy. BEM 530 (April 1, 2020), p. 2. In this case, Petitioner's countable income was \$[REDACTED] in 2024, and Petitioner's countable income was \$[REDACTED] in 2025.

The next step is determining a client's needs as defined by BEM 544. A client's needs as defined by BEM 544 consists of: (1) a protected income level set by policy, (2) the cost of health insurance premiums, and (3) the cost of remedial services. BEM 544 (January 1, 2020), pp. 1-2. The applicable protected income limit for Genesee County was only \$408.00 per month for a single individual. RFT 200 (April 1, 2017) and RFT 240 (December 1, 2013). Petitioner did not pay any health insurance premiums or costs of remedial care, so Petitioner's needs were limited to the \$408.00 protected income limit.

For 2024, Petitioner's deductible was \$[REDACTED] per month because Petitioner's net income of \$[REDACTED] minus her needs of \$408.00 equaled her monthly deductible. The Department properly determined Petitioner's deductible for 2024. For 2025, Petitioner's deductible was \$[REDACTED] per month (with the exception of January through March because the COLA was disregarded for those months) because Petitioner's net income of \$[REDACTED] minus her needs of \$408.00 equaled her monthly deductible. The Department properly determined Petitioner's deductible for 2025.

The Department also determined that Petitioner was eligible for Medicare Savings Program coverage. Medicare Savings Program coverage is a type of Medicaid that helps pay costs that are not covered by Medicare. There are three basic types of Medicare Savings Program coverage: QMB, SLMB, and ALMB. BEM 165 (July 1, 2024), p. 1. QMB pays for Medicare premiums, Medicare coinsurances, and Medicare deductibles. *Id.* at 2. SLMB only pays Medicare Part B premiums. *Id.* ALMB only pays Medicare Part B premiums if there is sufficient funding available. *Id.* Thus, QMB is the best coverage, SLMB is the next best coverage, and ALMB is the lowest level of coverage.

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The type of Medicare Savings Program coverage a client is eligible for is determined based on income. The income limit for QMB is the same as for full-coverage Medicaid through the AD Care program. *Id.* at 1. The income limit for SLMB is 120% of the FPL. *Id.* The income limit for ALMB is 135% of the FPL. In 2024, Petitioner's countable income of \$1,470.00 per month was 118% of the FPL. In 2025, Petitioner's countable income of \$1,507.00 per month was 116% of the FPL. Thus, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was eligible for type SLMB Medicare Savings Program coverage in 2024 and 2025.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility.

IT IS ORDERED: the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



JEFFREY KEMM
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPEAL RIGHTS: Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at courts.michigan.gov. The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) cannot provide legal advice, but assistance may be available through the State Bar of Michigan at <https://lrs.michbar.org> or Michigan Legal Help at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>. A copy of the circuit court appeal should be sent to MOAHR. A circuit court appeal may result in a reversal of the Hearing Decision.

Either party who disagrees with this Hearing Decision may also send a written request for a rehearing and/or reconsideration to MOAHR within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision. The request should include Petitioner's name, the docket number from page 1 of this Hearing Decision, an explanation of the specific reasons for the request, and any documents supporting the request. The request should be sent to MOAHR

- by email to MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov, **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

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Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

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SCHAEFERM

EQADHEARINGS

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MOAHR

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]