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Date Mailed: December 18, 2020  
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-006931  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey Arendt**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and upon Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 16, 2020. [REDACTED], Petitioner's Legal Guardian, and Parent appeared on behalf of Petitioner. [REDACTED], Supports Coordinator, appeared as a witness for the Petitioner. Stacy Coleman, Chief Privacy and Compliance Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, Macomb County Community Mental Health (Department).

Exhibits:

Petitioner	None
Department	A – Hearing Summary

**ISSUE**

Did Department properly deny Petitioner's request for additional Community Living Supports (CLS) services?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Petitioner is a Medicaid beneficiary born [REDACTED] 2005, who has been diagnosed with autism, attention deficit disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Petitioner also is noted to have several medical conditions including asthma, allergies, gastro-reflux disease, chronic sinusitis, chronic serious Otis media and unspecified lack of physiological development. (Exhibit A, pp 7, 14; Testimony.)

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Petitioner lived with his mother and brother. (Exhibit A, pp 7, 14; Testimony.)
3. On September 18, 2020, Petitioner, Petitioner's mother, Petitioner's caregiver, and Petitioner's supports coordinator, met for a Person-Centered Planning (PCP) meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, a PCP agreement was reached. The agreement was unchanged from prior PCP agreements with the lone exception of a request to increase the number of CLS hours per week. (Exhibit A, pp 14-32; Testimony.)
4. Prior to September 24, 2020, Petitioner was approved for 15 hours of CLS a week, 22 hours of respite a month, and supports coordination. (Exhibit A, pp 6, 7; Testimony.)
5. On September 24, 2020, Petitioner's mother requested an additional 11 hours a week of CLS. (Exhibit A, pp 6-7; Testimony.)
6. On September 29, 2020, Respondent sent Petitioner a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. The notice stated the following:

Based on a review of clinical documentation, there does not appear to be a significant clinical change to consumer's diagnosis, needs, abilities or limitation to support the requested increase in volume to these services. Volume of hours provided can reasonably assist in promoting goal of community inclusion/participation, independence and productivity.<sup>1</sup>

7. On October 14, 2020, Respondent received from Petitioner, a local level appeal. (Exhibit A, p 6.)
8. On October 28, 2020, Respondent issued a Local Appeal Findings and Recommendations letter. The letter stated the following:

When a request is made for an increase in the amount of a service, as is the case here, the available documentation should reflect a change in the beneficiary's condition, abilities, or functioning that is supportive of the need for more service. There is nothing in the record here (such as in PCP's, assessments, PCP reviews or addendums) that is supportive of such a change. Therefore, there is no basis on which to increase the service. The amount of CLS as authorized, 15 hours per week, is

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit A, p 10.

consistent with what has been authorized for Patrick for at least the past two years.<sup>2</sup>

9. On November 16, 2020, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, received from Petitioner, a request for hearing.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance Program (MA) is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program:

Title XIX of the Social Security Act, enacted in 1965, authorizes Federal grants to States for medical assistance to low-income persons who are age 65 or over, blind, disabled, or members of families with dependent children or qualified pregnant women or children. The program is jointly financed by the Federal and State governments and administered by States. Within broad Federal rules, each State decides eligible groups, types and range of services, payment levels for services, and administrative and operating procedures. Payments for services are made directly by the State to the individuals or entities that furnish the services.<sup>3</sup>

The State plan is a comprehensive written statement submitted by the agency describing the nature and scope of its Medicaid program and giving assurance that it will be administered in conformity with the specific requirements of title XIX, the regulations in this Chapter IV, and other applicable official issuances of the Department. The State plan contains all information necessary for CMS to determine whether the plan can be approved to serve as a basis for Federal financial participation (FFP) in the State program.<sup>4</sup>

Section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act provides:

The Secretary, to the extent he finds it to be cost-effective and efficient and not inconsistent with the purposes of this subchapter, may waive such requirements of section 1396a of this title (other than subsection (s) of this section) (other

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<sup>2</sup> Exhibit A, pp 6-9.

<sup>3</sup> 42 CFR 430.0.

<sup>4</sup> 42 CFR 430.10.

than sections 1396a(a)(15), 1396a(bb), and 1396a(a)(10)(A) of this title insofar as it requires provision of the care and services described in section 1396d(a)(2)(C) of this title) as may be necessary for a State...<sup>5</sup>

The State of Michigan has opted to simultaneously utilize the authorities of the 1915(b) and 1915 (c) programs to provide a continuum of services to disabled and/or elderly populations. Under approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) operates a section 1915(b) Medicaid Managed Specialty Services and Support program waiver in conjunction with a section 1915(c).

Here, as discussed above, Petitioner has been receiving CLS through the Department and is now seeking additional CLS. With respect to services, the applicable version of the Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) provides in part:

### **17.3.B. COMMUNITY LIVING SUPPORTS**

NOTE: This service is a State Plan EPSDT service when delivered to children birth-21 years.

Community Living Supports are used to increase or maintain personal self-sufficiency, facilitating an individual's achievement of his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, or productivity. The supports may be provided in the participant's residence or in community settings (including, but not limited to, libraries, city pools, camps, etc.).

Coverage includes:

- Assisting (that exceeds state plan for adults), prompting, reminding, cueing, observing, guiding and/or training in the following activities:
  - meal preparation
  - laundry
  - routine, seasonal, and heavy household care and maintenance
  - activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, eating, dressing, personal hygiene)

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<sup>5</sup> 42 USC 1396n(b).

- shopping for food and other necessities of daily living

CLS services may not supplant services otherwise available to the beneficiary through a local educational agency under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or state plan services, e.g., Personal Care (assistance with ADLs in a certified specialized residential setting) and Home Help or Expanded Home Help (assistance in the individual's own, unlicensed home with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and shopping). If such assistance appears to be needed, the beneficiary must request Home Help and, if necessary, Expanded Home Help from the Department of Human Services (MDHHS). CLS may be used for those activities while the beneficiary awaits determination by MDHHS of the amount, scope and duration of Home Help or Expanded Home Help. If the beneficiary requests it, the PIHP case manager or supports coordinator must assist him/her in requesting Home Help or in filling out and sending a request for Fair Hearing when the beneficiary believes that the MDHHS authorization of amount, scope and duration of Home Help does not appear to reflect the beneficiary's needs based on the findings of the MDHHS assessment.

- Staff assistance, support and/or training with activities such as:
  - money management
  - non-medical care (not requiring nurse or physician intervention)
  - socialization and relationship building
  - transportation from the beneficiary's residence to community activities, among community activities, and from the community activities back to the beneficiary's residence (transportation to and from medical appointments is excluded)

- participation in regular community activities and recreation opportunities (e.g., attending classes, movies, concerts and events in a park; volunteering; voting)
- attendance at medical appointments
- acquiring or procuring goods, other than those listed under shopping, and non-medical services
- Reminding, observing and/or monitoring of medication administration
- Staff assistance with preserving the health and safety of the individual in order that he/she may reside or be supported in the most integrated, independent community setting.

CLS may be provided in a licensed specialized residential setting as a complement to, and in conjunction with, state plan coverage Personal Care in Specialized Residential Settings. Transportation to medical appointments is covered by Medicaid through MDHHS or the Medicaid Health Plan. Payment for CLS services may not be made, directly or indirectly, to responsible relatives (i.e., spouses, or parents of minor children), or guardian of the beneficiary receiving community living supports.

CLS assistance with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and/or shopping may be used to complement Home Help or Expanded Home Help services when the individual's needs for this assistance have been officially determined to exceed the DHS's allowable parameters. CLS may also be used for those activities while the beneficiary awaits the decision from a Fair Hearing of the appeal of a MDHHS decision. Reminding, observing, guiding, and/or training of these activities are CLS coverages that do not supplant Home Help or Expanded Home Help.

Community Living Supports (CLS) provides support to a beneficiary younger than 18, and the family in the care of their child, while facilitating the child's independence and integration into the community. This service provides skill development related to activities of daily living, such as bathing, eating, dressing, personal hygiene, household

chores and safety skills; and skill development to achieve or maintain mobility, sensory-motor, communication, socialization and relationship-building skills, and participation in leisure and community activities. These supports must be provided directly to, or on behalf of, the child. These supports may serve to reinforce skills or lessons taught in school, therapy, or other settings. For children and adults up to age 26 who are enrolled in school, CLS services are not intended to supplant services provided in school or other settings or to be provided during the times when the child or adult would typically be in school but for the parent's choice to home-school.<sup>6</sup>

While CLS is a covered service, Medicaid beneficiaries are still only entitled to medically necessary Medicaid covered services.<sup>7</sup> Regarding medical necessity, the MPM also provides:

## **2.5 MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA**

The following medical necessity criteria apply to Medicaid mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse supports and services.

### **2.5.A. MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA**

Mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services are supports, services, and treatment:

- Necessary for screening and assessing the presence of a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Required to identify and evaluate a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Intended to treat, ameliorate, diminish or stabilize the symptoms of mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Expected to arrest or delay the progression of a mental illness, developmental disability, or substance use disorder; and/or

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<sup>6</sup> Medicaid Provider Manual, Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services, July 1, 2020, pp 134-135.

<sup>7</sup> See 42 CFR 440.230.

- Designed to assist the beneficiary to attain or maintain a sufficient level of functioning in order to achieve his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, recovery, or productivity.

### **2.5.B. DETERMINATION CRITERIA**

The determination of a medically necessary support, service or treatment must be:

- Based on information provided by the beneficiary, beneficiary's family, and/or other individuals (e.g., friends, personal assistants/aides) who know the beneficiary;
- Based on clinical information from the beneficiary's primary care physician or health care professionals with relevant qualifications who have evaluated the beneficiary;
- For beneficiaries with mental illness or developmental disabilities, based on person-centered planning, and for beneficiaries with substance use disorders, individualized treatment planning;
- Made by appropriately trained mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse professionals with sufficient clinical experience;
- Made within federal and state standards for timeliness;
- Sufficient in amount, scope and duration of the service(s) to reasonably achieve its/their purpose; and
- Documented in the individual plan of service.

### **2.5.C. SUPPORTS, SERVICES AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZED BY THE PIHP**

Supports, services, and treatment authorized by the PIHP must be:

- Delivered in accordance with federal and state standards for timeliness in a location that is accessible to the beneficiary;
- Responsive to particular needs of multi-cultural populations and furnished in a culturally relevant manner;
- Responsive to the particular needs of beneficiaries with sensory or mobility impairments and provided with the necessary accommodations;
- Provided in the least restrictive, most integrated setting. Inpatient, licensed residential or other segregated settings shall be used only when less restrictive levels of treatment, service or support have been, for that beneficiary, unsuccessful or cannot be safely provided; and
- Delivered consistent with, where they exist, available research findings, health care practice guidelines, best practices and standards of practice issued by professionally recognized organizations or government agencies.

## **2.5.D. PIHP DECISIONS**

Using criteria for medical necessity, a PIHP may:

- Deny services:
  - that are deemed ineffective for a given condition based upon professionally and scientifically recognized and accepted standards of care;
  - that are experimental or investigational in nature; or
  - for which there exists another appropriate, efficacious, less-restrictive and cost-effective service, setting or support that otherwise satisfies the standards for medically-necessary services; and/or
- Employ various methods to determine amount, scope and duration of services, including prior authorization

for certain services, concurrent utilization reviews, centralized assessment and referral, gate-keeping arrangements, protocols, and guidelines.

A PIHP may not deny services based **solely** on preset limits of the cost, amount, scope, and duration of services. Instead, determination of the need for services shall be conducted on an individualized basis.<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, in addition to medical necessity, the MPM also identifies other criteria for B3 supports and services such as CLS:

### **SECTION 17 – ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (B3s)**

PIHPs must make certain Medicaid-funded mental health supports and services available, in addition to the Medicaid State Plan Specialty Supports and Services or Habilitation Waiver Services, through the authority of 1915(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (hereafter referred to as B3s). The intent of B3 supports and services is to fund medically necessary supports and services that promote community inclusion and participation, independence, and/or productivity when identified in the individual plan of service as one or more goals developed during person-centered planning. NOTE: Certain services found in this section are State Plan EPSDT services when delivered to children birth-21 years, which include community living supports, family support and training (Parent-to-Parent/Parent Support Partner) peer-delivered services, prevention/direct models of parent education and services for children of adults with mental illness, skill building, supports coordination, and supported employment.

#### **17.1 DEFINITIONS OF GOALS THAT MEET THE INTENTS AND PURPOSE OF B3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

The goals (listed below) and their operational definitions will vary according to the individual's needs and desires. However, goals that are inconsistent with least restrictive environment (i.e., most integrated home, work, community that meet the individual's needs and desires) and individual choice and control cannot be supported by B3 supports and services unless there is documentation that health and safety would otherwise be jeopardized; or that such least

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at pp14-15.

restrictive arrangements or choice and control opportunities have been demonstrated to be unsuccessful for that individual. Care should be taken to ensure that these goals are those of the individual first, not those of a parent, guardian, provider, therapist, or case manager, no matter how well intentioned. The services in the plan, whether B3 supports and services alone, or in combination with state plan or Habilitation Supports Waiver services, must reasonably be expected to achieve the goals and intended outcomes identified. The configuration of supports and services should assist the individual to attain outcomes that are typical in his community; and without such services and supports, would be impossible to attain.

<b>Community Inclusion and Participation</b>	<p>The individual uses community services and participates in community activities in the same manner as the typical community citizen.</p> <p>Examples are recreation (parks, movies, concerts, sporting events, arts classes, etc.), shopping, socialization (visiting friends, attending club meetings, dining out) and civic (volunteering, voting, attending governmental meetings, etc.) activities. A beneficiary's use of, and participation in, community activities are expected to be integrated with that of the typical citizen's (e.g., the beneficiary would attend an "integrated" yoga class at the community center rather than a special yoga class for persons with intellectual disability).</p>
<b>Independence</b>	"Freedom from another's influence, control and determination." (Webster's New World College

	<p>Dictionary, 1996). Independence in the B3 context means how the individual defines the extent of such freedom for him/herself during person-centered planning.</p> <p>For example, to some beneficiaries, "freedom" could be living on their own, controlling their own budget, choosing an apartment as well as the persons who will live there with them, or getting around the community on their own. To others, "freedom" could be control over what and when to eat, what and when to watch television, when and how to bathe, or when to go to bed and arise. For children under 18 years old, independence may mean the support given by parents and others to help children achieve the skills they need to be successful in school, enter adulthood and live independently.</p>
<b>Productivity</b>	<p>Engaged in activities that result in or lead to maintenance of or increased self-sufficiency. Those activities are typically going to school and work. The operational definition of productivity for an individual may be influenced by age-appropriateness.</p> <p>For example, a person who is 76 years old may choose to volunteer or participate in other community or senior</p>

	center activities rather than have any productivity goals. For children under the age of five years, productivity may be successful participation in home, pre-school, or child care activities. Children under 18 would be expected to attend school, but may choose to work in addition. In order to use B3 supports and services, individuals would be expected to prepare for, or go to, school or work in the same places that the typical citizen uses.
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## **17.2 CRITERIA FOR AUTHORIZING B3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

The authorization and use of Medicaid funds for any of the B3 supports and services, as well as their amount, scope and duration, are dependent upon:

- The Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility for specialty services and supports as defined in this Chapter; and
- The service(s) having been identified during person-centered planning; and
- The service(s) being medically necessary as defined in the Medical Necessity Criteria subsection of this chapter; and
- The service(s) being expected to achieve one or more of the above-listed goals as identified in the beneficiary's plan of service; and
- Additional criteria indicated in certain B3 service definitions, as applicable.

Decisions regarding the authorization of a B3 service (including the amount, scope and duration) must take into account the PIHP's documented capacity to reasonably and equitably serve other Medicaid beneficiaries who also have needs for these services. **The B3 supports and services**

**are not intended to meet all the individual's needs and preferences, as some needs may be better met by community and other natural supports.** Natural supports mean unpaid assistance provided to the beneficiary by people in his/her network (family, friends, neighbors, community volunteers) who are willing and able to provide such assistance. **It is reasonable to expect that parents of minor children with disabilities will provide the same level of care they would provide to their children without disabilities.** MDHHS encourages the use of natural supports to assist in meeting an individual's needs to the extent that the family or friends who provide the natural supports are willing and able to provide this assistance. PIHPs may not require a beneficiary's natural support network to provide such assistance as a condition for receiving specialty mental health supports and services. The use of natural supports must be documented in the beneficiary's individual plan of service . . .<sup>9</sup>

Here, Petitioner requested the approval of additional CLS services. The documentation provided did not reflect substantial changes in Petitioner's needs or functioning, and it was noted that goals identified in Petitioner's IPOS were the exact same as prior IPOS's.

In appealing the decision, Petitioner bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department erred. Moreover, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge is limited to reviewing the Department's decision considering the information it had at the time the decision was made.

Given the record and applicable policies in this case, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge finds that Petitioner has failed to meet his burden of proof and that the Department's decision must, therefore, be affirmed.

While Petitioner argues the Petitioner has needs, the Petitioner failed to identify specifically how/why the current allocation was deficient, and specifically, how/why there was a need for additional services. While Petitioner indicated she went a period without a provider and then doubled up on hours once she found a provider, this does not in and of itself show a medical need. Inversely, based on the same rationale argued by Petitioner, it can also then be argued, the Petitioner would be okay with less hours, as they appeared to have no substantial changes in needs or functioning during the period of time the Petitioner went without a provider. Additionally, Petitioner mentioned there were substantial changes. But the most recent IPOS and assessment were void of any evidence of a substantial change.

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<sup>9</sup> *Id* at 131-132.

With respect to the decision at issue in this case, the Department's decision must be affirmed given the available information and applicable policies.

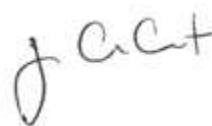
**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for additional CLS and services.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

CA/dh

  
Corey Arendt  
Administrative Law Judge

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**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.

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