

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], MI

Date Mailed: June 22, 2022  
MOAHR Docket No.: 22-002119  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Meade**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200, *et seq.*, and upon Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on June 21, 2022. Petitioner appeared and testified on her own behalf. Emily Piggott, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Respondent, Department or MDHHS). Adam Plater, Adult Services Worker (ASW), appeared as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Home Help Services (HHS) application because Petitioner did not have active Medicaid?

**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 applied for HHS on January 27, 2022. (Exhibit A, p 5; Testimony).
2. Department policy requires Medicaid eligibility to receive HHS, including the payment of any deductible. (Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, June 1, 2020, pp 1-2 of 4).
3. When the Department went to process Petitioner's HHS application, it found that for the period of March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, Petitioner had a scope of coverage of 20 and an unmet deductible of \$1,172.00. (Exhibit A, pp 10-11; Testimony).
4. On March 4, 2022, the Department sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice informing Petitioner that the HHS application was denied because Petitioner did not have active Medicaid. (Exhibit A, pp 13-14; Testimony).

5. On April 21, 2022, the Department received a new referral for HHS for Petitioner. (Exhibit A, p 15; Testimony).
6. On May 9, 2022, a telephone assessment (due to COVID) of Petitioner and her provider was completed, and it was determined that Petitioner was eligible for HHS. (Exhibit A, p 19; Testimony).
7. On May 20, 2022, a Service Approval Notice was sent to Petitioner informing her that she was approved for HHS with an effective date of May 9, 2022. (Exhibit A, p 23; Testimony).
8. On May 16, 2022, Petitioner's Request for Hearing was received by the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules. (Exhibit A, p 4).

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance Program 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.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

The Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105 addresses eligibility for Home Help Services:

### **OVERVIEW**

Home Help services are available if the client meets all eligibility requirements. The Adult Services Worker (ASW) may open a Home Help case with supportive services methodology to assist the client in applying for Medicaid (MA), if necessary.

Home Help services payments cannot be authorized prior to establishing Medicaid eligibility and completing a face-to-face assessment with the client. Once MA eligibility has been established, the case service methodology must be changed to case management.

### **Requirements**

Home Help eligibility requirements include all the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.

- Appropriate program enrollment type (PET) code.
- Certification of medical need.
- Need for service, based on a complete comprehensive assessment indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for at least one activity of daily living (ADL).

### Medicaid Eligibility

The client may be eligible for Medicaid (MA) when either all requirements for Medicaid eligibility have been met, or the Medicaid deductible obligation has been met.

The client must have a scope of coverage of either:

- 1F or 2F.
- 1D or 1K (Freedom to Work).
- 1T (Healthy Kids Expansion).
- 3G (Healthy Michigan Plan).
- 7W (MI Child).
- 8L (Flint).

Clients with a scope of coverage 20, 2C, or 2B are not eligible for Medicaid until they have met their MA deductible obligation.

**Note:** A change in the scope of coverage in Bridges will generate a system tickler in the Michigan Adult Integrated Management System (MiAIMS) for active services cases.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105,  
June 1, 2020, p 1 of 4  
Emphasis added*

Department policy requires an HHS participant to have full coverage Medicaid or have met the monthly Medicaid deductible to be eligible for the HHS program. Here, the Department's witness testified that there was no evidence that Petitioner had active Medicaid coverage at the time of the application. Specifically, the Department's witness indicated that when Petitioner's HHS application was processed in March 2022, Petitioner had a scope of coverage of 20 and an unmet deductible of \$1,172.00.

Petitioner testified that her HHS worker started caring for her in December 2021, and she is trying to get her paid for those earlier months of December through April. Petitioner indicated that she has evidence showing she met her deductible in January, February, and April 2022, but does not have proof that the deductible was met in March 2022. Petitioner testified that she believes the mix-up was caused by a communication problem between her Department workers. Petitioner indicated that she meets her deductible every month by paying the amount out of her own pocket.

Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner failed to prove by a preponderance of evidence that the Department erred in denying her HHS application due to lack of active Medicaid. At the time the ASW checked Petitioner's records in March 2022, Petitioner did not have active Medicaid as Petitioner had a scope of coverage of 20 and an unmet deductible of \$1,172.00. Petitioner, who has the burden of proof in this matter, offered no proof beyond her testimony to rebut the Department's findings. In fact, Petitioner admitted that she had proof that she met her deductible in January, February and April 2022, but she did not have proof that she met her deductible in March 2022 when her HHS application was processed. As indicated above, "Home Help services payments cannot be authorized prior to establishing Medicaid eligibility and completing a face-to-face assessment with the client." Here, Medicaid eligibility was not established until the new referral was received in April 2022 and the assessment was not completed until May 9, 2022. As such, the Department properly denied Petitioner's first HHS application.

### **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 HHS application.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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



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**Robert J. Meade**  
Administrative Law Judge

RM/tem

**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 30763  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

**Via Electronic Mail:**

**DHHS Dept Contact**

Michelle Martin  
Capitol Commons Center  
400 S. Pine  
Lansing, MI 48933  
MDHHS-Home-Help-Policy@michigan.gov

**DHHS Dept Rep**

M. Carrier  
MDHHS Appeals Section  
P.O. Box 30807  
Lansing, MI 48909  
MDHHS-Appeals@michigan.gov

**Agency Representative**

Emily Piggott  
MDHHS Appeals Section  
P.O. Box 30807  
Lansing, MI 48909  
PiggottE2@michigan.gov

**DHHS Location Contact**

Hearings Coordinator (Oakland)  
Oakland County HHS  
51111 Woodward Ave, 1st Floor  
Pontiac, MI 48342  
MDHHS-Oakland-District-IV-Hearings@michigan.gov

**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]