



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Office of Inspector General

Board of Review

PO Box 29

Grafton WV 26354

September 5, 2006

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

Dear Mr. _____:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing convened August 2, 2006. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to discontinue your benefits/services under the Medicaid, Aged/Disabled Title XIX (Home & Community Based) Waiver Program.

In arriving at a decision, the State Hearing Officer is governed by the Public Welfare Laws of West Virginia and the rules and regulations established by the Department of Health and Human Resources. These same laws and regulations are used in all cases to assure that all persons are treated alike.

Medicaid, Aged/Disabled (HCB) Title XIX Waiver is granted to those individuals who continue to meet all eligibility requirements. Eligible individuals are those who qualify medically for a nursing facility level of care but have chosen the waiver program as a means to remain in their home. In order to medically qualify for Aged/Disabled Waiver services an individual must have a total of five (5) qualifying deficits in specific categories of nursing services. [Aged/Disabled (HCB) Services Manual §570- 570.1b].

The information submitted at your hearing established a minimum of 5 qualifying deficits. Evidence demonstrated that, at the time of the medical evaluation, you required the level of care necessary to qualify for nursing facility care and consequently the Waiver program.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **reverse** the proposal of the agency to discontinue your benefits under the Aged/Disabled Title XIX (HCB) Waiver Program as set forth in the March 15, 2006 notification.

Sincerely,

Ron Anglin
State Hearing Examiner
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika Young, Chairman, Board of Review
Libby Boggess, BoSS
[REDACTED], WVMH
[REDACTED] Central WV Aging Services

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES
BOARD OF REVIEW**

_____,
Claimant,

v.

Action Number 06-BOR- 1443

**West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources,
Respondent.**

SUMMARY AND DECISION OF THE STATE HEARING OFFICER

I. INTRODUCTION:

This is a report of the State Hearing Officer resulting from a fair hearing concluded on September 1, 2006 for _____. This hearing was held in accordance with the provisions found in the Common Chapters Manual, Chapter 700 of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. This fair hearing was convened on August 2, 2006 on a timely appeal requested March 20, 2006 and received by the State Hearings Examiner May 22, 2006.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The Program entitled Medicaid Title XIX Waiver (HCB) is set up cooperatively between the Federal and State governments and administered by the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources.

Under Section 2176 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, states were allowed to request a waiver from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) so that they could use Medicaid (Title XIX) funds for home and community-based services. The program's target population is individuals who would otherwise be placed in an intermediate or skilled nursing facility (if not for the waiver services).

Services offered under the Waiver Program will include: (1) chore, (2) homemaker and (3) case management services. West Virginia has been offering the Waiver Services Program since July, 1982 to those financially eligible individuals who have been determined to need ICF level care but who have chosen the Waiver Program Services as opposed to being institutionalized.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

_____, claimant
_____, Homemaker
_____, CM, CWVAS
_____, RN, CWVAS

Libby Boggess, RN, Bureau of Senior Services (by phone)

_____, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (by phone)

Presiding at the hearing was Ron Anglin, State Hearing Examiner and a member of the State Board of Review.

IV. QUESTION TO BE DECIDED:

The question to be decided is whether the claimant continues to be medically eligible for services under the Aged/Disabled Waiver (HCB) Program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services Manual §570- 570.1

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

- E-1- A/D Waiver Manual §570.1.
- E-2- WVMI Independent Review (PAS), 2/16/06
- E-3- Notification, 2/27/06 (Potential Denial)
- E-4- Notification, 3/15/06 (Termination)

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) The claimant's A/D Waiver case was due for an annual review and a WVMI Independent Review (E-2) was completed by the WVMI on February 16, 2006.
- 2) WVMI determined that the claimant was no longer medically eligible for Waiver services and a notification of potential closure was mailed by the agency February 27, 2006.
- 3) The agency mailed a notification of termination to the claimant March 15, 2006.
- 4) A hearing request dated March 13, 2006 was received by the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) March 20, 2006 and by this examiner May 22, 2006. A hearing was convened August 2, 2006

- 5) During the hearing, exhibits as noted in Section VI above were accepted.
- 6) Testimony was heard from the parties listed in section III above. All persons giving testimony were placed under oath.
- 7) On the basis of the medical evaluation completed February 16, 2006 and testimony of the WVM RN who completed the assessment, 2 qualifying deficits were acknowledged- bathing and grooming.
- 8) Additional deficits in eating, dressing, walking, transferring, wheeling, vacating and medication were alleged by the claimant or his witnesses.
- 9) Sworn testimony offered by and on behalf of the claimant reveals that the client uses a motorized scooter to get around his apartment. He stated that he is unable to walk as he becomes dizzy and falls. Witnesses testified that they have never seen him walk. He stated he may have taken a couple of steps during the assessment but needs assistance when not on his scooter. He doesn't dress unless someone is present to help him. He cannot put on a shirt or socks. He stated that he needs to have all hard foods (i.e. meat) cut up as he has limited use of his left hand. He is able to get in and out of bed but cannot get out of a chair therefore he sits on his scooter all the time. He has small urinals placed all over his apartment for continence purposes. Concerning medication close supervision is required and he will frequently drop pills. The claimant has been on the waiver program since 2001 and has been in and out of LTC facilities several times during the period. He currently receives services from the Veterans Administration.
- 10) The Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services Manual § 580.2.b states in part: All clients must be evaluated at least annually in order to confirm their medical eligibility for continued services and to establish the LOC (level of Care) they require.
- 11) The Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services Manual § 570 reveals that individuals medically eligible for the ADW program must meet the same criteria as those medically eligible for a nursing facility level of care.
- 12) The Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services Manual § 570.1.b. Medical Criteria: An individual must have five deficits on the PAS to qualify medically for the ADW Program. These deficits are derived from a combination of assessment elements on the medical evaluation- Decubitus - Stage 3 or 4; ability to vacate a building*; functional abilities of individual in the home – eating (*physical assistance to get nourishment, not preparation*) bathing, grooming, dressing (all Level 2 or higher - physical assistance or more), continence* (Level 3 or more- must be total incontinent; orientation, transferring, walking, wheeling* (all Level 3 or higher- personal assistance); skilled needs; ability to self-medicate*.

* Vacating a building- a person is physically unable at all times at Level 3 or higher in walking or

mentally incapable of leaving the building at Level 3 or higher in orientation with a diagnosis of dementia, Alzheimer's, or related conditions

* Incontinence- defined as when the recipient has no control of bowel or bladder functions at any time

* Wheeling- must be Level 3 or 4 on walking in the home to use Level 3 or 4 for wheeling in the home. Do not count outside the home.

* Ability to self medicate-A person is incapable of self medicating if the prescription medication must be placed in the recipient's hand, mouth, tube or eye by someone other than the recipient at all times.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

1) Policy relating to the Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services program directs that individuals medically eligible for the ADW program must meet the same criteria as those medically eligible for a nursing facility level of care. Continuing eligibility is determined based on an assessment of the individual's functional ability in a number of designated elements pertaining to the activities of daily living. Evidence reveals that such an evaluation was completed by the West Virginia Medical Institute on February 16, 2006. This evaluation found 2 qualifying deficits in the categories of bathing and grooming.

2) Deficits are derived from a combination of the aforementioned assessment elements (VII #12). The following additional deficits were alleged by the claimant during the hearing- walking, transferring, wheeling, dressing, vacating and eating.

3) In order to determine a qualifying deficit in the category of **Walking**, it must be shown that the recipient requires physical assistance to walk. Policy places no requirement as to the frequency of physical aid. Evidence reveals that the claimant does not walk and makes almost exclusive use of his scooter. He has a "balance problem" and becomes dizzy when he attempts to stand having had numerous falls. Evidence establishes a qualifying deficit in **Walking** at level III – one person assist.

4) In order to determine a qualifying deficit in the category of **Eating** requires that assistance must be provided for the individual to get nourishment. Evidence reveals that the claimant's food must be cut up for him. Evidence therefore establishes a qualifying deficit in **Eating**

5) In order to determine a qualifying deficit in the category of **Dressing** it must be shown that the recipient requires physical assistance to dress. Evidence reveals that the claimant, when having no one to assist him with dressing, simply does not dress. He is unable to pull a shirt on or pull his socks up without assistance. Evidence establishes a qualifying deficit in **Dressing**.

6) In order to determine a qualifying deficit in the category of **Vacating** a rating of level III in walking or total disorientation, must be documented. Evidence supports a finding of level III- one person assist in walking confirming a qualifying deficit in **Vacating**.

7) Policy provides that an individual must have a minimum of five deficits to qualify medically for the ADW Program. The medical assessment established 2 qualifying deficits. Evidence offered at the hearing confirmed 4 additional deficits for a total of 6. Medical eligibility for the program is reestablished.

IX. DECISION:

The agency's determination as set forth March 15, 2006 notification is reversed. This hearing clearly established 6 fully qualifying deficits and continuing medical eligibility for the ADW program.

Evidence failed to establish qualifying deficits in transferring or wheeling.

X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment.

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision.

Form IG-BR-29.

ENTERED this 5th Day of September 2006

Ron Anglin
State Hearing Examiner

CLAIMANT'S RECOURSE TO ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING DECISION
For
Public Assistance Hearings,
Administrative Disqualification Hearings, and
Child Support Enforcement Hearings

A. CIRCUIT COURT

Upon a decision of a State Hearing Officer, the claimant will be advised he may bring a petition in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County within four months (4) from the date of the hearing decision.

The Court may grant an appeal and may determine anew all questions submitted to it on appeal from the decision or determination of the State Hearing Officer. In such appeals a certified copy of the hearing determination or decision is admissible or may constitute prima facie evidence of the hearing determination or decision. Furthermore, the decision of the circuit Court may be appealed by the client or petitioner to the Supreme Court of Appeals of the State of West Virginia.

B. THE UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of the United States Department of health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

C. THE UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.