



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Office of Inspector General
Board of Review
1027 N. Randolph Ave.
Elkins, WV 26241

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

June 27, 2007

Dear Ms. _____:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing held June 26, 2007. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' decision to deny your benefits under the Aged/Disabled (HCB) Title XIX Waiver Services 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.

Eligibility for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program is based on current policy and regulations. Some of these regulations state as follows: The Aged/Disabled (HCB) Title XIX Waiver Services Program is granted to those individuals who meet all eligibility requirements. One of these requirements is that the individual must qualify medically. 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 where services can be provided. [Aged/Disabled (HCB) Services Manual Section 503]

Information submitted at your hearing reveals that you do not meet medical eligibility requirements for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the decision of the Department to deny your benefits and services under the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Hinzman
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika H. Young, Chairman, Board of Review
BoSS
WVMI

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

_____,
Claimant,

v.

Action Number: 07-BOR-1276

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

Respondent.

DECISION OF STATE HEARING OFFICER

I. INTRODUCTION:

This is a report of the State Hearing Officer resulting from a fair hearing concluded on June 27, 2007 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 June 26, 2007 on a timely appeal filed May 1, 2007.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The program entitled Aged/Disabled Waiver 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

_____, friend of Claimant

Jenni Sutherland, Licensed Social Worker, Bureau of Senior Services

██████████ Registered Nurse, West Virginia Medical Institute

Presiding at the hearing was Pamela L. Hinzman, State Hearing Officer and a member of the State Board of Review.

All parties participated telephonically.

IV. QUESTIONS TO BE DECIDED:

The question(s) to be decided is whether the Agency was correct in its decision to deny benefits under the Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Sections 503, 503.1, 503.1.1 and 503.2

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

D-1 Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 503

D-2 Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) assessment completed on March 1, 2007

D-3 Notices of Potential Denial dated March 17, 2007 and April 2, 2007

D-4 Notice of Denial dated April 17, 2007

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) The Claimant applied for benefits under the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program and underwent a medical evaluation to determine her eligibility for the program.
- 2) The West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) nurse completed a medical assessment (D-2) on March 1, 2007 and determined that the Claimant does not meet medical eligibility criteria for the program. The nurse testified that the Claimant received four (4) deficits on the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) assessment in the areas of physical assistance with bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as incontinence of bladder.
- 3) The Claimant was sent a Notice of Potential Denial on March 17, 2007 (D-3) and again on April 2, 2007. She was advised that she had two weeks to submit additional medical information for consideration.

4) West Virginia Medical Institute sent the Claimant a Notice of Denial (D-4) on April 17, 2007.

5) Walking was the only area of deficit contested by the Claimant during the hearing. The Claimant contended that she has trouble ambulating and utilizes a walker. She testified that she has no balance and indicated she has had a knee replacement, ankle fusions and shoulder surgeries. She has a lift chair in her living room to assist her with transfers and the PAS indicates that she also uses her walker for transfers.

The Claimant was rated as a Level 2 (supervised/assistive device) in both transferring and walking on the PAS assessment. Based on her testimony, this rating is correct and no additional deficit can be awarded since no testimony was offered to indicate that the Claimant receives one-person assistance in walking (Level 3).

6) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 503 (D-1)- Program Eligibility for Client:

Applicants for the ADW Program must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the program:

C. Be approved as medically eligible for NF Level of Care.

7) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 503.1.1 – Purpose: The purpose of the medical eligibility review is to ensure the following:

A. New applicants and existing clients are medically eligible based on current and accurate evaluations.

B. Each applicant/client determined to be medically eligible for A/DW services receives an appropriate LOC that reflects current/actual medical condition and short and long-term services needs.

C. The medical eligibility determination process is fair, equitable and consistently applied throughout the state.

8) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Policy Manual 503.2 (D-1): An individual must have five (5) deficits on the Pre Admission Screening (PAS) to qualify medically for the ADW Program. These deficits are derived from a combination of the following assessment elements on the PAS.

#24 Decubitus - Stage 3 or 4

#25 In the event of an emergency, the individual is c) mentally unable or d) physically unable to vacate a building. a) Independently and b) With Supervision are not considered deficits.

#26 Functional abilities of individual in the home

Eating----- Level 2 or higher (physical assistance to get nourishment, not preparation)
Bathing ----- Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more)
Dressing ----- Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more)
Grooming--- Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more)
Continence (bowel, bladder) -- Level 3 or higher; must be incontinent
Orientation-- Level 3 or higher (totally disoriented, comatose)
Transfer----- Level 3 or higher (one-person or two-person assistance in the home)
Walking----- Level 3 or higher (one-person assistance in the home)
Wheeling----- Level 3 or higher (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)

#27 Individual has skilled needs in one or more of these areas B (g)suctioning, (h)tracheostomy, (i)ventilator, (k)parenteral fluids, (l)sterile dressings, or (m) irrigations.

#28 Individual is not capable of administering his/her own medications.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 1) Policy dictates that an individual must receive five (5) deficits on the PAS assessment in order to qualify medically for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.
- 2) The Claimant received four (4) deficits on her PAS in March 2007 in conjunction with her Aged/Disabled Waiver Program application.
- 3) Based on information provided during the hearing, no additional deficits are awarded to the Claimant.
- 4) The required five (5) deficits have not been established to meet medical eligibility criteria for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

IX. DECISION:

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Agency's decision to deny the Claimant's benefits and services under the Aged/Disabled, Title XIX (HCB) Waiver Program.

X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this 27th Day of June, 2007.

**Pamela L. Hinzman
State Hearing Officer**