



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

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary

July 21, 2011

Dear -----:

Attached is a copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on your hearing held July 20, 2011. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to terminate 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 501]

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 proposal of the Department to terminate 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
[REDACTED]
BoSS
WVMI

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

IN RE: -----,

CLAIMANT,

v.

ACTION NO.: 11-BOR-1137

**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 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 via videoconference on July 20, 2011 on an appeal filed April 21, 2011 and received by the Hearing Officer on May 17, 2011.

It should be noted that the Claimant's benefits have been continued pending a hearing decision.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

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:

[REDACTED] Claimant

[REDACTED] Claimant's sister

Angel Khosa, Social Worker, Bureau of Senior Services (participated telephonically)

Carrie Naughton, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (participated telephonically)

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

IV. QUESTION TO BE DECIDED:

The question to be decided is whether the Agency was correct in its proposal to terminate benefits under the Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Sections 501.3, 501.3.1, 501.3.1.1, 501.3.2 and 501.3.2.1

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

D-1 Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 501

D-2 Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) completed on March 16, 2011

D-3 Denial Notice dated April 19, 2011

D-4 Medical Conditions/Symptoms verification from [REDACTED] M.D.

D-5 Letters from [REDACTED] M.D., [REDACTED] II, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) The Claimant is a recipient of benefits under the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program and underwent an annual medical evaluation to determine if she continues to meet medical eligibility criteria for the program.
- 2) West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) Registered Nurse Carrie Naughton completed a Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) medical assessment on March 16, 2011 (D-2) and determined that the Claimant does not meet medical eligibility criteria for the program. The nurse determined that the Claimant exhibits four (4) qualifying deficits in the areas of *physical assistance with bathing, dressing and grooming, and continence of bladder.*

- 3) The Claimant was sent a Notice of Potential Denial on March 31, 2011 and was advised that she had two weeks to submit additional medical information for consideration.
- 4) The Claimant was sent a final Denial Notice on April 19, 2011 (D-3).
- 5) The Claimant contended that additional deficits should be awarded in the following areas:

Physical assistance with eating- The Claimant testified that she needs someone to cut up her food as she is unable to perform this task due to weakness in her left hand. A letter from [REDACTED] M.D. (D-5), dated April 15, 2011 and sent to the Department on June 14, 2011, indicates that the Claimant has a past history of stroke and has difficulty with fine motor tasks, such as cutting up food. An undated letter signed by the Claimant's son, [REDACTED] (D-5), indicates that the Claimant cannot cut up food due to weakness in her hand.

The WVM Nurse referred to PAS notes and testified that the Claimant had unequal bilateral grips on the date of the assessment, however, the Claimant indicated she was able to feed herself and cut up her own food. The Claimant indicated she used no special eating utensils.

As the Claimant reported the ability to cut up her own food on the date of the assessment, no deficit can be awarded in the area of physical assistance with eating.

Medication administration- The Claimant indicated that she attempts to fill her pill planner, but sometimes puts her pills in the wrong box.

Angel Khosa, Social Worker with the Bureau of Senior Services, testified that the filling of the Claimant's pill planner by another individual would constitute prompting/supervision in medication administration and would not be considered a functional deficit. Information on the PAS indicates that – on the date of the assessment - the Claimant did not report a need for her medication to be cut or crushed, and stated she could place the pills in her own mouth.

No deficit can be awarded under policy for prompting/supervision in medication administration.

- 6) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 501.3 (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 501.3.1.1 (D-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 501.3.2 (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. The Claimant was awarded four (4) deficits on her March 2011 Aged/Disabled Waiver Program medical evaluation.

- 2) Information provided during the hearing does not support the awarding of additional functional deficits.
- 3) The Claimant's total number of deficits remains at four (4), rendering her medically ineligible for continued participation in the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

IX. DECISION:

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Agency's proposal to terminate the Claimant's benefits 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 21st Day of July, 2011.

**Pamela L. Hinzman
State Hearing Officer**