



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Office of Inspector General
Board of Review
9083 Middletown Mall
White Hall, WV 26554

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

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

April 8, 2011

-----for

Dear -----:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing held April 7, 2011. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to reduce your homemaker service hours 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. One of these regulations specifies that for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program, the number of homemaker service hours is determined based on the Level of Care (LOC). The Level of Care is determined by evaluating the Pre-Admission Screening Form (PAS) and assigning points to documented medical conditions that require nursing services. Program services are limited to a maximum number of units/hours which is reviewed and approved by WVMI. (Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter 500, §§501.3.2.1 & 501.3.2.2)

Information submitted at the hearing reveals that while you continue to be medically eligible for participation in the Aged and Disabled Waiver Program, your Level of Care should be reduced from a level "D" to a level "C." As a result, you are eligible to receive 4 hours per day / 124 hours per month of homemaker services.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the proposal of the Department to reduce your homemaker service hours under the Medicaid Title XIX (HCB) Waiver Services Program.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Arnett
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review

Pc: Erika H. Young, Chairman, Board of Review
BoSS / WVMI
[REDACTED] of WV

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

-----,

Claimant,

v.

Action Number: 11-BOR-638

**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 convened on April 7, 2011 on a timely appeal filed January 18, 2011.

It should be noted that the Claimant's Medicaid ADW Program benefits have continued at a Level "D" level of care pending a hearing decision.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The ADW Program is defined as a long-term care alternative that provides services that enable an individual to remain at or return home rather than receiving nursing facility (NF) care. Specifically, ADW services include Homemaker, Case Management, Consumer-Directed Case Management, Medical Adult Day Care, Transportation, and RN Assessment and Review.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

-----, Claimant

-----, Claimant's Sister/Representative

-----, CM, [REDACTED]

Kay Ikerd, RN, Bureau of Senior Services (BoSS) (Participated telephonically)

Sarah "Betsy" Carpenter, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) (Participated telephonically)

Presiding at the hearing was Thomas E. Arnett, State Hearing Officer and a member of the State Board of Review.

IV. QUESTION TO BE DECIDED:

The question to be decided is whether or not the Department was correct in its proposal to reduce the Claimant's homemaker service hours provided through the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver Services (ADW) Program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Chapter 501 – Covered Services, Limitations, and Exclusions for Aged and Disabled Waiver Services, Section 501.3.2.1 and 501.3.2.2

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

- D-1 Chapter 501 – Covered Services, Limitations, and Exclusions for Aged and Disabled Waiver Services - Section 501.3.2.1 and 501.3.2.2
- D-2 Pre-Admission Screening for Aged/Disabled Waiver Services (PAS) dated 10/20/10
- D-3 Notice of Decision dated 10/22/10

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) On October 20, 2010, the Claimant was medically assessed (D-2) to determine continued medical eligibility and assign an appropriate Level of Care, hereinafter LOC, for participation in the Aged/Disabled Waiver Services Program (ADW Program). It should be noted that the Claimant was receiving Homemaker Services at a level "D" LOC at the time of the reevaluation.
- 2) On or about October 22, 2010, the Claimant was notified via a Notice of Decision (D-3) that he continues to be medically eligible to participate in the ADW Program, however, the amount of homemaker service hours were reduced to 124 hours per month (Level "C" LOC).
- 3) The Department's representative cited Medicaid policy and called its witness to review the medical findings on the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Form. Betsy Carpenter, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI), reviewed the PAS (D-2) and testified that the Claimant was awarded 22 points for documented medical conditions that require nursing services. The Department contends that pursuant to Medicaid policy, this finding is consistent with a LOC "C" (18-25 points), indicating the Claimant is eligible for 4 hours per day or 124 hours per month of homemaker services. As a result, the Department has proposed that the Claimant's LOC be reduced from a level "D" to a level "C."
- 4) The Claimant's representatives contend that the Claimant's condition has not improved and that he is completely dependent upon caregivers to use the restroom, exit in the event of an emergency or place a phone call for help. The Claimant's representatives indicated that the Claimant should have been awarded additional points in (#26.f) Bowel incontinence, (#26.j) Wheeling, (#26.k) Vision, (#26.m) Communication, and (#28) Medication administration.

The following will address each of the contested areas:

Evidence submitted at the hearing reveals that the Claimant received the maximum points available in **Wheeling** (2 points for level 3) and **Medication Administration** (1 point for b or c). No additional points can be awarded in either of these areas.

Vision (26.k) – One point can be awarded if the individual’s vision is impaired / not correctable, or if they are legally blind. Because the Claimant can see with his glasses to navigate and function in his home, and there is no evidence to the contrary, a LOC point cannot be awarded.

Communication (26.m) – In order to qualify for a deficit in Communication, the individual must be a level 3 (understandable with aides) or level 4 (inappropriate / none). While the Claimant’s representatives indicated that he can be difficult to understand at times, the Claimant is capable of communicating. The assessment is correct as it identifies the Claimant as a level 2 “impaired/understandable.” No additional LOC points can be awarded.

Bowel Incontinence (#26.f.) – -----, Claimant’s sister, indicated that it was unfair to label the Claimant continent of bowel when he is dependent on others to go to the restroom. RN Carpenter testified that the Claimant and his homemaker reported no episodes of incontinence within the last 30 days and testimony received at the hearing indicates the Claimant is aware when he needs to have a bowel movement. Based on the evidence, the Claimant is not incontinent of bowel.

- 5) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Policy Manual 501.3.2.1 and 501.3.2.2: There will be four levels of care for clients of ADW homemaker services. Points will be determined based on the following sections of the PAS:

- #23 - Medical Conditions/Symptoms- 1 point for each (can have total of 12 points)
- #24 - Decubitus- 1 point
- #25 - 1 point for b., c., or d.
- #26 - Functional abilities
 - Level 1- 0 points
 - Level 2- 1 point for each item a. through i.
 - Level 3- 2 points for each item a. through m.; i. (walking) must be equal to or greater than Level 3 before points are given for j. (wheeling)
 - Level 4 - 1 point for a., 1 point for e., 1 point for f., 2 points for g. through m.
- #27 - Professional and Technical Care Needs- 1 point for continuous oxygen
- #28 - Medication Administration- 1 point for b. or c.
- #34 - Dementia- 1 point if Alzheimer’s or other dementia
- #34 - Prognosis- 1 point if terminal

The total number of points allowable is 44.

LEVELS OF CARE SERVICE LIMITS

Level A - 5 points to 9 points- 2 hours per day or 62 hours per month

Level B - 10 points to 17 points- 3 hours per day or 93 hours per month

Level C - 18 points to 25 points- 4 hours per day or 124 hours per month

Level D - 26 points to 44 points- 5 hours per day or 155 hours per month

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 1) Policy provides that an individual's Level of Care (LOC) for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program is determined by the number of points awarded on the PAS assessment tool.
- 2) The Claimant was awarded 22 LOC points on a PAS assessment completed by WVMi in October 2010.
- 3) Evidence submitted at the hearing fails to identify any additional LOC points.
- 4) In accordance with existing policy, an individual with 22 points qualifies as a level "C" LOC. Pursuant to Medicaid ADW Program Policy, the Claimant is eligible to receive 4 hours per day / 124 hours per month of homemaker services.

IX. DECISION:

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Agency's proposal to reduce the Claimant's homemaker service hours under the Aged/Disabled, Title XIX (HCB), Waiver Program.

X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this ____ day of April, 2011.

**Thomas E. Arnett
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review**