



**State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Office of Inspector General**

Board of Review
P.O. Box 1736
Romney, WV 26757

**Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor**

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

June 7, 2011

Dear -----:

Attached is a copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on your hearing held June 7, 2011. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to reduce your homemaker service hours under the Medicaid 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 and Disabled Waiver Program is based on current policy and regulations. These regulations provide that the number of homemaker service hours are 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 are reviewed and approved by WVM (Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Waiver Policy and Procedures Manual 501.3).

The information which was submitted at your hearing revealed that while you remain 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" Level of Care. As a result, you are eligible to receive 4 hours per day or 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 Aged/Disabled (HCB) Title XIX Waiver Services program.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Phillips
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika Young, Chairman, Board of Review
Kay Ikerd, Bureau of Senior Services

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

IN RE: -----,

Claimant,

v.

ACTION NO.: 11-BOR-985

**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 on a timely appeal, filed April 11, 2011.

It should be noted here that the Claimant's benefits under the Aged and Disabled Waiver program continue at the previous level of determination pending a decision of the State Hearing Officer.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The Aged and Disabled Waiver program, hereinafter ADW, 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's husband

-----, Homemaker Aide

-----, Homemaker Aide

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

Debbie Sickles, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI)

Presiding at the hearing was Eric L. Phillips , State Hearing Officer and a member of the 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 program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Aged and Disabled Home and Community Based Waiver Policy Manual Chapter 501.3.2.1 and Chapter 501.3.2.2

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

- D-1 Aged and Disabled Home and Community Based Waiver Policy Manual Chapter 501.3.2.1 and Chapter 501.3.2.2
- D-2 Pre-Admission Screening dated April 5, 2011
- D-3 Notice of Decision dated April 6, 2011

Claimants' Exhibits:

- C-1 Various medical information for Claimant

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) On April 5, 2011, the Claimant was medically assessed to determine her continued eligibility and to assign an appropriate Level of Care, hereinafter LOC, in participation with the Aged and Disabled Waiver program. Prior to the re-evaluation, the Claimant was assessed at a Level "D" LOC under the program guidelines.
- 2) On April 6, 2011, the Claimant was issued a Notice of Decision, Exhibit D-3. This exhibit noted that the Claimant had been determined medically eligible to continue to receive in-home services under the program guidelines, but her corresponding level of care would be reduced to 124 hours per month (LOC "C" determination).
- 3) Ms. Debbie Sickles, West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) assessing nurse completed Exhibit D-2, the Pre-Admission Screening assessment, hereinafter PAS, as part of her medical assessment of the Claimant. Ms. Sickles testified that the Claimant was awarded a total of 18 points during the evaluation.
- 4) -----, Claimant's husband testified that additional points should have been awarded in the areas of walking and arthritis. ----- also addressed that his wife suffers from heart and lung conditions.

The following addresses the contested areas:

Significant Arthritis-The Claimant's husband indicated that the Claimant suffers from arthritis. Ms. Sickles noted in the PAS assessment that the Claimant indicated an arthritic condition in her right shoulder, hands, arms, and legs, but indicated that there was no diagnosis of the condition on record or on the physician's referral.

The Claimant indicated an arthritic condition at the assessment; however, testimony from Ms. Sickles indicated that the Claimant's physician did not indicate a diagnosis of arthritis on the medical necessity evaluation request and the Claimant has not been prescribed any medications for such conditions. Based on the absence of the diagnosis of the condition, an additional point in the contested area cannot be awarded.

Walking-The Claimant's husband purported that his wife uses a walker and he fears that she may fall when she leans forward. Ms. Sickles documented in the assessment that the Claimant uses an assistive device and she demonstrated her abilities to ambulate without assistance.

The PAS documents that the Claimant was assessed as a Level 2/Supervised Assistive device. During the assessment, the Claimant demonstrated an ability to ambulate independently with the use of her walker; therefore, an additional point in the contested area cannot be awarded.

Additionally, the Claimant's husband submitted medical information (C-1) and indicated that his wife suffers from heart and lung conditions. The PAS assessment documents that a point was awarded for the medical condition of dyspnea (shortness of breath).

- 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) Medicaid policy dictates that an individual's Level of Care (LOC) is determined by the number of points awarded on the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) assessment tool.
- 2) On April 5, 2011, the Claimant was assessed a total of 18 points as part of her PAS assessment completed by West Virginia Medical Institute
- 3) As a result of evidence and testimony presented during the hearing process, no additional points may be awarded. The Claimant's total points remain at 18.
- 4) In accordance with existing policy, an individual with 18 points qualifies as a Level "C" LOC and is therefore eligible to receive 4 hours per day or 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:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this ____ day of June, 2011.

Eric L. Phillips
State Hearing Officer