



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Office of Inspector General
Board of Review
P.O. Box 1736
Romney, WV 26757

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

May 11, 2006

Dear Ms. ____:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing held April 18, 2006. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to discontinue services under the Aged Disabled Waiver, A/DW, 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 A/DW 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 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 570- 570.1b (11/1/03).

The information which was submitted at your hearing revealed that at the time of the December 21, 2005 Pre-Admission Screening Assessment, (PAS) you did not meet the medical eligibility criteria for services under the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

It is the decision of the State Hearings Officer to **uphold** the proposed action of the Department to discontinue services under the A/DW program.

Sincerely,

Sharon K. Yoho
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika H. Young, Chairman, Board of Review
[REDACTED], Catholic Community Services - Boggess, BoSS - [REDACTED], WVMI

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

____,

Claimant,

v.

Action Number: 06-BOR-1007

**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 April 18, 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 April 18, 2006 on a timely appeal, filed January 30, 2006.

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

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's Witnesses:

____, claimant

____, claimant's daughter

____, Case Manager, Catholic Community Services

Department's Witnesses:

Kay Ikerd, Bureau of Senior Services by phone

____, WVMI nurse by phone

Presiding at the Hearing was Sharon K. Yoho, State Hearing Officer and a member of the State Board of Review.

IV. QUESTIONS TO BE DECIDED:

The question(s) to be decided is whether the Department was correct in their decision to discontinue services under the Aged/Disabled Waiver (HCB) program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Service **Manual §570**

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

D-1 Aged/Disabled Home and Community based Services Manual §570, 570.1 a,b.

D-2 Pre-Admission Screening, PAS, completed December 21, 2005

D-3 Eligibility Determination dated December 21, 2005

D-4 Notice of potential denial dated January 4, 2006

D-5 Notice of termination dated January 20, 2006

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) Ms. ____ is a 53-year-old female. She is an active participant in the A/DW program. Her A/DW eligibility was undergoing an annual evaluation on December 21, 2005.
- 2) A WV Medical Institute (WVMI) Nurse completed a Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) in the claimant's home with the claimant and her daughter, ____, who is also her homemaker, present. The evaluating nurse determined that the claimant had only three (3) qualifying deficits. The nurse assigned a deficit for Ms. ____'s need for physical assistance in bathing, grooming and dressing.
- 3) Issues addressed by the claimant's witnesses were in the areas of eating and transferring.

- 4) The evaluating nurse asked the claimant during the PAS if she could use a knife and fork to cut her foods. Ms. ____ answered, “Not really”. The nurse did not assign a deficit for eating due to her knowledge of the claimant being able to sew, grasp a cup, grasp her cane and grasp a cigarette. The claimant testified at the hearing that she has occasions at least once a week where her hands lock up and stay that way for about three (3) hours. She is not able to eat during those hours. She denies having the ability to sew.
- 5) Ms. ____ and her daughter/homemaker advised the nurse that she could transfer out of bed on her own if the daughter was not there to help her. Ms. ____ reported that she rolls on to the floor from the bed and then pulls herself up. The daughter told the nurse, “she pulls herself up if I’m not here to get her up”. The claimant reported that she was able to get up off the toilet on her own. During the hearing, Ms. ____ testified that about three (3) times a week, she needs help getting out of bed. ____ testified that she lives nearby and that she helps her mother out of her chair every day and sometimes out of bed.
- 6) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 570 (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 570.1.a – 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 Manual Section 570.1.b – Medical Criteria:

An individual must have five deficits on the PAS to qualify medically for the A/DW Program. These deficits are derived from a combination of the following assessment elements on the PAS:

A. Decubitus - Stage 3 or 4 (Item 24 on PAS 2005)

B. Unable to vacate 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, Alzheimers, or related condition. (Item 25, I and 33, on the PAS 2005).

C. Functional abilities of individual in the home. (Item 25 on the PAS 2005).

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eating----- | Level 2 or higher (physical assistance to get nourishment, not preparation) |
| Bathing ---- | Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more) |
| Grooming--- | Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more) |
| Dressing ---- | Level 2 or higher (physical assistance or more) |
| Continence-- | Level 3 or higher (must be total incontinent- defined as when the recipient has no control of bowel or bladder functions at any time) |
| Orientation-- | Level 3 or higher (totally disoriented, comatose) |
| Transfer----- | Level 3 or higher (one person or two person assist in the home) |
| Walking----- | Level 3 or higher (one person assist 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) |

D. 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. (Item 26 on the PAS 2005)

E. The individual is not capable of administering his/her own medications is defined as an individual not capable of administering his/her own medications 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) The Aged Disabled Waiver policy provides that an individual must have five (5) qualifying deficits to be medically eligible for the Aged Disabled Waiver program. At the time of the PAS the WVMi nurse accurately assigned the claimant with three (3) qualifying deficits in the areas of bathing, dressing and grooming.
- 2) The issues raised at the hearing were in the areas of eating and transferring. Testimony and evidence did not support that the claimant should have been assessed with additional deficits at the evaluation.

- 3) The claimant does have occasions about once a week where her hands lock up for three hours at a time. During these times, the claimant would not be able to use a knife for cutting up foods. Common meal times are generally four to five hours apart so it would be very rare that assistance would be needed for eating especially if meal time could be postponed for an hour.
- 4) The claimant and her homemaker/ daughter made it clear during the PAS that the claimant could transfer on her own. It was inferred during the PAS and during the hearing that if one of her daughters were present during times when she was getting out of bed or out of a chair that they do help her with the transfer. Policy does not allow for a deficit to be assessed for the offering of assistance in transferring when the client could accomplish the task with difficulty.

IX. DECISION:

After reviewing the information presented during this hearing and the applicable policy and regulations, I find that the evaluating nurse accurately assessed the claimant with three (3) qualifying deficits at the PAS. The eating issue is not completely clear however; one (1) additional deficit would not change the decision to terminate benefits. With the authority granted to me by the WV State Board of Review I am further ruling to **uphold** the Agency's proposed action to discontinue this claimant's services under the Aged/Disabled Title XIX (HCB) Waiver program.

IX. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this 11th Day of May 2006.

Sharon K. Yoho
State Hearing Officer