



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

Rocco S. Fucillo
Cabinet Secretary

December 14, 2012

RE: ---- v. WV DHHR
ACTION NO.: 12-BOR-2463

Dear Ms. ----:

Enclosed is a copy of the decision resulting from the hearing held in the above-referenced matter.

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.

If you believe the decision was reached in error, you may appeal. See the attached explanation of Claimant's Recourse.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

IN RE: ----,

Claimant,

v.

ACTION NO.: 12-BOR-2463

**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 convened on December 13, 2012, for ----. This hearing was held in accordance with the provisions found in Chapter 700 of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Common Chapters Manual. This fair hearing was convened on a timely appeal filed October 17, 2012.

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 from 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

----, Claimant's witness

Vonda Spencer, Bureau of Senior Services (Boss), Department representative

Brenda Myers, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI), Department witness

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 501.5.1.1(a) and 501.5.1.1 (b)

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

- D-1 Aged and Disabled Home and Community Based Waiver Policy Manual Chapter 501.5.1.1(a) and 501.5.1.1 (b)
- D-2 Pre-Admission Screening dated October 1, 2012
- D-3 Notice of Decision dated October 10, 2012
- D-4 Pre-Admission Screening dated October 25, 2011

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) On October 1, 2012, the Claimant was medically assessed to determine her continued eligibility and to assign an appropriate Level of Care (LOC) for participation in the Aged and Disabled Waiver Services (ADW) program. Prior to the re-evaluation, the Claimant was assessed at a Level "C" LOC (Exhibit D-4) under the program guidelines.
- 2) Brenda Myers, WVMI assessing nurse, completed the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) (Exhibit D-2), as part of her medical evaluation of the Claimant. Ms. Myers testified that the Claimant was awarded a total of 17 points which resulted in a Level "B" LOC determination.
- 3) On October 10, 2012, the Claimant was issued a Notice of Decision (Exhibit D-3), which documents the approval of her medical eligibility for the ADW program and the reduction of her homemaker service hours which cannot exceed 93 monthly hours.
- 4) The Claimant agreed with the WVMI nurse's findings on the assessment, but testified her condition has since deteriorated and she requires an improved hospital bed to aid in her ability to transfer. Additional testimony from the Claimant's witness indicated that the Claimant now requires assistance to aid in her ability to walk.

- 5) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Policy Manual 501.5.1.1(a) and (b) documents there are 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
- #35 - 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- 0-62 range of hours per month
- Level B - 10 points to 17 points-63-93 range of hours per month
- Level C - 18 points to 25 points-94-124 range of hours per month
- Level D - 26 points to 44 points- 125-155 range of hours per month

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 1) Medicaid policy stipulates that an individual's LOC is determined by the number of points awarded on the PAS assessment tool.
- 2) On October 1, 2012, the Claimant was awarded a total of 17 LOC points as part of her PAS assessment, which resulted in a Level "B" LOC determination.
- 3) The Claimant offered no dispute to the WVMI nurse's findings from the PAS assessment, but indicated that her condition has since deteriorated which results in a need for an increased LOC. The matter before the Board of Review is whether or not the WVMI nurse correctly assessed the Claimant based on information relayed during the assessment. Therefore, no

additional points may be attributed to the Claimant's LOC and the total LOC points remain at 17. In accordance with existing policy, an individual with 17 points qualifies as a Level B determination and is eligible to receive a maximum of 93 homemaker service hours.

IX. DECISION:

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

X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this ____ day of December 2012.

Eric L. Phillips
State Hearing Officer