



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

May 14, 2012

Dear -----:

Attached is a copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for your hearing held on May 11, 2012. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to terminate your benefits and services through 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/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 the hearing fails to demonstrate that you continue to need the degree of care required to medically qualify you for the Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Services Program.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Department's proposal to terminate your benefits and services provided through the Medicaid Aged/Disabled Waiver Services Program.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Chairman, Board of Review
BoSS/WVMI
Public Partnerships, LLC

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

-----,

Claimant,

v.

Action Number: 12-BOR-920

**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 May 11, 2012 on a timely appeal filed March 13, 2012. Benefits and services provided through the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver Program have continued 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 mother

-----, Claimant's sister/guardian

-----, Claimant's friend

Kay Ikerd, RN, BoSS – Department's representative (participated telephonically)

Debra Lemasters, RN, WVMI – Department's witness (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 terminate the Claimant's benefits and services provided through the Medicaid Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Services Program.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Medicaid Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Services Manual, Chapter 500, Section 501

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

- D-1 Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Waiver Services Manual Section 501
- D-2 Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) for Aged/Disabled Waiver Services dated 2/15/12
- D-3 Notice of Potential Denial dated 2/21/12
- D-4 Notice of Decision dated 3/7/12
- D-5 Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) for Aged/Disabled Waiver Services dated 3/11/11

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) On February 15, 2012, the Claimant was evaluated (medically assessed) to determine continued medical eligibility for participation in the Aged and Disabled Waiver Services Program, hereinafter ADW Program. (See Exhibit D-2, Pre-Admission Screening (PAS), completed on 2/15/12).
- 2) On or about February 21, 2012, the Claimant was notified of Potential Denial (Exhibit D-3). This notice states, in pertinent part:

To be eligible for benefits you must be deficient in at least 5 of 13 critical areas as mandated in the Medicaid Program Regulations, Aged/Disabled Home and Community Based Services Waiver, Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter 501.3.2.

Based on your PAS you have deficiencies in only 2 areas – Eating and Grooming.

This notice goes on to advise the Claimant that additional medical information would be considered if received within two weeks.

- 3) The Claimant was notified that continued medical eligibility could not be established via a Termination/Denial Notice dated March 7, 2012 (Exhibit D-4). This notice states, in pertinent part:

The West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) recently conducted an assessment of your medical eligibility for the Aged and Disabled Waiver Program. You have been determined medically ineligible for Waiver services.

This decision results in the denial or termination of your Waiver services. This is based on policy in the Medicaid program regulations, Aged and Disabled Waiver Policy Manual, Section 501.5.1.1 and the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Form (attached).

Reason for Decision: Medical eligibility for the Aged and Disabled Waiver Program requires deficits in at least five (5) of the health areas listed below. This section indicates that deficits were identified in the following areas: Vacate a Building, Eating, and Grooming.

Your Pre-Admission Screening Form (PAS) indicates deficiencies in three (3) areas. Because you have less than five (5) deficits, you are not medically eligible for the Aged and Disabled Waiver Program.

- 4) As noted in the previous finding, the Department stipulated that the Claimant demonstrates three (3) deficits (vacating, eating and grooming). It was noted that while vacating was not initially identified by Debra Lemasters, RN, WVMI, as a functional deficit in Exhibit D-3, correspondence received from the Claimant's physician within the two-week assessment period verified a deficit in vacating. The Department, however, maintained that the medical assessment completed in February 2012 by RN Lemasters fails to identify five (5) functional deficits.
- 5) The Claimant and his witnesses contended that he remains medically eligible to participate in the ADW Program, as he should have been awarded deficits in medication administration and orientation. It was noted by the Department that the Claimant was awarded a functional deficit in bathing and dressing in the assessment completed on March 2011 (D-5), but neither of these areas were contested by the Claimant. The following will address each of the contested areas:

Orientation – Pursuant to ADW Program policy, an individual is demonstrating a functional deficit in orientation when they are totally disoriented or comatose (Level-3). RN Lemasters testified that the Claimant was assessed at a Level-1, oriented to person, place and time, at the time of the assessment, although it was noted by his physician that he experiences short-term memory loss. RN Lemasters purported that even if the Claimant experienced episodes of intermittent disorientation (Level-2), according to policy, a deficit cannot be awarded. Because the Claimant demonstrated during the assessment that he is not totally disoriented, a deficit cannot be established.

Medication Administration – The Claimant was assessed as requiring prompting and supervision in medication administration, and pursuant to policy, a deficit can only be established if he is unable to administer his medications. RN Lemasters testified that a deficit is established if the individual needs someone to place medication in his/her mouth, tube, etc... In this case, a pill planner is set up and the Claimant is prompted or reminded to take his medications, but he can self-administer his medications with that level of assistance. Based on the evidence, the Claimant was correctly assessed as requiring prompting and supervision - this level of assistance does not qualify as a functional deficit.

6) Aged/Disabled Home and Community-Based Services Manual Section 501 (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 503.1.1 – 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 Medical Criteria: 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:
(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) Medicaid policy requires that an individual must demonstrate five (5) functional deficits on the PAS assessment in order to qualify medically for the Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.
- 2) The evidence reveals that the Claimant was awarded three (3) functional deficits on a PAS completed by WVMi in February 2012 – Vacating a building, Eating and Grooming.
- 3) Evidence presented at the hearing fails to confirm the Claimant should have been awarded any additional functional deficits.
- 4) Whereas the Claimant was demonstrating only three (3) program qualifying functional deficits at the time of the assessment, evidence confirms that the Claimant is no longer medically eligible to participate in the Medicaid Aged/Disabled Waiver Program.

IX. DECISION:

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Department's proposal to terminate the Claimant's benefits and services through the Medicaid 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 May, 2012.

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