



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of



DECISION

BCC/148492

**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed April 02, 2013, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5)(a), to review a decision by the Winnebago County Department of Human Services in regard to Medical Assistance, a telephonic hearing was held on May 15, 2013, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the petitioner’s appeal of the April 1, 2012 discontinuance of his BadgerCare Core Plan benefits is timely.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:



Respondent:

Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Leslie Vosters, ESS

Winnebago County Department of Human Services  
220 Washington Ave.  
PO Box 2187  
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2187

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

Gary M. Wolkstein  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner (CARES # ) is a resident of Winnebago County who received BadgerCare (BC) Core Plan benefits for himself as a BC household of one.

2. The county agency sent a March 19, 2012 notice to the petitioner at his correct address that his BadgerCare (BC) Plus Core Plan would discontinue effective April 1, 2012, due to failure to timely complete his review application. That notice stated that any hearing request must be received at the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) within 45 days of the notice's effective date (May 17, 2012). See Exhibit 1.
3. The petitioner received the March 19, 2012 notice (Exhibit 1).
4. The petitioner mailed a March 29, 2013 appeal letter to the county agency which was received at the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) on April 2, 2013.
5. There is no evidence in the hearing record that petitioner requested a DHA appeal regarding the April 1, 2013 BC discontinuance prior to April 2, 2013.

### **DISCUSSION**

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) can only hear cases on the merits if there is jurisdiction to do so. There is no jurisdiction if a hearing request is untimely. **An appeal of a negative action by a county agency concerning Medical Assistance (MA) must be filed within 45 days of the date of the action. Sections 49.45(5) and 49.50(8), Wis. Stats.; Income Maintenance Manual, II-G-3.4.0.** An appeal of a negative action concerning FS must be filed within 90 days of the date of that action. 7 C.F.R., §273.15(g). A negative action can be the denial of an application, reduction, incorrect effective date of eligibility for benefits, the incorrect calculation of benefits or payments, termination of an ongoing case, or an overpayment notice. In this case, the negative action was the April 1, 2012 discontinuance of petitioner's BadgerCare Core Plan due to failure to timely complete his required review including his mandatory physical exam. See Exhibit 1.

During the May 15, 2013 hearing, petitioner admitted that he received the March 19, 2012 notice stating that his BC Core Plan would discontinue as of April 1, 2012 if he did not timely complete his BC review. There was no evidence that anyone at the county agency attempted to prevent the petitioner from filing a timely appeal at DHA. The petitioner was not able to provide any valid reason or good cause for not filing an appeal with DHA during the 45 day period (until May 17, 2012) after receiving the March 19, 2012 notice discontinuing his BC Core benefits effective April 1, 2012. Accordingly, for the above reasons, I must conclude that because petitioner did not appeal the April 1, 2012 BC Core Plan discontinuance within the 45-day time limit, the Division of Hearings and Appeals has no subject matter jurisdiction to address the April 1, 2012 BadgerCare discontinuance issue in this case.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

There is no subject matter jurisdiction regarding the April 1, 2012 discontinuance of petitioner's BadgerCare Core Plan benefits, as the appeal is untimely.

**THEREFORE, it is**

**ORDERED**

The petition for review herein be and the same is hereby Dismissed.

## **REQUEST FOR A REHEARING**

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

## **APPEAL TO COURT**

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,  
Wisconsin, this 24th day of June, 2013

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\sGary M. Wolkstein  
Administrative Law Judge  
Division of Hearings and Appeals



**State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on June 24, 2013.

Winnebago County Department of Human Services  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability