



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of



DECISION

FCP/159007

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

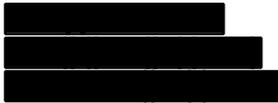
Pursuant to a petition filed July 09, 2014, under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 10.55, to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to Medical Assistance, a hearing was held on August 21, 2014, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether Petitioner’s cost share obligation has been correctly calculated.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Julie Salmeron

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W Vliet St, Room 106
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

David D. Fleming
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # ) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Petitioner is a participant in the Family Care Program (FCP). She filed this appeal to contest her Family Care cost share because she does not believe that it is fair to have such a large portion of her income allocated to a cost share.

3. Petitioner's case was subject to review in June 2014. After the review her cost share went up. It had been \$0.00 but increased to \$213.00 as of July 1, 2014 because no medical/remedial expenses were submitted in the review.
4. Petitioner has grossed unearned income of \$1114.00 – all in Social Security benefits. In the determination of cost share Petitioner has been credited, both before and after the review, with a basic needs allowance of \$901.00. Her shelter costs are noted to be \$272.00 per month.
5. In July 2014 Petitioner submitted medical/remedial expenses in the amount of \$34.36. Her cost share, effective August 1, 2014, is \$178.64.

DISCUSSION

People eligible for Family Care Medicaid fall into one of the following categories:

Group A eligibility

1. People 18 and over who meet full benefit EBD Medicaid financial and non-financial requirements and who are also functionally eligible for FC at either the nursing home or non-nursing home level of care.
2. People 18 and over who meet BC+ Standard Plan, Well Woman Medicaid, Medicaid through Adoption Assistance or Foster Care financial and non-financial requirements and who are functionally eligible for FC at either the nursing home or non-nursing home level of care.

Group B eligibility

People 18 and over who meet full benefit EBD Medicaid non-financial and financial requirements except for income, who are functionally eligible for FC at the nursing home level of care, and whose income is at or below the special income limit (See the Community Waivers Special Income Limit in 39.4.1)

Group C eligibility

People 18 and over who meet full benefit EBD Medicaid non-financial and financial requirements except for income, who are functionally eligible for FC at the nursing home level of care, and whose income is above the special income limit (see the Community Waivers Special Income Limit in 39.4.1), but whose allowable monthly expenses are sufficient to reduce their income to the medically needy limit (See EBD Medically Needy Limits in 39.4.1.)

Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH), §29.3.1.

The elderly, blind and disabled (EBD) financial income limit is \$591.67 and the Community Waivers Special Income Limit is \$2163, effective May 1, 2014. *MEH, §39.4.1.* As Petitioner's gross income is \$1114.00, it is apparent that she falls into the group B category of Family Care eligibility. Group B FCP members must make a cost share payment. *Id., §28.8.3.*

Cost sharing is the monthly amount a waivers participant has to contribute toward the cost of his/her waiver services. *MEH, § 28.5.1.* Payment of the cost share is a condition of eligibility. *Id.* The allowable deductions from income are the personal maintenance allowance, a family maintenance allowance where the FCP member is the custodial parent, health insurance premiums, medical/remedial expenses and special exempt income. *MEH, §§28.8.3.1; 28.8.3.2 and 28.8.3.3.* The personal maintenance allowance is calculated as follows:

28.8.3.1 Personal Maintenance Allowance

The Personal Maintenance Allowance is an income deduction used primarily when calculating a cost share for a Group B waiver member. However, it is also used in the cost share calculation of a Group C waiver member when completing Section C of the [Spousal Impoverishment](#) Income Allocation Worksheet ([18.6.4](#)).

The personal maintenance allowance (Line 6 and Page 2 of the worksheet) is for room, board, and personal expenses. It is the total of:

1. Community Waivers Basic Needs Allowance (See [39.4.2 EBD Deductions and Allowances](#))
2. \$65 and ½ earned income deduction (See [15.7.5 \\$65 and ½ Earned Income Deduction](#)).
3. Special housing amount. This is an amount of the person's income set aside to help pay housing costs. If the waiver applicant's housing costs are over \$350, add together the following costs:
 - a. Rent.
 - b. Home or renters insurance.
 - c. Mortgage.
 - d. Property tax (including special assessments).
 - e. Utilities (heat, water, sewer, electricity).
 - f. "Room" amount for members in a Community Based Residential Facility ([CBRF](#)), Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC) or an [Adult](#) Family/Foster Allowance.) Home (AFH). The case manager determines and provides this amount.

The total, minus \$350, equals the special housing amount. The person can set this amount aside from his/her income.

...

MEH, §28.8.3.1.

The special exempt income deduction consists of:

1. Income used for supporting others (15.7.2.1 Support Payments).
2. Court-ordered attorney fees (15.7.2.3 Fees to Guardians or Attorneys).
3. Court-ordered guardian and guardian ad litem fees (15.7.2.3 Fees to Guardians or Attorneys).
4. Expenses associated with establishing and maintaining a guardianship. (15.7.2.3 Fees to Guardians or Attorneys)
5. Expenses associated with a Self-Support Plan (15.7.2.2 Self-Support Plan).
6. Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) (15.7.4 Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
7. Maintaining a home or apartment (15.7.1 Maintaining Home or Apartment) *[note: applies only to individuals temporarily institutionalized]*
8. Costs associated with real property listed for sale (16.2 Assets Availability)

...

MEH, §15.7.2.

Petitioner wanted an explanation of how the cost share is calculated and argues, in essence, that she should not have to pay a cost share as it is just too large of a percentage of her income. The above is rather detailed but provides an explanation of the calculation. As for the imposition of a cost share - the Division of Hearings and Appeals does not make or change law and policy. It can only decide whether or not the parties in cases over which it has authority have followed and/or correctly applied the law and policy. Here I have reviewed the calculations and find no errors.

Finally, Petitioner should note that if any of the amounts used in the cost share calculation change she should provide the evidence of those changes to the agency.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

That the available evidence indicates that Petitioner's cost share has been correctly calculated.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That this appeal is 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, Room 651, 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 Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 22nd day of September, 2014

\sDavid D. Fleming
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Brian Hayes, Administrator
Suite 201
5005 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-5400

Telephone: (608) 266-3096
FAX: (608) 264-9885
email: DHAmail@wisconsin.gov
Internet: <http://dha.state.wi.us>

The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on September 22, 2014.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Office of Family Care Expansion