

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES PO Box 712 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0712

CAROLE JOHNSON Commissioner

JENNIFER LANGER JACOBS Director

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

G.P, PETITIONER, v. FINAL AGENCY DECISION OAL DKT. NO. HMA18136-19 ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES, RESPONDENTS.

As the Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, I have reviewed the record in this matter, consisting of the Initial Decision, the documents in evidence and the contents of the OAL case file. No exceptions were filed. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to file a Final Decision is October 12, 2020 in accordance with and Order of Extension. The Initial Decision was received on July 14, 2020.

This matter arises from the Essex County Board of Social Services' (ECBSS)

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor December 10, 2019 denial (?) of Petitioner's Medicaid application for failure to provide verifications.

The issue presented here is whether Petitioner provided the necessary verifications for the ECBSS to make an eligibility determination. On or about November 11, 2019, the ECBSS conducted a redetermination of Petitioner's eligibility for Medicaid. At that time, ECBSS discovered three bank accounts associated with Petitioner's name. As a result, ECBSS requested twelve months of statements for bank accounts ending in #4605, #1580 and #7160. Petitioner is listed as Guardian/Conservator for his son on accounts #1580 and #7160. This information is confirmed in the bank notices provided to ECBSS. Absent additional reasoning for the necessity of these documents, the submission of bank letters confirming his status as guardian on the accounts sufficiently established they were not Petitioner's personal accounts, and therefore, required no additional documentation.

However, there still remains the issue of Petitioner's failure to provide documents with regard to his personal account #4605. Both the County Welfare Agency (CWA) and the applicant have responsibilities with regard to the application process. <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 10:71-2.2. The CWA exercises direct responsibility in the application process to inform applicants about the process, eligibility requirements and their right to a fair hearing; receive applications; assist applicants in exploring their eligibility; make known the appropriate resources and services; assure the prompt accurate submission of data; and promptly notify applicants of eligibility or ineligibility. <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 10:71-2.2(c) and (d). Applicants must provide the CWA with verification requested. <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 10:71-2.2 (e).

The record here does not establish that ECBSS requested these documents from Petitioner, nor does it provide a time line by which he was to provide this information to the county. Furthermore, it is unclear if the documents in the record were provided to ECBSS prior to or during the hearing. Consequently, I cannot determine whether Petitioner timely provided or failed to provide the requested verifications. THEREFORE, it is on this day of SEPTEMBER 2020,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED for further documentation with regard to ECBSS' requests for verifications and Petitioner's submissions and/or response.

Jennifer Langer Vacobs, Assistant Commissioner Division of Medical Assistance And Health Services