

State of New Jersey

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

SARAH ADELMAN Commissioner

JENNIFER LANGER JACOBS Assistant Commissioner

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

A.S.., PETITIONER, v. DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES, RESPONDENT. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION FINAL AGENCY DECISION OAL DKT. No. HMA 04597-2021

As Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS), I have reviewed the record in this case, including the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) case file and the Initial Decision approving the Settlement Agreement reached by the parties. No exceptions were filed in this matter. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to render a Final Agency Decision is July 5, 2022, in accordance with an Order of Extension.

The matter arises from The Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) April 23, 2021 denial of Petitioner's request for Goods and Services, specifically a request to attend "Power2Relate: Using the Nurtured Heart Approach" at the Sherry Blair Institute for a total cost of \$1,800. Petitioner is a DDD client under the Supports Program, a component of the

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver (CMW) that permits Medicaid beneficiaries eligible through the DDD to access "services, equipment or supplies, not otherwise provided through generic resources, the Supports Program, or through the State Plan, which address an identified need (including improving and maintaining the participant's opportunities for full membership in the community) and meet the following requirements: the item or service would decrease the need for other Medicaid services; and/or promote inclusion in the community; and/or increase the participant's safety in the home environment; and, the participant does not have the funds to purchase the item or service or the item or service is not available through another source." Section 17.9.1 Supports Program Manual.

The Initial Decision upheld DDD's denial of Petitioner's request, finding that it did not meet the requirements of a Goods and Services request under the Supports Program Manual. I concur. The Supports Program Manual specifically provides that Goods and Services are services that address an identifiable need and are not available through other sources, including the State Medicaid Plan. <u>Ibid.</u> As Petitioner's request is for counseling services, which are provided under the State Medicaid Plan, the request does not meet the definition of Goods and Services under the Supports Program Manual and was properly denied by DDD.

Accordingly, and based on my review of the record, I ADOPT the ALJ's finding and FIND that DDD's denial of Petitioner's Goods and Services request was appropriate.

THEREFORE, it is on this <sup>14th</sup> day of JUNE 2022,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.

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Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES P.O. Box 712 Trenton, NJ 08625-0712

SARAH ADELMAN Commissioner

JENNIFER LANGER JACOBS Assistant Commissioner

Sheryl Schwartz 10 Cooks Mill Court Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 June 16, 2022

Re: FINAL AGENCY DECISION Alec Schwartz OAL Dkt No. HMA 04597-2021

Dear Sir or Madam

Enclosed is the Final Agency Decision rendered in the above captioned matter.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision, you have the right to seek judicial review by the Appellate Division, Superior Court of New Jersey, Richard J. Hughes Complex, P.O. Box 006, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. A request for judicial review must be initiated within 45 days from the date of receipt of the decision. If you have any questions concerning an appeal to the Appellate Division, you should call (609) 815-2950.

Ours

Office of Legal & Regulatory Liaison

MVP:GO Enclosure C: DDD - Carol Jones

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor



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Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services