



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

PO Box 712

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0712

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

SARAH ADELMAN
Acting Commissioner

JENNIFER LANGER JACOBS
Assistant Commissioner

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

Z.L.,

PETITIONER,

v.

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF
SOCIAL SERVICES,

RESPONDENT.

Vertical separator line of dots

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HMA 01276-22

As 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 Office of Administrative Law (OAL) case file. Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to render a Final Agency Decision is June 23, 2022 in accordance with an Order of Extension. The Initial Decision was received on March 23, 2022.

On February 7, 2022, the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services (Hunterdon County) denied Petitioner's January 2022 application for Medicaid benefits. On February 14, 2022, Petitioner requested a fair hearing to dispute the denial. On February 17, 2022, the matter was transmitted to the OAL for a hearing before an Administrative Law

Judge (ALJ). The matter was heard on March 8, 2022 and the record was closed. An Initial Decision was issued on March 23, 2022.

When this matter was transmitted to the OAL, the contested issue was the denial of Medicaid benefits. However, Petitioner's testimony indicated that he had been receiving Medicaid benefits for approximately two years prompted an inquiry into his eligibility wherein it was discovered that Petitioner has been a Medicaid recipient since 2019.¹ It is unclear why Petitioner filed a new application in January 2022 or why Hunterdon County did not recognize Petitioner as a current recipient. To that end, the contested matter is not a denial, but rather a termination. However, due to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act enacted on March 18, 2020, all Medicaid terminations during the course of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 were suspended and Petitioner continued to receive Medicaid benefits. See Medicaid Communication 20-04. Consequently, the issue regarding the termination of Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility is moot, as he remains eligible as a result of the public health emergency.

THEREFORE, it is on this 20th day of MAY 2022,

ORDERED:

That the appeal is dismissed as moot.



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

¹ Judicial notice is taken of the fact that the New Jersey Medicaid Management Information System shows Petitioner as continuously Medicaid eligible beginning in May 2019. N.J.A.C. 1:1-15.2 provides, "Official notice may be taken of judicially noticeable facts as explained in N.J.R.E. 201 of the New Jersey Rules of Evidence."