



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES
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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

JENNIFER LANGER JACOBS
Assistant Commissioner

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

M.P.,

PETITIONER,

v.

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
AND HEALTH SERVICES AND
ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF
SOCIAL SERVICES,
RESPONDENTS.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HMA 15547-2019

As Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, I have reviewed the record in this case, including the Initial Decision, the OAL case file and the documents filed below. No exceptions were filed in this matter. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to file a Final Decision is February 18, 2020 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10 which requires an Agency Head to adopt, reject, or modify the Initial Decision within 45 days of receipt. The Initial Decision was received on January 3, 2020.

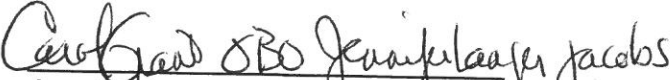
The matter arises regarding the date Petitioner was determined eligible for Medicaid. Essex County set Petitioner's eligibility as of August 1, 2019. Petitioner had been receiving Medicaid by virtue of her eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Sometime in 2017, she lost her SSI benefits. Petitioner claims she did not receive any notice about the change in programs. As a result she was without Medicaid benefits from January 2018 through July 2019. In May of 2019, the Social Security Administration (SSA) told her to apply for benefits at her County Welfare Agency. She finally did so in August 2019 and was found eligible.

The Initial Decision upholds the date set by Essex County and I concur. Petitioner would have received notice from Social Security as well as New Jersey regarding her change in status due to her loss of SSI benefits. At the time she would have been directed to her CWA to continue Medicaid benefits. She acknowledges that SSA did inform her to reapply in May 2019. When she did apply, she was found eligible. I do note that if Petitioner had medical expenses, she could have received retroactive benefits for the three months preceding her application. I hereby instruct Essex County to outreach Petitioner to determine if there was eligibility during those three months.

THEREFORE, it is on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2020,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.

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