

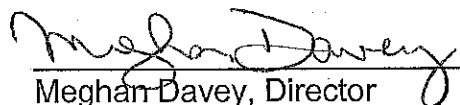
A.I. receives PCA benefits through the Personal Preference Program, which is administered by the Division of Disability Services and allows Medicaid recipients to direct and manage their PCA services. With a monthly cash allowance to cover the hours of PCA services, A.I.'s mother is paid to provide needed care. The decision regarding the appropriate number of hours is based on the tasks necessary to meet the specific needs of the individual and the hours necessary to complete those tasks.

I find it significant that Petitioner presented no evidence suggesting that ~~any needed service or task cannot be performed within 17 hours per week.~~ Moreover, Petitioner provided no evidence or explanation as to why this amount of PCA services is insufficient with respect to her care needs. If the necessary tasks can be accomplished within 17 hours per week, any additional hours would only be used for supervision which is not an authorized use of the service. See N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.8(c). This would be contrary to the purpose of the PCA program, which is intended to provide medically necessary assistance with specific health related tasks.

THEREFORE, it is on this 15th day of March 2017,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision affirming Amerigroup's reduction of PCA hours from 22 to 17 hours per week is hereby ADOPTED as the Final Decision.


Meghan Davey, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services