

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF: [REDACTED],
Claimant

Reg. No.: 2009-25137
Issue No.: 1038
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
July 15, 2009
Wayne County DHS (35)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; MSA 16.409 and MCL 400.37; MSA 16.437 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice a telephone hearing was held on July 15, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The claimant was a FIP recipient and required to be involved in employment related activities.
2. On May 6, 2009, the Department sent the Claimant a notice of Jobs, Education and Training (JET) noncompliance, with a triage set for May 14, 2009. (Department's exhibit 2).

3. On May 14, 2009, the claimant did not appear for her triage and the department found no good cause for the claimant's noncompliance. (Department's exhibit 3).
4. On May 15, 2009, the department sent the claimant a notice that her FIP would be cancelled. (Department exhibit 5).
5. On May 15, 2009, the department closed the Claimant's FIP.
6. On May 26, 2009, claimant filed a request for a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 8 USC 601, et seq. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The claimant provided the department/JET with evidence that she was employed above minimum wage for approximately thirty-five (35) hours per week. The department requested verification of this employment and the claimant did not provide same.

The department scheduled a triage to discuss the claimant's noncompliance. The claimant called the department to tell them that she could not attend the triage on May 14, 2009.

TRIAGE

JET participants will not be terminated from a JET program without first scheduling a triage meeting with the client to jointly discuss noncompliance and good cause. Locally coordinate a

process to notify the MWA case manager of triage meetings including scheduling guidelines.

Clients can either attend a meeting or participate in a conference call if attendance at the triage meeting is not possible. If a client calls to reschedule an already scheduled triage meeting, offer a phone conference at that time. Clients must comply with triage requirements within the negative action period. (233A, p.8).

Here, the department did not attempt to reschedule the triage or to conduct the triage by phone when the claimant called the department. I find that the department was not in compliance with the above policy

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, **REVERSES AND ORDERS** the Department to retroactively reopen the Claimant's FIP and replace any lost benefits.

/s/
Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 08/06/09

Date Mailed: 08/06/09

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

MJB/jlg

cc:

