

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.: 2009-33721
Issue No.: 1005
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
September 28, 2009
Wayne County DHS (41)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge upon pursuant to MCL 400. 9; MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice a telephone hearing was held on September 28, 2009 claimant and her boyfriend [REDACTED] were present and testified, [REDACTED] JET Worker and [REDACTED] FIM appeared and testified for the department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department is properly proposing to close claimant's Family Independence Program ("FIP") benefits case for non-compliance with the Work First/Jobs Education and Training ("JET") program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits.

2. Household member [REDACTED] was required to attend Work First and participate with the JET program.
3. Notice of Noncompliance was sent to claimant on July 1, 2009 with a notice of a July 21, 2009 triage meeting.
4. At the triage meeting on July 21, 2009 [REDACTED] signed a First Noncompliance Letter agreeing that he was noncompliant.
5. On July 30, 2009 [REDACTED] did not show and did not call to the Workfirst program. [REDACTED] also failed to complete required job logs.
6. On August 3, 2009 a benefit notice was sent to claimant informing her that FIP benefits were closing.
7. Claimant requested a hearing contesting the proposed closure on August 11, 2009.
8. Claimant's FIP benefits have remained open pending the 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 (DHS or Department) administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependant 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 Family Independence Program (FIP) provides temporary cash assistance to support a family's movement to self-sufficiency. The recipients of FIP engage in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities so they can become self-supporting. Federal and State laws require

each work eligible individual (WEI) in the FIP group to participate in the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program or other employment-related activities unless temporarily deferred or engaged in activities that meet participation requirements. These clients must participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities to increase their employability and obtain stable employment. PEM 230A.

JET is a program administered by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) through the Michigan Works Agencies (MWAs). The JET program serves employers and job seekers for employers to have skilled workers and job seekers to obtain jobs that provide economic self-sufficiency. PEM 230 A. A mandatory participant in the JET program who fails without good cause to participate in employment activity must be penalized. PEM 233(a). The penalty for the first occurrence of noncompliance in the JET program is a closure for a minimum of three calendar months under the FIP program. PEM 233(a). Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment related activities. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for applicants, members, and recipients. PEM Manual Item 230(a), PEM Manual Item 230(b); 7 CFR Parts 272 and 273.

In the present case, claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits household member [REDACTED] was referred to Work First/JET. Mr. Stevens was sent a notice of noncompliance on July 16, 2009 for failing to participate and being in non-compliance with work first. A triage meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2009. At the triage meeting on July 21, 2009, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] signed a first noncompliance letter agreeing that he was noncompliant without good cause. On July 30, 2009 did not show to Workfirst and failed to call in advance to give explanation. [REDACTED] also failed to complete required job logs.

At hearing, claimant presented a letter signed by [REDACTED] that requests that [REDACTED] be excused from Work First on days when [REDACTED] has prenatal appointments to allow [REDACTED] to care for his child. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] could have sought alternate day care arrangements if [REDACTED] had a prenatal appointment. At a minimum, [REDACTED] should have contacted the department prior to the Workfirst appointment, especially since this was emphasized at the triage meeting.

Claimant has not provided sufficient proof of good cause for failing to participate in Work First/JET. Accordingly, the Department's closure of FIP benefits was proper.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the claimant has not established good cause for non-participation in the Work First/JET program and that the Department followed policy for processing the proposed closure of claimant's FIP benefit case.

Accordingly, the Department's eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.



Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 10/22/09

Date Mailed: 10/22/09

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 60 days of the filing of the original request.

2009-33721/AM

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.

AM/jlg

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