

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2012-49762
Issue Nos.: 1038, 6019
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 30, 2012
County: Wayne (82-55)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Chavez

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 30, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) and Child Development and Care (CDC) application for failure to attend the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant applied for FIP benefits in Wayne County.
2. Claimant was a mandatory JET participant.
3. Claimant allegedly did not meet participation requirements.
4. No evidence was submitted to show that Claimant was failing to meet participation requirements.
5. No evidence was submitted to show how many hours Claimant missed, how many days Claimant missed, whether Claimant was required to attend on certain days, what Claimant's hour requirements were, or how Claimant was non-participatory.
6. Furthermore, Claimant testified that she was unable to attend because the Department failed to approve child care for the date she needed to attend JET.

7. The Department admitted that child care was not approved until the day of her required JET participation.
8. Claimant submitted all documentation necessary for child care approval three days before her JET participation.
9. Claimant's FIP and CDC applications were denied for failing to attend JET on April 23, 2012.
10. On April 26, 2012, claimant requested a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 400.3015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 2000 AACS, R 400.3151 through R 400.3180.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98

and 99. The Department provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

All FIP and Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) eligible adults and 16- and 17-year-olds not in high school full-time must be referred to the JET Program or other employment service provider, unless deferred or engaged in activities that meet participation requirements. Clients who have not been granted a deferral must participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities to increase their employability and to find employment. BEM 230A, p. 1. A cash recipient who refuses, without good cause, to participate in assigned employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities is subject to penalties. BEM 230A, p. 1. This is commonly called “noncompliance.” BEM 233A defines noncompliance as failing or refusing to, without good cause:

“... Appear and participate with the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program or other employment service provider....” BEM 233A pg. 1.

However, non-participation can be overcome if the client has “good cause.” Good cause is a valid reason for failing to participate with employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the non-participatory person. BEM 233A. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented.

The penalty for noncompliance is FIP closure. BEM 233A.

After reviewing the facts of the case, the undersigned cannot reach the conclusion that claimant missed any hours and was, therefore, non-participatory. The Administrative Law Judge holds that there is no evidence to show that Claimant failed to participate to the best of her ability and meet her hour requirements.

At no point does the evidence presented show that Claimant failed to meet her hour requirements with the JET program.

No documentation as to these facts was submitted. Therefore, the Department has failed to meet their burden of proof with regard to whether Claimant was actually non-participatory.

Furthermore, even assuming that Claimant failed to meet her JET requirements, the evidence shows, by the Department’s own testimony, that this was because of the Department’s own inaction. Claimant testified that she did not attend JET on April 23 because she did not have child care. The Department testified that child care was approved by the Department on April 23. JET classes typically start at 9 a.m.; even assuming that the Department approved child care at the very start of business that day, Claimant could not have been notified and got her children into the child care in time to attend JET. The Department admitted that Claimant had turned in all required child care documentation three days before; furthermore, child care documentation was

not due until April 23. Therefore, as Claimant turned in all required documentation well before the due date, and as child care was not approved for JET until the date Claimant needed to attend JET, and as Claimant could not attend JET because of lack of child care, the undersigned holds that Claimant could not have attended JET the day in question as a result of Department inaction.

Therefore, even if the Department had presented sufficient evidence to show that Claimant had failed to attend JET, the evidence at hand shows that any failure to attend was the fault of the Department.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Department retroactively denied Claimant's request for CDC, ostensibly because Claimant failed to attend JET. Leaving aside the inconsistency of denying a child care request because Claimant failed to attend JET for not securing child care, CDC policy has no specific requirement to deny an application for failure to attend JET. Other need reasons for CDC could still exist, and the Department has an affirmative responsibility to investigate those other need reasons before denying a CDC application.

The Department has failed to meet their burden in showing that Claimant was actually non-participatory; no evidence has been submitted to prove this allegation. Therefore, the undersigned holds that the Department was incorrect to deny Claimant's FIP and CDC application.

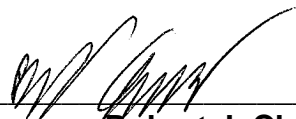
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department did act properly when . did not act properly when denying Claimant's FIP and CDC application.

Accordingly, the Department's AMP FIP FAP MA SDA CDC decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate reprocessing of the FIP and CDC application in question retroactive to the date of application.



Robert J. Chavez
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: June 12, 2012

Date Mailed: June 12, 2012

NOTICE: Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at
Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

RJC/pf

cc:

