

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED] Reg. No.: 2013 10871
[REDACTED] Issue No.: 1005
[REDACTED] Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 22, 2013
County: Wayne (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris

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 April 22, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] FIS.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's application close Claimant's case reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | |

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant applied for was receiving: FIP FAP MA SDA CDC.
2. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by May 5, 2011.

3. The Department received the requested verification from Claimant's employer but a second page was missing.
4. The Claimant submitted the second page of the verification on May 23, 2011 and was advised by her case worker that the FIP case would not close.
5. The Claimant appeared for three prior hearings scheduled to determine whether she was entitled to benefits for June 2011 (fully benefits) and July 2011 (\$355 in FIP benefits) due to the Department's improper closure of her case. On each occasion the Claimant withdrew her hearing request because she was advised by the Department that her help desk ticket was still pending and that she would receive her FIP benefits.
6. On June 1, 2011, the Department
 - denied Claimant's application.
 - closed Claimant's case.
 - reduced Claimant's benefits.
7. On April 25, 2011, the Department sent notice of the
 - denial of Claimant's application.
 - closure of Claimant's case.
 - reduction of Claimant's benefits.
8. On October 5, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
 - denial of Claimant's application.
 - closure of Claimant's case.
 - reduction of Claimant's benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found 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 1997 AACSR 400.3101-3131. 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 1997 AACSR 400.3001-3015

- 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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.
- The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1998-2000 AACSR 400.3151-400.3180.
- 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 1997 AACSR 400.5001-5015.

Additionally, at the hearing the Department conceded that the Claimant's case should not have closed due to failure to verify employment information under these circumstances. The Claimant's employer provided some of the requested information prior to the due date, but omitted the second page of the employment verification. The Claimant provided the remaining requested information to her then case worker on May 23, 2011 after contacting her caseworker when she received the Notice of Case Action. The Claimant credibly testified that she was advised by her case worker that if the Claimant provided the missing second page information to the caseworker prior to the June 1, 2011 closure date, Claimant's case would not close.

BAM 130 provides the following:

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronic-only transmitted verifications (fax, email), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day.

Send a negative action notice when:

The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or
The time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, pp5, (1-1-2011).

BAM 220, pp. 5 provides:

Timely notice is given for a negative action unless policy specifies adequate notice or no notice. See Adequate Notice and for CDC and FAP only, Action's Not Requiring Notice in this item. A timely notice is mailed at least 11 days before the intended negative action takes effect. The action is pending to provide the client a chance to react to the proposed action.

Applying the policy articulated above, it is determined that the Claimant did not indicate any refusal to provide verification and the client made a reasonable effort to provide the verification. Thus it is determined based upon the evidence presented that the Department improperly closed the Claimant's FIP case and must issue a supplement for the months of June and July 2011 for FIP benefits.

It is also determined that the Claimant's hearing request is deemed timely as the Claimant credibly testified that she had attended at least 3 prior hearings and was advised by the Department that the help ticket submitted by the Department was still pending and that Claimant's benefits would be forthcoming. Under these circumstances, it cannot be determined that the hearing request was untimely, particularly when the Department only first advised Claimant on January 11, 2013 that the help desk had denied the help desk ticket. Claimant Exhibit A.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department

properly improperly

- closed Claimant's case.
- denied Claimant's application.
- reduced Claimant's benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

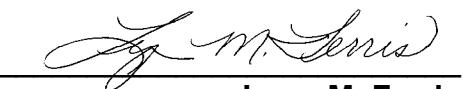
The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department

did act properly did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's 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. The Department shall reinstate the Claimant's FIP case retroactive to June 1, 2011 and shall issue a FIP supplement to the Claimant for the FIP benefits she was otherwise entitled to receive in accordance with Department policy for the months of June and July 2011.



Lynn M. Ferris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 30, 2013

Date Mailed: April 30, 2013

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 affect the substantial rights of the Claimant;
 - 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
Re consideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

2013-10871/LMF

LMF/cl

cc:

