

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2013-42053
Issue Nos.: 2018, 3022
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 16, 2013
County: Oakland (63-03)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Eric Feldman

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 16, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Due to a failure to submit the completed redetermination, did the Department properly
 deny Claimant's application close Claimant's case reduce Claimant's benefits
for:

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

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 AMP SDA CDC.
2. On January 15, 2013, Claimant was provided with a Redetermination (DHS-1010). Exhibit 1.
3. On February 7, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Missed Appointment (DHS-0254). Exhibit 1.

4. Claimant submitted the redetermination in February of 2013; however, the Department was unable to locate the completed redetermination.
5. On March 1, 2013, Claimant's FAP benefits closed due to Claimant's failure to submit the completed redetermination.
6. On March 13, 2013, the Department resent the redetermination packet to Claimant. Exhibit 2.
7. Claimant did not submit the new redetermination packet.
8. On April 10, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying him that his MA benefits closed effective May 1, 2013, ongoing, due to his failure to submit the completed redetermination. Exhibit 1.
9. On April 16, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request protesting the closure of his FAP and MA benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and 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 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 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 400.3001 through 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 (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 (formerly known

as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Rule 400.3151 through Rule 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 1999 AC, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

As a preliminary matter, Claimant inquired as to why he received \$1,057 on his Bridge card. The April 10, 2013, Notice of Case Action states that Claimant was owed \$1,057 in benefits for the period of June 2012 through February 2013. See Exhibit 1. Thus, the Notice of Case Action stated that Claimant would receive a lump sum payment of that amount on April 10, 2013. See Exhibit 1.

A client must complete a redetermination at least every 12 months in order for the Department to determine the client's continued eligibility for benefits. BAM 210 (November 2012), p. 1. For MA cases, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210, p. 2. Also, the redetermination month is 12 months from the date the most recent complete application was submitted. BAM 210, p. 2. Additionally, a FAP client must also complete a phone interview. BAM 210, p. 3. Before the Department proceeds with the FAP interview, it must receive the completed redetermination packet from the client. BAM 210, p. 9. The individual interviewed may be the client, the client's spouse, any other responsible member of the group or the client's authorized representative. BAM 210, p. 3. If the client misses the interview, the Department sends a DHS-254, Notice of Missed Interview. BAM 210, p. 3. FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210, p. 2.

In this case, the Department sent Claimant a redetermination in connection with his continued eligibility for his FAP and MA benefits. The redetermination was due on February 7, 2013, and a telephone interview was scheduled on February 7, 2013. Exhibit 1. A Notice of Missed Interview (DHS-254) was also sent to Claimant on February 7, 2013, which further notified Claimant of the redetermination prior to the closure of the FAP benefit period. Exhibit 1. The FAP redetermination benefit period ended on February 28, 2013.

On March 13, 2013, Claimant contacted the Department to inquire about his FAP benefits. The Department told Claimant that his FAP benefits had been closed effective March 1, 2013, due to his failure to submit a redetermination. Claimant sent the redetermination to the Department and the Department agreed that it did receive the redetermination in February of 2013. However, the Department was unable to locate the redetermination paperwork due to the paperwork being sent to a former caseworker (not present for hearing). Thus, on March 13, 2013, the Department resent the redetermination packet to Claimant. Exhibits 1 and 2. Claimant did not submit the new redetermination packet. Therefore, on April 10, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a

Notice of Case Action notifying him that his MA benefits closed effective May 1, 2013, ongoing, due to his failure to submit the completed redetermination. Exhibit 1. Claimant's FAP benefits already closed on March 1, 2013.


At the hearing, Claimant testified he did receive the new redetermination packet sent to him on March 13, 2013. Claimant testified that he resubmitted the redetermination; however, the paperwork was returned to him due to insufficient postage. Claimant testified that no pre-paid envelope was provided in the new redetermination packet by the Department. Claimant testified he was unable to afford the additional postage costs.

Based on the foregoing information and evidence, the Department properly closed Claimant's FAP and MA benefits. Claimant correctly submitted the original redetermination paperwork before the certification period ended. The Department conceded that it did receive the redetermination paperwork and it admitted that it could not locate the paperwork. Thus, the Department corrected its error and resent the redetermination paperwork to Claimant on March 13, 2013. Claimant testified that he received the redetermination and re-sent the paperwork. However, Claimant testified the paperwork was returned due to insufficient postage and he could not afford the additional postage costs. It is found that, even though the Department admitted it received the paperwork, it appropriately corrected its actions and resent the redetermination. Claimant failed to submit the new redetermination paperwork. Thus, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP and MA benefits due to Claimant's failure to submit the redetermination. BAM 210, pp. 1-3.

DECISION AND ORDER

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


Eric Feldman
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 21, 2013

Date Mailed: May 23, 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 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

EJF/pf

cc:

