

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████
██████████

Reg. No.: 2014-16161
Issue No(s): 1008; 3007
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: February 3, 2014
County: Wayne (35)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susan C. Burke

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a hearing was held on February 3, 2014, in Redford, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, FIM.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly closed Claimant's case for benefits under the Family Independence Program (FIP) and decreased Claimant's benefits under the Food Assistance Program (FAP) based on Claimant's failure to participate in employment-related activities without good cause.

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 was an ongoing recipient of FIP and FAP and was required to participate in employment-related activities.
2. On November 9, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Noncompliance informing Claimant of a failure to participate in employment-related activities and setting a triage date of November 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m..
3. Claimant received the Notice of Noncompliance on the date of the triage and therefore could not attend the triage.

4. The Department did not hold the triage because Claimant did not attend the triage.
5. On December 1, 2013, the Department closed Claimant's FIP case and decreased Claimant's FAP benefits due to employment services noncooperation.
6. On December 3, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request disputing the Department's action.

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 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 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The Department requires Work Eligible Individuals (WEI) seeking FIP to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities. BEM 233A Failing, without good cause, to participate in employment or self-sufficiency-related activities results in the WEI being penalized. *Id.* Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance that is based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. *Id.*

PATH participants will not be terminated from a program without the Department first scheduling a triage meeting with the client to jointly discuss noncompliance and good cause. *Id.* Good cause must be based on the best information available at the triage and must be considered even if the client does not attend the triage. *Id.*

In the present case, the Department representative testified credibly that a triage was not held because Claimant did not attend the triage. However, Department policy requires that the triage be held and good cause be determined, even if the client does

not attend the triage. BEM 233A Therefore, it is concluded that the Department did not properly close Claimant's FIP case and decrease Claimant's FAP benefits.

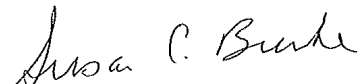
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Remove the sanction from Claimant's case.
2. Reinstate Claimant's FIP case, effective December 1, 2013.
3. Restore Claimant's FAP benefits, effective December 1, 2013.
4. Issue FIP and FAP supplements, for any missed or increased payment.



Susan C. Burke
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 6, 2014

Date Mailed: February 7, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

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).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

SCB/tm

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]