

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████
██████████

Reg. No.: 2014-25456
Issue No(s): 1000;2001;3001
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: March 3, 2014
County: Wayne (57)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

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 telephone hearing was held on March 3, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Family Independence Specialist and ██████████, Family Independence Manager.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP); Medical Assistance (MA); and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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, MA and FAP benefits.
2. There was no negative action taken with respect to Claimant's FIP and FAP benefits.
3. On January 30, 2014, Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the Department's actions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

FIP/FAP

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

The Michigan Administrative Code R 400.903(1) provides as follows:

An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his claim for assistance is denied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness, and to any recipient who is aggrieved by an agency action resulting in suspension, reduction, discontinuance, or termination of assistance.

A request for hearing must be in writing and signed by the claimant, petitioner, or authorized representative. Rule 400.904(1). Moreover, the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (July, 2013), p. 4, provides in relevant part as follows:

The client or authorized hearing representative has *90 calendar days from the date of the written notice of case action to request a hearing*. The request must be received anywhere in DHS within the 90 days. [Emphasis added.]

In the present case, Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP and FAP benefits. The Department testified that Claimant's FIP case was closed in error effective January 1, 2014. The Department stated that prior to the hearing, the Department corrected the action and reinstated Claimant's FIP case effective January 1, 2014. Claimant confirmed the Department's testimony and stated that she received FIP benefits in the correct amount for the months of January 2014 and February 2014 and that there had

been no lapse in her FIP benefits. The Department presented an Eligibility Summary in support of its testimony to further confirm that Claimant's FIP case was reinstated and that there was no lapse in her benefits. (Exhibit 1). Therefore, because the Department corrected the actions that Claimant requested a hearing on, there is no aggrieved party in this case and there remains no issue left to be resolved. As such, Claimant's hearing request with respect to FIP is **DISMISSED**.

Additionally, shortly after commencement of the hearing, Claimant testified that she understands and is satisfied with the actions taken by the Department with respect to her FAP benefits and stated that she no longer had any issues to address with respect to her FAP benefits. A review of the Eligibility Summary and Benefit Summary Inquiry reveals that there was no lapse in Claimant's FAP benefits and that Claimant received █████ in FAP benefits for the month of December 2013, █████ in FAP benefits for the month of January 2014, and █████ in FAP benefits for the month of February 2014. Claimant further confirmed that she did not wish to proceed with the hearing concerning her FAP benefits. The Request for Hearing was withdrawn. The Department agreed to the dismissal of the hearing request. Pursuant to the withdrawal of the hearing request filed in this matter, the Request for Hearing regarding FAP is hereby **DISMISSED**.

MA

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

Claimant requested a hearing disputing the Department's closure of her MA case. At the hearing, the Department testified that Claimant had active and ongoing MA benefits with no interruption or lapse in her MA coverage. A review of the Eligibility Summary establishes that while Claimant did receive MA benefits for the month of December 2013 and February 2014, ongoing; Claimant did not have active MA coverage for the month of January 2014, which remained unexplained by the Department. (Exhibit 1).

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Claimant's MA benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, Claimant's hearing request with respect to FIP and FAP is **DISMISSED** and the Department's MA 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. Activate Claimant's MA coverage under the appropriate MA program for January 2014.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 10, 2014

Date Mailed: March 10, 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

ZB/tm

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