

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-001461  
Issue No.: 1008  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 24, 2014  
County: Saginaw County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Gary F Heisler

**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 July 24, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included himself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing Facilitator [REDACTED] PATH CM [REDACTED] and PATH Supervisor [REDACTED].

**ISSUES**

Did the Department properly sanction Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) for noncompliance with the Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) 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 was an ongoing recipient of Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits. It was mandatory for Claimant's benefit group to participate in Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH).
- (2) During the month of March 2014, Claimant did not meet her PATH participation requirements.
- (3) On April 4, 2014, Claimant was sent a Notice of Non-Compliance (DHS-2444) which scheduled a meeting for April 15, 2014. Claimant was also sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating that the Family Independence Program (FIP) would be sanctioned.

- (4) On April 15, 2014, Claimant attended the scheduled meeting. The Department determined there was no good cause for Claimant's failure to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities.
- (5) On April 15, 2014, Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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 AACRS R 400.3101-3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website. Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 233A Failure To Meet Employment and/or Self-Sufficiency Related Requirements: FIP, provides guidance for administration of the Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) program. The policy identifies participation requirements, actions that are noncompliant, the consequences of noncompliance, and the definition of good cause for noncompliance.

The Department alleged that Claimant was noncompliant because she failed to verify work hours necessary to complete her total participation requirements. The two week period at issue is from March 17, 2014 until March 30, 2014. In accordance with BEM 233A failure to provide sufficient verification of approved participation activities is noncompliance.

Claimant asserts she met the PATH participation requirements. Evidence was submitted which showed the paperwork Claimant submitted for verification. (Page 18) The form was signed on March 26, 2014. Claimant also testified about the circumstances of her alleged employment at several different points during the hearing. The entirety of Claimant's testimony was very confusing because she changed her account and contradicted herself over the course of her testimony. However, Claimant's testimony was clear with regard to her assertion that she trained for the employment on Saturday and Sunday March 15 & 16, 2014, and worked Monday through Friday March 17 – 21, 2014. Claimant testified that the work was an "on call" position and did not testify that she was offered any work for the week of March 23-30, 2014.

During the hearing Claimant also testified that her daughter was ill during the week that she (Claimant) asserts she worked. Claimant also testified that she did not have to miss any work because her sister helped her with child care.

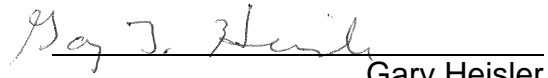
During the hearing there was no documentary evidence or verbal testimony presented which showed Claimant worked during the week of March 23-30, 2014. Verification that

Claimant worked forty hours during the week of March 23-30, 2014 is the only way to show that she was in compliance with her PATH participation requirements.

**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 properly sanctioned Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) for noncompliance with the Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) program.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are **UPHELD**.

  
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Gary Heisler  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **8/4/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/4/2014**

GFH/hj

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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

cc:

