

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-004721  
Issue No.: 1008, 3007  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 23, 2014  
County: Oakland County DHS #2

**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 23, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included himself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included PATH coordinator [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Oakland County PATH Refugee Program coordinator. Translation services were provided by [REDACTED]

**ISSUES**

Did the Department properly sanction Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) for noncompliance with the Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) program?

Did the Department properly sanction Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. It was mandatory for Claimant's benefit group to participate in Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH). The participation requirement was a total of 35 hours per week for the two adults in the benefit group.
- (2) For eight weeks beginning April 6, 2014, Claimant's benefit group did not meet their 35 hour participation requirement.

- (3) On May 27, 2014, Claimant was sent a Notice of Non-Compliance (DHS-2444) which scheduled a triage meeting for June 3, 2014. Claimant was also sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating that the Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) would be sanctioned.
- (4) On June 6, 2014, Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

### **Family Independence Program**

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 his benefit group did not meet their 35 hour PATH participation requirements for eight weeks. Evidence was submitted which showed the noncompliance. Claimant did not dispute the noncompliance. In accordance with BEM 233A Claimant's benefit group was noncompliant.

Claimant does not dispute the noncompliance and did not assert any good cause reasons. Claimant explained that he was out of state looking for other opportunities for his family. Claimant asserted that the mistake was his and his family should not suffer any consequences.

### **Food Assistance Program**

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 AACRS R 400.3001-3015.

BEM 233B Failure To Meet Employment Requirements: FAP provides guidance for application of Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) program requirements

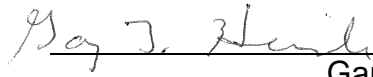
to Food Assistance Program benefits. The policy identifies the circumstances under which a PATH noncompliance results in a Food Assistance Program sanction.

In accordance with BEM 233B, Claimant's Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) noncompliance is properly applied to his/her Food Assistance Program 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 properly sanctioned Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 F. 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:

