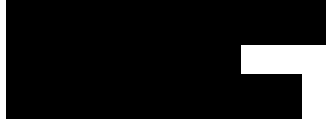


**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-008993  
Issue No.: 1008  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 10, 2014  
County: Oakland #4

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen Fahie**

**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, telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant and her [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], FIS and Department Translator, [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's case for Family Independence Program (FIP)?

**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 received FIP benefits.
2. On July 23, 2014, the Department closed Claimant's case due to non-participation with PATH.
3. On July 23, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) its decision.
4. On August 11, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting 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), and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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.

Additionally, the Claimant was an ongoing FIP recipient. On [REDACTED], the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined that the Claimant could attend PATH with physical and mental limitations. Department Exhibit I, 1-3. The Department referred the Claimant to the PATH program as a condition of receiving FIP benefits. On [REDACTED], the Claimant received a PATH Appointment Notice, DHS-4785 for the Claimant to attend PATH on [REDACTED] because her medical deferral had been denied by MRT. Department Exhibit II, 1. The Claimant was noncompliant with the PATH program on July 18, 2014, because she failed to attend PATH as was required to receive FIP benefits. On [REDACTED], the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a Notice on Noncompliance, DHS 2444, for a triage meeting on [REDACTED]. Department Exhibit III, 1-2. The Department conducted a triage meeting on [REDACTED] where the Claimant was present, but the PATH Caseworker did not attend, but Department still determined that the Claimant did not have good cause for noncompliance with the PATH program. BEM 233A and 233B.

During the hearing, the Claimant stated that she attended PATH on [REDACTED]. She said that she signed in, but was ask to leave because of her anxiety issues. The PATH Caseworker did not submit any information or written paperwork nor did they attend the triage or this hearings.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, the Department's determination that the Claimant did not have good cause for PATH noncompliance with the PATH program is not reasonable. The Department has not established that it acted properly when it closed the Claimant's FIP benefits for noncompliance with the PATH program. As a result, the Department's sanction is reversed. The Claimant is entitled to FIP benefits during the contested time period.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon 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 closed the Claimant's FIP case due to non-compliance with PATH

**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. Initiate a redetermination of the Claimant's eligibility for FIP by re-referring the Claimant back to PATH.
2. Provide the Claimant with written notification of the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she/he may be eligible to receive, if any.



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**Carmen Fahie**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **9/24/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/24/2014**

**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

CGF / tb

cc:

