

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████████████
██████████

Reg. No.: 14-017213
Issue No.: 1002
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: January 22, 2015
County: Wayne (19-Inkster)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

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 January 22, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████

ISSUE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On October 21, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a PATH appointment notice for November 3, 2014.
2. On November 10, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of noncompliance for her failure to attend the PATH appointment on November 3, 2014.
3. On November 10, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action informing her that her FIP benefits were scheduled to close December 1, 2014.
4. On December 5, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the negative action taken by the Department.

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).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

At the hearing, the Department presented documentation of its having sent Claimant a notice for a PATH appointment, notice of noncompliance and notice of case action described above.

The documents sent to Claimant were all addressed correctly. The law presumes that correctly addressed mail is correctly delivered.

However, Claimant testified that she never received the PATH appointment notice. The presumption of correct delivery was explained to Claimant at the hearing.

Claimant further testified that her mail was delivered along with the mail of a number of other residents in her building, and that she often had problems with correct delivery. This Administrative Law Judge finds this testimony credible due to the detailed explanation that Claimant provided.

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

- ☐ acted in accordance with Department policy when it .
- ☒ did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FIP case.
- ☐ failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it .

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

- ☐ **AFFIRMED.**
- ☒ **REVERSED.**
- ☐ **AFFIRMED IN PART** with respect to and **REVERSED IN PART** with respect to .

☒ 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. Reinstate Claimant's FIP benefits retroactively to December 1, 2014, and supplement for missed benefits.



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **2/12/2015**

Date Mailed: **2/12/2015**

MJB / pf

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 48909-8139

CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]