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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Reg. No.: 14-019048 Issue No.: 1001

Case No.:

Hearing Date: January 29, 2015 County: Wayne (15-Greydale))

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 29, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included

<u>ISSUE</u>

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 6, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST) notice.
- 2. On November 5, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of noncompliance and scheduled a triage for November 12, 2014.
- 3. November 5, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action informing her that her FIP benefits would close effective December 1, 2014.
- 4. On January 12, 2015, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the closure of her FIP benefits.

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, Claimant testified that she had recently moved explaining why she did not receive her mail. Claimant further testified as to her low income.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant's changing her residence is not a valid reason for failure to respond to the Department's request for Claimant to complete the Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST) in a timely manner. BEM 228 (July 2013).

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 closed Claimant's FIP benefits case.
 □ did not act in accordance with Department policy when it
 □ 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

\boxtimes	AFFIRMED.				
	REVERSED.				
	AFFIRMED IN	PART	with	respect	to

and REVERSED IN PART with respect to

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 <u>MAY</u> 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

