



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
Christopher Seppanen
Executive Director

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: August 18, 2017
MAHS Docket No.: 17-008376
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary Heisler

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 10, 2017, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Petitioner included herself and her boyfriend [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included PATH Coordinator [REDACTED] and Michigan Works liaison [REDACTED].

ISSUES

Did the Department properly sanction Petitioner'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) Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits. Participation in Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) is an eligibility requirement for Petitioner to receive benefits under these programs.
- (2) On April 20, 2017, Petitioner signed a PATH Community Service Program approval agreement. (Department Exhibit A page 4) The approval agreement specifically states "I agree to immediately report any issues or problems that arise from the community service".

- (3) On May 11, 2017, Petitioner was involved in some type of confrontation with other's at her assigned community service assignment.
- (4) On May 12, 2017, [REDACTED] went into the community service assignment site and spoke to staff there about the previous day's incident. Afterward, Petitioner began her assigned activities at the community service assignment.
- (5) On May 12, 2017, PATH was contacted by the manager of community service assignment site. Management of the community service assignment site reported that [REDACTED] had confronted and threatened staff at the site. They requested that Petitioner be removed from her assignment there.
- (6) On May 12, 2017, Petitioner was directed to report back to PATH. Upon her arrival she reported the previous day's incident.
- (7) On May 12, 2017, Petitioner was sent a Notice of Non-Compliance (DHS-2444) which scheduled a triage meeting for May 24, 2017. Petitioner was also sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating that the Family Independence Program (FIP) would be sanctioned.
- (8) On May 24, 2017, Petitioner participated in the scheduled triage meeting. The Department determined there was no good cause for Petitioner's failure to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities.
- (9) On June 13, 2017, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and 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 Department of Human Services) 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-.3131.

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.

Noncompliance of applicants, recipients, or member adds means doing **any** of the following **without** good cause:

Failure to complete a FAST or FSSP results in closure due to failure to provide requested verification. Clients can reapply at any time.

- Failing or refusing to:
 - Appear and participate with Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) or other employment service provider.
 - Complete a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST), as assigned as the first step in the FSSP process.
 - Develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP).
 - Comply with activities assigned on the FSSP.
 - Provide legitimate documentation of work participation.
 - Appear for a scheduled appointment or meeting related to assigned activities.
 - Participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities.
 - Participate in required activity.
 - Accept a job referral.
 - Complete a job application.
 - Appear for a job interview (see the exception below).
- Stating orally or in writing a definite intent not to comply with program requirements.
- Threatening, physically abusing or otherwise behaving disruptively toward anyone conducting or participating in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity.
- Refusing employment support services if the refusal prevents participation in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity.

The Department alleged that Petitioner was noncompliant because she did not immediately report the incident at her community service assignment site as required by the PATH Community Service Program approval agreement she signed. Petitioner testified that she thought she was handling the situation correctly and did not remember that she was required to report the incident to PATH immediately.

The evidence presented at this hearing is not sufficient to establish that Petitioner had good cause for her failure to comply with the requirements of her PATH participation at the community service site. 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 sanctioned Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) for noncompliance with the Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope (PATH) program.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

GH/nr



Gary Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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

DHHS

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]