



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: April 11, 2017
MAHS Docket No.: 17-003291
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 April 6, 2017, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Petitioner included herself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included Family Independence Specialist [REDACTED] [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 August 17, 2016, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] signed a medical note excusing Petitioner from work or PATH participation for 60 days.

- (3) On November 1, 2016, Petitioner had not submitted any additional medical documentation on the issue of whether she was able to participate in PATH. Petitioner was sent a PATH Appointment Notice (DHS-4785) which required PATH attendance beginning November 9, 2016.
- (4) On November 22, 2016, Petitioner had not attended PATH. Petitioner was sent a Notice of Non-Compliance (DHS-2444) which scheduled a triage meeting for December 1, 2016. Petitioner was also sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating that the Family Independence Program (FIP) would be sanctioned.
- (5) On December 1, 2016, Petitioner did not 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.
- (6) On December 15, 2016, 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.

Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for member adds and recipients.

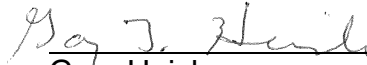
The Department alleged that Petitioner was noncompliant because she did not attend PATH as assigned. Petitioner does not dispute that she did not attend PATH. Petitioner asserts she is disabled and had good cause because she is unable to participate in PATH. Petitioner testified that she did not submit any additional medical documentation to the Department, prior to becoming non-compliant.

The evidence presented at this hearing is not sufficient to establish that Petitioner had good cause for her failure to attend PATH in accordance with Department policy. 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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]