



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 8507-14 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C097448 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot. Petitioner was a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient until May 2014 when he was terminated from the program.

Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 15, 2014, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing which had been scheduled during a conference held prior to the hearing date. Immediately prior to the hearing date Petitioner sought an adjournment, which was denied by the ALJ. Petitioner then failed to appear at the hearing. The record was closed on August 15, 2014. On August 22, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision dismissing Petitioner's appeal for failure to appear.

No exceptions were filed to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record I accept the Initial Decision of the ALJ.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in the action is hereby ADOPTED. Petitioner's administrative appeal has been properly dismissed because he failed to appear at the hearing.

OCT 31 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director