



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 41-16 R.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C076306 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to comply with her required WFNJ work activity. Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated because she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not meet the eligibility requirements for an extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 20, 2016, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 21, 2016, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with her required WFNJ work activity, without good cause, and, therefore, the Agency properly sanctioned her WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4.

Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not have a MED-1 form indicating at least a 12-month disability, and, therefore, did not meet that eligibility requirement for an extension of EA benefits. *Id.* at 3-4. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. *Id.* at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JAN 29 2016

Natasha Johnson
Director