



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 17777-18 M.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S467814014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he failed to comply with the Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") Program by failing to comply with the Substance Abuse Initiative/Behavioral Health Initiative ("SAI/BHI"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 14, 2019, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 14, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with SAIF by failing to comply with the SAI/BHI. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-10. However, at the time of the hearing, and based on Petitioner's particular circumstances, the Agency agreed to reinstate Petitioner's EA benefits, and Petitioner agreed to comply with the SAI/BHI in accordance with SAIF. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits P-2 at 4-5, R-1 at 11-13, 21-24, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20, -18.1, and State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4. I agree.

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.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAR 20 2019

