State of New Jersey
TMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Family Development
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Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

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Director
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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 19283-16 J.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C399735 (ESSEX DIV OF FAMILY ASST. & BENEFITS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because it contended that she did not meet the eligibility criteria for an extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 24, 2017, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 26, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the record shows that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash recipient, who applied for an extension of EA benefits on November 18, 2016. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated because she was found to have income in the form of child support, as well as through earned income from employment. Ibid. However, after Petitioner provided proof that her job had ceased in July 2016, the Agency provided Petitioner EA benefits for December 2016. Thereafter, Petitioner was able to obtain another job on December 18, 2016, and was subsequently denied further EA benefits for January 2017 by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2.

Petitioner testified that she received her first paycheck on January 11, 2017, used those monies to pay for past due child care services, as well as utilities, and only seeks EA benefits for January 2017. Id. at 3. The ALJ determined that Petitioner is

entitled to EA benefits for the month of January 2017. Id. at 4. Based on the record presented, I agree with the ALJ.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by the Agency on February 8, 2017.

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.

By way of comment, I have reviewed the Exceptions filed by the Agency, and I find that the arguments made therein do no alter my decision in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAR 0 3 2017

Natasha Johnson
Director