

Reasons for Decision:

Order # 15/16-09-0295

The appellant appealed that the appellant's bus pass was being removed from the appellant's budget.

In <date removed> the appellant had a bus pass for the purpose of daily requirement to attend the pharmacy for the appellant's <reference removed> treatments. At that time the appellant was advised that the appellant's bus pass was approved for eight months only, and that the appellant should speak to the appellant's doctor about allowing the appellant to get <reference removed> before the appellant's eight month time period was expired. In <date removed> the appellant's worker sent a reminder letter that the appellant's bus pass would be removed at the end of the following month.

In <date removed> the appellant's worker received a new letter from the appellant's case manager which indicated that as part of the appellant's treatment plan the appellant must continue to attend the pharmacy daily for the appellant's medication, attend appointments with the appellant's doctor, primary care nurse, and other various appointments in the community.

The worker stated at the hearing that the appellant could not extend a bus pass for the purpose of <reference removed> treatment for longer than eight months.

The appellant stated at the hearing that the appellant uses the appellant's bus pass every single day to get the help and supports the appellant needs. The appellant stated that the appellant had been granted <reference removed> in the past, and the appellant was unable to self-regulate the appellant's use of the appellant's medication and would take it too early and the appellant would be sent into a spiral of withdrawal symptoms. The appellant stated that it is not just the appellant's <drug name removed> that the appellant receives each day at the pharmacy it is all the appellant's medication which treats the appellant's <references removed> and to the help the appellant sleep. The combination of being in <reference removed> and the appellant's mental problems would cause the appellant to act erratically, and experience psychosis. The appellant's landlord had threatened to evict the appellant if the appellant's outbursts continued. The appellant stated that the appellant has had <reference removed> for Sunday only for the past year, but it is only in the last three months that the appellant has managed to wait until Sunday to take the dose. The appellant stated that for the first time in the appellant's adult life, the appellant is starting to feel the appellant is gaining some control over the appellant's life, and now would be the absolute worst time to take the appellant's bus pass away from the appellant. The appellant stated that in addition to going to the pharmacy, the appellant also uses the bus pass to see the appellant's counsellor at the <reference removed> program once per week, and attend <reference removed> two or three times a week. The appellant also goes to <reference removed> when the appellant needs additional support.

After carefully considering the appellant's written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant continues to require a monthly bus pass in order to support the appellant's addictions recovery and mental health treatment. The appellant provided documentation from a qualified medical practitioner which states that as part of the appellant's individualized treatment plan, the appellant is required to attend daily to the pharmacy to obtain the appellant's medication in addition to needing access to other supports and medical appointments on a regular basis.

Based on the appellant's information contained in the appellant's letter, the Board has been convinced that the appellant's need for a health/addiction bus pass is required for the foreseeable future. It is not within the appellant's own control whether or not the appellant is approved for <reference removed>, and the appellant's need for daily trips to the pharmacy is sufficient justification for the Board to extend the appellant's bus pass for an additional eight months. Therefore the decision of the director has been rescinded and the Board orders that funds for a bus pass be added to the appellant's budget for the period of <dates removed>.