

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1819-0063

On <date removed>, <name removed> appealed the decision of the Director, Employment and Income Assistance, to close their file due to non-compliance with work expectations. The decision letter was dated <date removed>.

At the hearing, the Department relied extensively on the written report submitted in response to the appeal. <name removed> was on assistance for two months in <year removed>, and then reapplied in <date removed>. The appellant has been on assistance continuously since <date removed>, with a number of short-term exceptions.

In the summer of <year removed>, <name removed> obtained seasonal employment with the Town of <text removed>.

The Department listed an extensive number of contacts with <name removed>, as it sought the appropriate programming to integrate them with the work force. At various times <name removed> was referred to Adult Education, literacy programming, supported employment and a specialized employment services agency. <name removed> often did not attend these programs, and those they attended they did not complete.

The Department reported it has had difficulty contacting <name removed> over the years, and detailed a lengthy list of non-compliance with reporting and attendance expectations. The appellant's file was deactivated a number of times, for failure to provide necessary information.

The Department stated it has made continuous efforts to encourage <name removed> to access community mental health resources, with little success.

<name removed> told the Board they are not comfortable around people. The appellant maintained that the reason for their non-compliance was that they never willingly agreed to attend the programs the Department referred them to. The only reason they participated was because they felt the Department was coercing them to participate.

<name removed> stated they wanted to attend school, but it does not start until September. In the meantime, they have no income and might have to move out of the residence they have lived at for the past <text removed> years. The appellant stated they were afraid of moving out of the residence, as they has no friends in town and no place to stay.

<name removed> told the Board they do want to go to school, then move out on their own. However, they want to do it on their time frame, not because the Department

forced them to.

In response to a question from the Board, <name removed> stated they have been prescribed medication for their <health condition removed>, but when they read the warning sheet that came with the prescription they became alarmed and stopped taking the medication. The appellant manages their <health condition removed> by taking walks and watching YouTube.

In response to a question from the Board, <name removed> stated nobody has told them if summer courses are available in <text removed>. The appellant asserted their worker told them school was not an option.

The Board asked if they had considered adult education as an option. <name removed> told the Board they were aware there was an adult education site in <text removed>, but he had not investigated courses there.

In response to a question from the Board, <name removed> stated <text removed> Employment Services did not tell them what services they offered. The appellant stated they were offered activities, but not services. The appellant noted <text removed> did send them one message, but the appellant told them they were out of town that day. <name removed> stated the only reason they attended <text removed> was because they were told there was a teacher there that could help them.

<name removed> clarified to the Board that they have completed Grade 9 only. The appellant wants to complete the Grade 12 equivalency.

<name removed> stated they have applied for work at <text removed> and <text removed>, but did not hear back from either employer.

The Board noted their stated desire to attend school, and asked why they did not attend the courses they registered for in <year removed>. <name removed> stated their <health condition removed> was worse then. The appellant now practices breathing techniques and other distraction methods to deal with their <health condition removed>.

In summary, <name removed> stated they wanted to change their life now, because they are getting older and their father is getting older.

In reply, The Department noted <name removed>'s worker has made considerable effort to help them, and has put them in touch with <text removed> resources. The Department has made every effort to help <name removed> find their way.

The Board encouraged <name removed> to take responsibility for finding the right programs for their future.

After careful consideration of the written and verbal evidence submitted to it, the Board determined the Department assessed <name removed>'s application correctly based on

the information it had before it, in accordance with the legislation and regulations. The Board confirmed the Director's decision to close <name removed>'s file.

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