

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1718-0238

The appellant appealed that a request for a monthly bus pass has been denied.

The appellant has been provided with a bus pass in the past in order to attend <text removed> meetings. The Employment and Income Assistance program has a policy which only allows for an addictions bus pass for a maximum of six months. The program also has a policy that allows for medical transportation for confirmed medical appointments.

The appellant submitted a note from a doctor dated <date removed> which states that, “patient requires bus pass to attend <text removed> meetings 4 times per week as per medical recommendations.”

The program determined that the appellant had received the maximum allowable time period for approval of an addictions bus pass. They also determined that attending <text removed> meetings was not considered a medical appointment as there were no medical professionals providing treatment at these meetings; therefore it could not be authorized as medical transportation. The program currently provides transportation for the appellant to see a doctor and a specialist once a month.

At the hearing the appellant advised that the appellant is an addict and has been six years <text removed>. The appellant attributes the ability to <text removed> to the attendance at <text removed> meetings. The appellant indicates that the appellant is currently prescribed a very addictive pain killer, and the appellant needs the ongoing support of <text removed> meetings to keep the appellant in compliance with the prescribed dosage of the medication. The appellant stated that without the bus pass in the budget the appellant is unable to get to meetings, as there are no meetings within walking distance of the appellant’s home. The appellant stated that the appellant has been struggling with the urge to take extra pills, and the appellant did have one small relapse with <text removed>.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that the Employment and Income Assistance Program has administered the appellant’s request for transportation to attend <text removed> meetings in accordance with their policies. The Board does not dispute that attending the <text removed> group is a legitimate need to treat the appellant’s addiction. However, there was no evidence before the Board that would persuade the Board to provide an extension to the length of time allowed for an addictions bus pass under Section 22.4.9 of the Employment and Income Assistance Program Administrative Manual. The decision of the Director has therefore been confirmed.

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