

# STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

JAMES K. POLK BUILDING 505 DEADERICK STREET NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243 TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165 TTY: 1-800-270-1349 www.tn.gov/humanservices

BILL LEE GOVERNOR DANIELLE W. BARNES

COMMISSIONER

June 27, 2019

Bryan Jackson, Board Chair Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Incorporated 404 Holston Drive Greeneville, Tennessee 37743-3126

Dear Mr. Jackson,

The Department of Human Services (DHS) - Division of Audit Services staff conducted an unannounced on-site monitoring review of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc. (Sponsor), Application Agreement number 00-313 on May 15, 2019. Additional information was provided on May 16, 2019. The purpose of this review was to determine if the Sponsor complied with the *Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) applicable parts, provider agreement, and applicable Federal and State regulations.

Based on our review of the Sponsor's records and information provided, the Sponsor had two (2) feeding sites operating during the test month. The **Small Miracles** center was selected as the sample site. In addition, we reviewed the CACFP applications at The Children's Center in order to get a statistically valid sample of the Sponsor's applications.

# Background

CACFP Sponsors utilize meal count sheets to record the number of breakfast, lunch, supper, and supplement meals served. Meals served by participating Sponsors must meet the minimum guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DHS to be eligible for reimbursement. The CACFP Sponsor reports the number of meals served through the DHS Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) for reimbursement.

We inspected meal counts sheets for our test period and reconciled the meals claimed to the meals reported as served for each meal service. We also assessed compliance with civil rights requirements. In addition, we observed a lunch meal service at Small Miracles on March 28, 2019.

Our review of the Sponsor's records for March 2019 disclosed the following:

# 1. The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories incorrectly

## Condition

# Small Miracles- sample site

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for March 2019 for **Small Miracles**, we noted that the Sponsor reported 28 participants in the free category, eight (8) participants in the reduced-price category, and eight (8) participants in the paid category. However, based on our review of the records available, we found there 25 participants in the free category, eight (8) participants in the reduced-price category, and ten (10) participants in the paid category.

The differences were based on the following:

- There were two (2) participants reported in the free category whose applications were not signed by a determining official. These participants were reclassified as paid.
- The number of participants reported in the free category was overreported by one (1) participant.

There were 44 participants reported on the Claim for Reimbursement. However, based on our review of the Sponsor's records, we found that there were 43 participants enrolled in the program.

As a result, the Sponsor overreported the number of participants in the free category by three (3) participants and underreported the number of participants in the paid category by two (2) participants. (See Exhibit B)

#### The Children's Center

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for March 2019, we noted that the Sponsor reported 33 participants in the free category, 17 participants in the reduced-price category, and 41 participants in the paid category. However, based on our review of the records available, we found there were 33 participants in the free category, 16 participants in the reduced-price category, and 42 participants in the paid category.

The differences were based on the following:

There was one (1) participants reported in the reduced-price category whose application
was not signed by a determining official prior to the review period. This participant was
reclassified as paid.

As a result, the Sponsor overreported the number of participants in the reduced-price category by one (1) participant and underreported the number of participants in the paid category by one (1) participant. (See Exhibit C)

This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 5, 2016.

#### Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.10(c) states, "... In submitting a Claim for Reimbursement, each institution shall certify that the claim is correct and that records are available to support that claim ..."

## Recommendation

The Sponsor should maintain all information used to determine eligibility, and ensure that each participant is classified and reported accurately based on categorical or income eligibility.

## 2. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements

Based on our review of the menus provided by the Sponsor for March 2019, the menus provided did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements. The Sponsor provided a nutrition label for the component listed as "cheese". The label provided was for a cheese product that contained 2 grams of protein per slice, 0.67 ounces per slice. One ounce of American cheese is required to contain 5 grams of protein to be creditable as a meat alternative.

The menus provided had deficiencies as follows:

Date	Menu	Meal Type	No. of Meals
3/1/2019	Water, cheese, crackers	PM supplement	34
3/4/2019	Cheese, saltines, water	AM supplement	30
3/5/2019	Water, cheese crackers	PM supplement	28
3/11/2019	Cheese, saltines, water	AM supplement	28
3/18/2019	Cheese, saltines, water	AM supplement	34
3/25/2019	Cheese, saltines, water	AM supplement	27
3/28/2019	Cheese, Ritz crackers, water	PM supplement	25

As a result, 206 supplements claimed for reimbursement were disallowed. (See Exhibit B)

## Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17(b)(4) states, "Each child care center participating in the Program shall claim only the meal types specified in its approved application in accordance with the meal pattern requirements specified in §226.20 ..."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20(c)(3) states that the Sponsor must, "Serve two of the following five components: Fluid milk, meat and meat alternates, vegetables, fruits, and grains. Fruit juice, vegetable juice, and milk may comprise only one component of the snack...."

The <u>USDA Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program,</u> page 62, states, "... Because of the uncertainty of the actual amount of meat/meat alternate contained in these products, they should not be used unless (1) they are CN-labeled; or (2) you obtain a Product Formulation Statement signed by an official of the manufacturer (not a sales person) that shows how the crediting has been determined...."

# Recommendation

The Sponsor should:

- maintain copies of commercially prepared food CN labels or Product Formulation Statements on file and follow the recommended serving sizes/equivalents listed on the label;
- ensure that all meals prepared meet the meal patterns established by the USDA, and menus should be reviewed to ensure they contain all required meal components to be eligible as a reimbursable meal; and
- ensure that menus meet the USDA meal pattern requirements.

<u>Note</u>: Our observation of the lunch meal service on March 28, 2019 revealed no significant deficiencies.

#### **Technical Assistance Provided**

Technical assistance was offered, however it was declined by the Sponsor.

#### **Disallowed Meals Cost**

Based on the review, we determined that the Sponsor's noncompliance with the applicable Federal and State regulations that govern the CACFP resulted in a total disallowed cost of \$287.97.

#### Corrective Action

The Sponsor must complete the following actions within 30 days from the date of this report:

- Log into the Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) and revise the claim submitted for March 2019, which contains the verified claim data from the enclosed exhibits. <u>Please note that, if the claim is revised</u>, TIPS will automatically deduct the overpayment from your next CACFP claim for reimbursement. OR
- If you are no longer participating in the CACFP program, remit a check payable to the
   *Tennessee Department of Human Services* in the amount noted in the report for
   recovery of the amounts disallowed in this report. *Please return the attached billing notice with your check*; and
- Prepare and submit a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies identified in this
  report. The corrective action plan template is attached. Please return the corrective
  action plan to:

## AuditServices.CAPS.DHS@tn.gov

If you have questions relative to the corrective action plan please contact:

Allette Vayda, Director of Operations Child and Adult Care Food Program 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, James K. Polk Building 505 Deaderick Street Nashville, Tennessee 37243 Allette.Vayda@tn.gov (615) 313-3769 Please note that the amount of disallowed cost is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if your revised claim within 30 days from the date of this report. If the revised claim is not completed by the 30-day deadline, an interest charge may be billed to your institution. Please mail your check and the billing notice to:

Child and Adult Care Food Program
Fiscal Services
16<sup>th</sup> Floor, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

In accordance with the federal regulation found at 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k), your institution may appeal the amount of disallowed cost identified in this monitoring report. The procedures for submitting an appeal are enclosed. The appeal must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services Appeals and Hearings Division, Clerk's Office P.O. Box 198996 Nashville, TN 37219

If the Institution decides to appeal the amount of disallowed administrative and meals cost, all appeal procedures must be followed as failure to do so may result in the denial of your request for an appeal.

We appreciate the assistance provided during this review. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Sean Baker, Audit Director 2, at 615-313-4727 or Sean.Baker@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Sam O. Alzoubi CFE Director of Audit Services

#### **Exhibits**

cc: Bradley Williams, Executive CEO, Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc. Ella Price, Food Service Director, Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc. Allette Vayda, Director of Operations, Child and Adult Care Food Programs Debra Pasta, Program Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program Elke Moore, Administrative Services Assistant 3, Child and Adult Care Food Program Constance Moore, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program Marty Widner, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee

# Exhibit A

# **Sponsor of Affiliated Centers Program Data**

Sponsor: Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Incorporated

Review Month/Year: March 2019 Total Reimbursement: \$7,555.37

Program Area	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Total Number of Centers	2	2
Total CACFP Food Service Days	21	21
Total Attendance	2,310	2,312 <sup>1</sup>
Number of Lunches Served	2,282	2,282
Number of Supplements Served	4,168	3,962
Number of Participants in Free Category	61	58
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	25	24
Number of Participants in Paid Category	49	52
Total Number of Participants	135	134
Total Amount of Food Costs	xxxxxxxx	\$15,410.00
Total Amount of Eligible Food and Nonfood Costs	xxxxxxxx	\$15,410.00

The difference in the reported and verified is immaterial and was not included in this report as a finding

# **EXHIBIT B**

# **Affiliated Center Program Data**

Sample Site: Small Miracles

Program Area	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation	
Total CACFP Food Service Days	21	21	
Total Attendance	701	703	
Number of Participants in Free Category	28	25	
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	8	8	
Number of Participants in Paid Category	8	10	
Total Number of Participants	44	43	
Number of Lunches Served	700	700	
Number of Supplements Served	1,272	1,066	

# **EXHIBIT C**

Affiliated Center Program Site: The Children's Center

Program Area	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Number of Participants in Free Category	33	33
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	17	16
Number of Participants in Paid Category	41	42
Total Number of Participants	91	91

<sup>\*</sup>Reviewed CACFP applications at this site to meet the valid statistical sampling of CACFP applications



# STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

JAMES K. POLK BUILDING 505 DEADERICK STREET NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165 TTY: 1-800-270-1349 www.tn.gov/humanservices

BILL LEE GOVERNOR DANIELLE W. BARNES

COMMISSIONER

June 27, 2019

Bryan Jackson, Board Chair Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Incorporated 404 Holston Drive Greeneville, Tennessee 37743-3126

**Note:** If you are no longer participating in the CACFP, remit a check payable to the Tennessee Department of Human Services in the amounts disallowed in this report to the address below. Please return the attached billing notice with your check.

If you continue to participating in the CACFP, log into the Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) and revise the claim submitted for March 2019, which contains the verified claim data from the enclosed exhibits.

Institution Name:	Holston United Methodist Home for Children Inc.	
Institution Address:	404 Holston Drive Greeneville, Tennessee, 37743-3126	
Agreement Numbers:	00-313	
Amount Due:	\$287.97	
Due Date:	July 29, 2019	

Please remit a check or money order payable to the *Tennessee Department of Human Services* in the amount noted above by the due date to:

Fiscal Services
James K. Polk Building, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Tennessee Department of Human Services

Please note that the disallowed meals cost / overpayment of the CACFP is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if the payment is received by the due date. If payment is not received by the end of 5th day of the due date, an interest charge may be added to the original amount due and will be billed to your entity.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact Allette Vayda, Director of Operations at (615) 313-3769 or Allette.Vayda@tn.gov.

Thank you for your attention

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# Tennessee Department of Human Services

# **Corrective Action Plan for Monitoring Findings**

**Instructions:** Please print in ink or type the information to complete this document. Enter the date of birth for each Responsible Principal and/or Individual in Section B. Attach the additional documentation requested. Enter your name, title and date of signature on the last page. Please sign your name in ink.

Please return ALL pages of the completed Corrective Action Plan form.

Section	Α.	Institution	Inf	formation
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Section A. Institution information					
Name of Sponsor/Agency/Site: Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc.		Agreement No. 00313	□ SFSP □ CACFP		
Mailing Address: 404 Holston Drive Greeneville	, Tennessee 37	743-3126			
Section B. Responsible Principal(s) and/or le	ndividual(s)				
Name and Title: Bryan Jackson, Board Chair			Date of Birth: / /		
Section C. Dates of Issuance of Monitoring R	Report/Correct	ive Action Plan			
Monitoring Report: 6/27/2019	Corrective Action Plan: 6/27/2019				
Section D. Findings  Findings:  1. The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories incorrectly  2. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements					
The following measures will be completed within <b>30 calendar days</b> of my institution's receipt of this corrective action plan:					
Measure No. 1: The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories incorrectly					
The finding will be fully and permanently corrected. Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:					
Name: Position Title:					
Name: Position Title:					

DHS staff should check the "Forms" section of the intranet to ensure the use of current versions. Forms may not be altered without prior approval.

Distribution: OIG and CACFP/SFSP as appropriate

RDA: 2341

HS-3187 (Rev. 11-16)

Page 1 of 4

Describe below the step-by-step procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:  When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):  Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:  Where will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., landbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:	Describe below the stan by stan procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:
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# Measure No.2: The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

is fully and permanently corrected: Position Title: Name: Position Title: Name: Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding: When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?): Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:	s to address the finding (e.g.,
I certify by my signature below that I am authorized by the institution to sign the representative of the institution, I fully understand the corrective measures ide implement these measures within the required time frame. I also understand permanently correct the findings in my institution's CACFP or SFSP will result program, and the placement of the institution and its responsible principals on maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.	ntified above and agree to fully that failure to fully and in its termination from the
Printed Name of Authorized Institution Official:	Position:
Signature of Authorized Institution Official:	Date: / /
Signature of Authorized TDHS Official:	Date: / /

# APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR CHILD AND ADULT CARE INSTITUTIONS AND SPONSORING AGENCIES

#### Appeal Procedures

- 1. Pursuant to 7 CFR §226.6(k)(4), the TN Department of Human Services (TDHS) must provide administrative review procedures to institutions and responsible principals and responsible individuals as follows:
  - (a) Annually to all institutions;
  - (b) To an institution and to each responsible principal and responsible individual when the State agency takes any action subject to an administrative review as described in 7 CFR §226.6(k)(2); and
  - (c) Any other time upon request.
- 2. Pursuant to 7 CFR 226.6(k)(3) and (k)(9), some administrative actions are not subject to administrative review. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(a). Other administrative actions may be administratively appealed. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(b) and (c). All institutions and sponsoring agencies may appeal any adverse administrative action listed in paragraph 2.(b) which are taken by the TDHS by requesting a fair hearing to appear in person to refute the action, or by requesting a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing.
  - (a) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(3) TDHS is prohibited from offering administrative reviews of the following actions:
    - (i) FNS decisions on claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim.
    - (ii) Determination of serious deficiency.
    - (iii) State agency determination that corrective action is inadequate.
    - (iv) Disqualification and placement on State agency list and National disqualified list.
    - (v) Termination.
    - (vi) State agency or FNS decision regarding removal from the National disqualified list.
    - (vii) State agency's refusal to consider an application submitted by an institution or facility on the National disqualified list.
  - (b) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6(k)(9), an abbreviated appeal process is available for the following actions. TDHS must limit the administrative review to a review of written submissions by the TDHS and institutions or sponsoring agencies concerning the accuracy of the State agency's determination if the application was denied, or the State agency proposes to terminate the institution's agreement because:
    - (viii) The information submitted on the application was false;
    - (ix) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is on the national disqualified list;
    - (x) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is ineligible to participate in any other publicly funded program by reason of violation of the requirements of the program;

## Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions Revised March 2017

- (xi) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities has been convicted for any activity that indicates a lack of business integrity;
- (c) Administrative review is also available if the State agency notifies the institution and responsible principal or responsible individual of the following actions: proposed disqualification of a responsible principal or responsible individual, denial of a budget, denial of a line item within a budget, downward adjustment of the amount approved in a budget, suspension of an institution's participation, denial of start-up or expansion funds, denial of a request for advanced payment, recovery of an advance in excess of a claim, denial of a claim for reimbursement (except for late submission), decision not to forward an exception request for payment of a late claim, overpayment demand, denial of a new or renewing institution's application for participation, denial of sponsored facility application, notice of proposed termination, claim denial, claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim, or any other action affecting an institutions participation or claim for payment.
- 3. All appeal requests must be presented in writing to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 15 calendar days after the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives the notice of adverse administrative action.
- 4. The date of an institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of a notice of suspension and/or proposed termination and disqualification will be governed by the federal regulation at 7 CFR Part 226.2. The notice must specify the action being proposed or taken and the basis for the action, and is considered to be received by the institution or day care home when it is delivered, sent by facsimile, or sent by email. If the notice is undeliverable, it is considered to be received by the institution, responsible principal or responsible individual, or day care home five days after being sent to the addressee's last known mailing address, facsimile number, or email address.
- 5. The TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings will acknowledge the receipt of the appeal request within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the institution's or sponsoring agency's request for review. The written request for review should state if a fair hearing is requested or if a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing is requested. If the appeal request from the institution or sponsoring agency does not specifically request a hearing, a review of written information in lieu of a hearing will occur. If a fair hearing is requested and the institution or sponsoring agency's representative fails to appear, the right to a personal appearance is waived.
- 6. If an institution or sponsoring agency does not request a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing within 15 calendar days from the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives a Notice of Proposed Termination, the TDHS will issue a letter advising the institution or sponsoring agency that it is terminated from the CACFP effective on the 16th calendar day following the institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of the notice, and that the responsible principals and individuals of the institution or sponsoring agency are disqualified from participation.
- 7. To be considered for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a fair

# Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions Revised March 2017

hearing, all written documents must be submitted to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of adverse administrative action.

- 8. The action of the TDHS must remain in effect during the administrative review. The effect of this requirement on particular actions by TDHS is as follows:
  - (i) Overpayment demand. During the period of the administrative review, TDHS is prohibited from taking action to collect or offset the overpayment. However TDHS must assess interest beginning with the initial demand for remittance of the overpayment and continuing through the period of administrative review unless the administrative review official overturns the TDHS's action.
  - (ii) *Recovery of advances*. During the administrative review, TDHS must continue its efforts to recover advances in excess of the claim for reimbursement for the applicable period. The recovery may be through a demand for full repayment or an adjustment of subsequent payments.
  - (iii) *Program payments*. The availability of Program payments during an administrative review of the denial of a new institution's application, denial of a renewing institution's application, proposed termination of a participating institution's agreement, and suspension of an institution are addressed in paragraphs (c)(1)(iii)(D), (c)(2)(iii)(D), (c)(3)(iii)(D), (c)(5)(i)(D), and (c)(5)(ii)(E), respectively, of 7 CFR §226.6.
- 9. The institution or sponsoring agency must refute the charges contained in the notice during the fair hearing or in the written information that is provided in lieu of the hearing.
- 10. The institution and the responsible principals and responsible individuals may retain legal counsel, or may be represented by another person.
- 11. If a fair hearing is requested, the institution or sponsoring agency will be notified in writing of the time, date and place of the fair hearing at least 10 calendar days in advance.
- 12. Any information which supports an adverse administrative action taken by the TDHS shall be available to the institution or sponsoring agency for inspection from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing.
- 13. In accordance with 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(8), the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings must conduct the administrative review of the proposed disqualification of the responsible principals and responsible individuals as part of the administrative review of the application denial, proposed termination, and/or proposed disqualification of the institution with which the responsible principals or responsible individuals are associated. However, at the administrative review official's discretion, separate administrative reviews may be held if the institution does not request an administrative review or if either the institution or the responsible principal or responsible individual demonstrates that their interests conflict.
- 14. The procedures contained in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act found at TCA 4-5-301 et seq. shall be followed in rendering a decision on all appeals. The decision of the hearing officer is the final administrative determination to be afforded to the institution or sponsoring agency, and shall be rendered in a timely manner not to exceed 60 calendar days from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing.
- 15. The processing limits for administrative appeals MUST be met. In the event a continuance is requested by a party, one continuance may be granted at the Hearing Official's discretion. This

Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions Revised March 2017

continuance shall not be for a period longer than ten (10) calendar days unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances must be detailed in the order of continuance and the order must contain a date certain for the hearing, to be set as soon as possible. A report of pending CACFP desk review and fair hearing requests will be generated and reviewed daily by the Clerk's Office and the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings who will monitor the dates for timeliness. In the event a decision has not been rendered within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of receipt of the request for fair hearing or desk review, the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings or their back-up shall notify the hearing official to take appropriate action.

16. All requests for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a hearing must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services
Division of Appeals and Hearings
PO Box 198996, Clerk's Office
Nashville, TN 37219-8996

Fax: (615) 248-7013 or (866) 355-6136 E-mail: <u>AppealsClerksOffice.DHS@tn.gov</u>

17. If a termination action is upheld by the hearing officer, the TDHS will issue a letter to the institution or sponsoring agency and its responsible principals and individuals advising that the termination and disqualification are effective on the date of the ruling issued by the hearing officer. The agency maintains searchable records of all administrative reviews and their dispositions for a period of five (5) years.

18. As required by 7 CFR Part 226.6 (c)(7), each disqualified institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual will be placed on the National Disqualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Once included on the National Disqualified List, an institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual shall remain on the list until such time as the USDA, in consultation with the TDHS, determines that the serious deficiencies that led to their placement on the list have been corrected, or until seven years have elapsed since they were disqualified from participation. However, if the institution, sponsoring agency, principal or individual has failed to repay debts owed under the program, they will remain on the list until the debt has been paid.