IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU

BECKY CONNER

Claimant

APPEAL 20A-UI-11398-S1-T

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

GENESIS DEVELOPMENT

Employer

OC: 04/05/20

Claimant: Appellant (1/R)

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) - Able & Available - Availability Disqualifications

Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment

Iowa Code § 96.3-7 - Overpayment

PL 116-136 Section 2104 (B) – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Becky Conner (claimant) appealed a representative's September 8, 2020, decision (reference 01) that denied benefits because the claimant was still employed with Genesis Development (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on November 9, 2020. The claimant participated personally and through Misty Boucher, Director of Services for Imagine the Possibilities. The employer participated by Jody Stern, Chief Financial Officer.

A decision was issued on November 16, 2020. That decision was vacated on December 1, 2020, due to a jurisdictional issue.

ISSUES:

The issue is whether the claimant is eligible for total or partial unemployment benefits, still employed at the same hours and wages, whether the claimant is able and available for work and/or whether the employer's account is subject to charge.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant worked for the employer from September 26, 2005, through October 26, 2019, as a full-time supported community living team leader.

As of October 26, 2019, all of the employer's services were transferred to Imagine the Possibilities. Imagine the Possibilities agreed to hire the employer's staff. The claimant started working full-time for Imagine the Possibilities immediately after leaving the employer. She filed for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of April 11, 2020.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.19(38) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

- a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.
- b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:
- (1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.
- (2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.
- c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(23) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(23) The claimant's availability for other work is unduly limited because such claimant is working to such a degree that removes the claimant from the labor market.

The claimant has the burden of proof in establishing his ability and availability for work. *Davoren v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 277 N.W.2d 602 (Iowa 1979). In this case, the claimant was at all times employed full-time by the employer until that job ended. When she stopped working for the employer, she started working full-time for another employer. The claimant cannot be considered unemployed. Benefits are denied as of April 5, 2020.

Even though the claimant is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law, she may be eligible for federally funded unemployment insurance benefits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("Cares Act"), Public Law 116-136. Section 2102 of the CARES Act creates a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that in general provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits. An individual receiving PUA benefits may also receive the \$600 weekly benefit amount (WBA) under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program if he or she is eligible for such compensation for the week claimed. The claimant must apply for PUA, as noted in the instructions provided in the "Note to Claimant" below.

The issue of the claimant's separation from employment and whether she has requalified for benefits is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and decision.

DECISION:

The representative's September 8, 2020, decision (reference 01) is affirmed. The claimant is disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits due to being unavailable for other work. Benefits are denied as of April 5, 2020.

The issue of the claimant's separation from employment and whether she has requalified for benefits is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and decision.

Note to Claimant: This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program. Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information.

Beth A. Scheetz Administrative Law Judge Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau 1000 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209 Fax (515)478-3528

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<u>December 16, 2020</u> Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/mh