

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF: [REDACTED],  
Claimant

Reg. No: 2008-27339  
Issue No: 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
January 21, 2009  
Muskegon County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: William A. Sundquist

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 21, 2009.

The D&O was delayed at the claimant's request for a second SHRT review of additional medical reports presented after the hearing on January 23, 2009 (Claimant Exhibit A). After SHRT's second non-disability, the ALJ made the final decision.

ISSUE

Was a recovered non-disability medically established?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

- (1) On May 6, 2008, the DHS proposed SDA termination per PEM 261; original approval was February 2008 based on a mental disorder.
- (2) Claimant's vocational factors are: age 39, 12<sup>th</sup> grade education.
- (3) Claimant's disabling symptoms/complaints are: able to perform basic mental work activities, except for difficulty with memory and emotional problems; able to perform basic physical work activities.
- (4) Claimant has not performed substantial gainful work since December 2004.

**[Mental Impairment]**

- (5) Medical exam on June 6, 2008 states the claimant's GAF of 60 and an included diagnosis of polysubstance abuse (Medical Packet, page 177).

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Facts above are undisputed:

**DISABILITY**

A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he:

- . receives other specified disability-related benefits or services, or
- . resides in a qualified Special Living Arrangement facility, or
- . is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability.

- . is diagnosed as having Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

If the client's circumstances change so that the basis of his/her disability is no longer valid, determine if he/she meets any of the other disability criteria. Do NOT simply initiate case closure. PEM, Item 261, p. 1.

**Non-severe impairment(s).** An impairment or combination of impairments is not severe if it does not significantly limit your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.921(a).

...If medical improvement has occurred, we will compare your current functional capacity to do basic work activities (i.e., your residual functional capacity) based on the previously existing impairments with your prior residual functional capacity in order to determine whether the medical improvement is related to your ability to do work. The most recent favorable medical decision is the latest decision involving a consideration of the medical evidence and the issue of whether you were disabled or continued to be disabled which became final. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(vi).

**Basic work activities.** When we talk about basic work activities, we mean the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. Examples of these include --

- (1) Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling;
- (2) Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
- (3) Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
- (4) Use of judgment;
- (5) Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and
- (6) Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

**Sedentary work.** Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is

defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met. 20 CFR 416.967(a).

**The DHS has the burden of proof**, to establish by a preponderance of the medical evidence in the record that the claimant's mental/physical impairment meets the department's definition of disability for SDA purposes. PEM 261.

**[Mental Impairment]**

The medicals mentioned above in June 2008 state the claimant's GAF is score 60. 60 is considered a non-severe mental impairment, as defined above, and non-difficulty with job-functioning. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4<sup>th</sup> Edition-Revised).

**[Physical Impairment]**

The claimant testified and admitted that she had a residual functional capacity to perform basic physical work activities, as defined above. Therefore, this Administrative Law Judge is persuaded that a recovered non-disability has been established by a preponderance of the medical evidence.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that a recovered non-disability was medically established.

Accordingly, proposed SDA termination is UPHELD.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Sundquist  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 10, 2009

Date Mailed: February 10, 2009

**NOTICE:** Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

WAS/om

cc:

