

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: 2010-34030
Issue No: 2009/4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
June 10, 2010
Monroe County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Marlene B. Magyar

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 June 10, 2010. Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the department properly determine claimant is not disabled by Medicaid (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) eligibility standards?

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 October 27, 2009, claimant applied for MA/SDA (Department Exhibit #1, pg. 2).
- (2) On February 17, 2010, the department denied claimant's application by written notice sent to her address-of-record; consequently, she filed a timely hearing request to dispute the denial (Department Exhibit #1, pgs. 1 and 3).

(3) Claimant's hearing was held on June 10, 2010.

(4) Claimant testified at hearing she filed a Social Security disability application in the same month she applied for MA/SDA (10/09).

(5) On claimant's disputed MA/SDA application she alleged impairments identical to those she alleged in support of her Social Security disability application.

(6) On February 2, 2010, the Social Security Administration (SSA) notified claimant in writing her application was being denied based on a finding her condition was not severe enough to be considered disabling (Client Exhibit A, pgs. 1-4).

(7) Claimant acknowledged at hearing she did not appeal this denial and the department's SOLQ record confirms the absence of a pending appeal (Department Exhibit #3, pgs. 1-3).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

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).

Jurisdiction must be established for a contested case review of departmental action before a decision on the merits of the case can be made. The applicable departmental policy states:

Final SSI Disability Determination

SSA's determination that disability or blindness does **not** exist for SSI purposes is **final** for MA if:

- . The determination was made after 1/1/90, **and**
- . No further appeals may be made at SSA, or
- . The client failed to file an appeal at any step within SSA's 60-day limit, and
- . The client is not claiming:
 - .. A totally different disabling condition than the condition SSA based its determination on, **or**
 - .. An additional impairment(s) or change or deterioration in his condition that SSA has **not** made a determination on.

Eligibility for MA based on disability or blindness does **not** exist once SSA's determination is **final**. PEM, Item 260, pp. 2-3.

This policy is also applied in SDA cases, because the MA, SDA and SSA disability definitions are identical, except for a shorter durational period for SDA.

The relevant federal regulations are found at 42 CFR Part 435. These regulations provide: "An SSA disability determination is binding on an agency until that determination is changed by the SSA." 42 CFR 435.541(a)(2)(b)(i).

This regulation also provides: "If the SSA determination is changed, the new determination is also binding on the department." 42 CFR 435.541(a)(2)(b)(ii). These federal mandates are also reflected in the policy item cited above. BEM Item 260.

The evidence of record in this case verifies claimant received a final SSA denial from the department in February 2010. Claimant is alleging impairments identical to those the SSA has already reviewed. Consequently, under the above-cited federal regulations and state policy, no jurisdiction exists for this Administrative Law Judge to proceed on the merits of this case. The status quo must remain intact. The department's action must remain upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the status quo must remain intact.

Accordingly, the department properly denied claimant's October 27, 2009 MA/SDA application because she is not disabled by MA/SDA eligibility standards. As such, the department's action is AFFIRMED.

/s/ _____
Marlene B. Magyar
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 21, 2010

Date Mailed: July 28, 2010

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.

MBM/cv

cc:

