STAT E OF MICHIGAN MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

REG NO.2011-14482ISSUE NO.2009;4031CASE NO.1000HEARING DATE:APRIL 21, 2011Hillsdale County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: CARMEN G. FAHIE

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the c laimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on Thursday, Ap ril 21, 2011. T he cl aimant persona lly appeared and testified on her own behalf.

<u>ISSUE</u>

Did the department properly de ny the claimant's applicat ion for Medical Assistance (MA-P), retroactive MA-P, and State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- 1. On September 30, 2010, the claimant applied for SDA and MA-P with retroactive MA-P to June 2010.
- 2. On Novem ber 24, 2010, the Medi cal Rev iew Team (MRT) denied the claimant's application for MA-P and re troactive MA-P stating that the claimant was capable of performing ot her work under Medical/ Vocational Rule 202.21 per 20 CF R 416.920 (f) and for SDA that the claimant's physical and mental impairment does not prevent employment for 90 days or more.
- 3. On December 1, 2010, the department caseworker sent the claimant a notice that her application was denied.

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- 4. On December 29, 20 11, the department received a hearing request from the claimant, contesting the department's negative action.
- 5. On February 9, 2011, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) considered the submitted objective medical evi dence in making its determination of MA-P, retroactive MA-P, and SDA for the claimant. The SHRT report reads in part that the claimant is and alleges disability due to , chronic obstructive pulmonary manic depression, bipolar disorder ing on her sciatic nerve, migraines, disease, herniated disc lav emphysema, panic attacks, anxiety, and bac k problems. She has a high school equivalent education and a history of unknown work history. The claimant's impairments do not meet/equal the intent or severity of a Social Security listing. The medial evidence of record indicates that the claimant retains the capacity to perform a wide range of simple, unskilled, light work. Therefore, based on t he clai mant's vocational profile (younger individual, high school equivalent education, and history of unknown work history), MA-P is denied us ing Vocati onal Rule 202.20 as a guide. Retroactive MA-P was considered in this case and is also denied. SDA is denied per PEM 261 because the nature an d severity of the claimant's impairment would not preclude work activity for 90 days or more.
- 6. During the hearing on April 21, 2011, the claimant requested permission to submit additional m edical informati on that needed to be reviewed by SHRT. Additional medical information wa s received from the local office and forwarded to SHRT for review on May 13, 2011.
- 7. On May 20, 2011, the SHRT c onsidered the newly submitted objective medical evidence in making its determination of MA-P, retroactive MA-P, and SDA. The SHRT report r eads in part that the claimant is and alleges disability secondarily d ue to bipolar disorder, chronic obstructive pulmonar y diseas e, herniated discs, emphysema, panic attacks, and anxiety. She has a high school equivalent education and a history of less than gainful employm ent. The claimant's impairments do not meet/equal the intent or severity of a Social Security listing. The medial evidence of record indic ates that the claimant retains the capacity to perform a wide range of simple and re petitive, light, exertional work. Therefore, based on t he claimant's vo cational profile (y ounger individual, high school equivalent education, and less than gainful employment), MA-P is denied using Vocational Rule 202. 20 as a guide. Retroactive MA-P was considered in this case and is also denied. SDA is denied per PEM 261 because the nature and severity of the claimant's impairment would not preclude work activity for 90 days or more.
- 8. The claimant is a second whose date of birth is the claimant is tall and weighs pounds. The claimant completed the 11th grade of high school and has a GE D with one year of college in

criminal justice. The claimant can read and write and do basic math. The claimant has no pertinent work history.

9. The claimant's alleged impai rments are manic depression, bipolar disorder, chronic obstructive pul monary diseas e, herniated discs migraines, emphysema, panic attacks, degenerativ e disc dis ease, and anxiety.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

The Medic al Assistance (MA) program is est ablished by the Title XIX of the Socia I Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independ ence Agency) administers the MA pr ogram pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq*., and MC L 400.105. Department polic ies are found in the Program Admini strative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

"Disability" is:

...the inability to do any substant ial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.... 20 CFR 416.905.

...We follow a set order to determine whether y ou are disabled. We review any current work activity, the severity of your impairment(s), your resi dual functional capacity, your past work, and your age, educati on and work experience. If we can find that you are disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, we do not review your claim further.... 20 CFR 416.920.

...If you are working and the work you are doing is substantial gainful activity, we will find that you are not disabled regardless of your m edical condition or your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b). ...[The impairment]...must have lasted or must be expect ed to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. We call this the duration requirement. 20 CFR 416.909.

...If you do not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, we will find that you do not have a severe impairment and are, therefore, not disabled.

We will not consider your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

[In reviewing your impairment]...We need reports about your impairments from acceptable m edical sources.... 20 CFR 416.913(a).

...Statements about your pain or other symptoms will not alone establish that you are disabled; there must be medical signs and laboratory findings which s how that you have a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...You must provide medical evidence showing that you have an impairment(s) and how severe it is during the time you say that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.912(c).

... [The re cord must show a severe impairment] which significantly limits your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities.... 20 CFR 416.920(c).

... Medical reports should include --

- (1) Medical history.
- (2) Clinical findings (suc h as the results of physical or mental status examinations);
- (3) Laboratory findings (such as blood pressure, X-rays);
- Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms).... 20 CFR 416.913(b).

...The med ical evidence...mus t be complete and detailed enough to allow us to make a determination about whether you are disabled or blind. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

Medical findings consist of symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings:

- (a) **Sy mptoms** are your own description of your physical or mental impairment. Your statements alone are not enough to establish t hat there is a physical or mental impairment.
- (b) Signs are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which can be observed, apart from your statements (symptoms). Signs must be shown by medically acceptable clinic al diagnostic techniques . Psychiatric signs are medically demonstrable phenomena which indicate specific psychological abnormalities e.g., abnormalities of behav ior, mood, thought, memory, orientation, development, or perception. They must al so be shown by observable facts that can be medically described and evaluated.
- (c) Laboratory findings are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena which can be shown by the use of medically ac ceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques. Some of these diagnostic techniques include chemical tes ts, el ectrophysiological studies (electrocardiogram, elec troencephalogram, etc.), roentgenological studies (X -rays), and psy chological tests. 20 CFR 416.928.

It must allow us to determine ---

- (1) The nature and limiting effects of your impairment(s) for any period in question;
- (2) The probable duration of your impairment; and
- (3) Your residual functional capac ity to do w ork-related physical and mental activities. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

Information from other sour ces may also help us to understand how y our impairment(s) affects your ability to work. 20 CFR 416.913(e).

...You can only be found disabled if you are unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or ment al impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less t han 12 months. See 20 CFR 416.905. Your impairment must result from anatomical, physiologi cal, or psyc hological

abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laborat ory diagnostic techniques.... 20 CFR 416.927(a)(1).

...Evidence that you submit or that we obtain may contain medical opinions. Medical op inions are statements from physicians and psyc hologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of your impairment(s), includ ing your symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what you can still do despite impairment(s), and your physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

...In deciding whether you are disabled, we will alway s consider the medical opinions in your case record together with the rest of the relevant evidence we receive. 20 CFR 416.927(b).

After we review all of the evi dence relevant to your claim , including medical opinions, we make findings about what the evidence shows. 20 CFR 416.927(c).

...If all of the evidence we re ceive, inclu ding a II medica I opinion(s), is consistent, and there is sufficient evidence for us to decide whether you are disabled, we will make our determination or dec ision based on that evidence. 20 CF R 416.927(c)(1).

...If any of the evidence in y our case record, including any medical opinion(s), is inconsistent with other evidence or is internally inconsistent, we will weigh all of the evidence e and see whether we can decide wh ether you are disabled based on the evidence we have. 20 CFR 416.927(c)(2).

[As Judge]...We are responsible for making the determination or decision ab out whether you meet the statutory definition of disability. In so doing, we review all of the medic al findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement that you are disabled.... 20 CFR 416.927(e).

...A statement by a medical source that you are "disabled" or "unable to work" does not mean that we will determine that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

...If you have an im pairment(s) which meets the duration requirement and is listed in Appendix 1 or is equal to a listed impairment(s), we will find y ou disabled wit hout considering your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(d).

...If we cannot make a decision on your current work activities or medical facts alone and you have a s evere impairment, we will then review your residual functional capacity and the physical and m ental demands of the work you have done in the past. If you can still do this k ind of work, we will find th at you are not disa bled. 20 CF R 416.920(e).

If you cannot do any work you have done in the past because you have a severe impairment(s), we will consider your residual functional capacity and your age, education, and past work experience to see if you can do other work. If you cannot, we will find you disabled. 20 CFR 416.920(f)(1).

...Your residual functional capacit y is what you can still do despite limitations. If you have more than one impairment, we will consider all of your impairment(s) of which we are aware. We will consider your ability to meet certain demands of jobs, such as physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements, and other functions, as described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section. Residual functional capacity is an assessment based on all of the relevant evidence.... 20 CFR 416.945(a).

...This assessment of your remaining capacity for work is not a decision on whether you are disabled, but is used as the basis for determining the particular types of work you may be able to do despite your im pairment(s).... 20 CF R 416.945(a).

...In determining whether you ar e disabled, we will conside r all of your symptoms, including pain, and the extent to which your symptoms can reasonably be accepted as cons istent with objective medical eviden ce, and other evidence.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...In evaluating the intensity and persistence of your symptoms, inc luding pain, we will cons ider all of the available evidenc e, including your medical history, the medical signs and laboratory findings and statements about how your symptoms affect you... We will then determine the extent to whic h y our allege d functional limitations or restrictions due to pain or other symptoms can reasonably be accept ed as c onsistent with the medical signs and laboratory findings and other evidence to decide how your symptoms affect your ability to work.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

If you have more than one impairment, we will consider all of your impairments of which we ar e aware. We will consider your ability to meet certain demands of jobs, such as physical demands, mental dem ands, sensory requirements, and other f unctions as described in paragr aphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section. Resi dual functional capacity is an assessment based upon all of the relevant evidence. This assessment of your capacity for r work is not a decision on whether you are disabled but is used as a basis for determining the particular types of work you may be able t o do despite your impairment. 20 CFR 416.945.

...When we assess your physical abilities, we first assess the nature and extent of your physical lim itations and then determine your residual functional capacity for work activity on a regular and continuing bas is. A limited ability to perform certain physical demands of work activity, such as sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, or other physical functions (includi ng manip ulative or postural functions, such as reaching, handling, stooping or crouching), may reduce your ability to do past work and other work. 20 CFR 416.945(b).

Federal regulations r equire that the department use t he same operative definition for "disabled" as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

"Disability" is:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months ... 20 CFR 416.905

In determining whether an indiv idual is disabled, 20 CFR 4 16.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity, the severity of the impairment(s), residual f unctional c apacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are ass essed in that order. When a determination

that an individual is or is not disabled c an be made at any step in the sequential evaluation, evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if t he indiv idual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920(b). At Step 1, the claimant is not engaged in substantial gainful activity and has no pertinent work hist ory. Therefore, the claimant is not disqualified from receiving disability at Step 1.

Secondly, in order to be considered disabled for purposes of MA, a person must have a severe impairment. 20 CF R 416.920(c). A severe impair ment is an impairment which significantly limits an in dividual's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. Basic work activities means, 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).

The purpose of the second st ep in the sequential ev aluation process is to screen out claims lacking in medical merit. *Higgs v. Bowen* 880 F2d 860, 862 (6th Cir, 1988). As a result, the department may only screen out clai ms at this level which are "totally groundless" solely from a medical standpoint. The *Higgs* court used the severity requirement as a " *de minimus* hurdle" in the disability determination. The *de minimus* standard is a provision of a law that allows the court to disregard trifling matters.

The objective medical evidence on the record Law judge findings. On May 5, 2010, the submitted a progress note on her behalf. T claimant has COPS with nicotine addiction. obstruction. The claimant had a nodule in Department Exhibit 26-27.

further substantiates the Administrative claimant's treating pulmonar y specialis t he claimant continues to s moke. The Her testing was consis tent with moderate her left I ung possibly pneumonitis type.

On May 11, 2010, the claimant had a full pu Imonary function test. The clinic al impression was mild obstruction, no reversibility post bronchodilation, increased

residual volume, and moderate dec rease in diffusion capacity. The final diagnosis was mild obstructive lung disease of the emph ysema type. It was recommended that the claimant stop smoking. Department Exhibit 31-34.

On September 14, 2010, the claimant was seen by he r treating phy sician for a psychiatric medication review. The clai mant had appropriate hy giene and grooming. She was cooperative, had good eye contact, and no involuntary movements. She was irritable with no evidence of a formal thought disorder or psychotic symptoms. The claimant was cognitively grossly intact. She does continue to have break-through symptoms of irritability and de pression. The claimant medications were in creased. Department Exhibit 16.

At Step 2, the objective medica I evidence in the record indic ates that the claimant has established that she has a severe impairment. The claimant has copd and emphysema, but continues to smoke. She has back issues that limit her physically. She has mental impairments where she is taking medications and in therapy. Therefore, the claimant is not disqualified from receiving disability at Step 2. Howeve r, this Administrative La w Judge will PROCEEDS thr ough the sequential ev aluation process to determine disability because Step 2 is a *de minimus* standard.

In the third step of the sequentia I consideration of a disab ility claim, the tri er of fact must determine if the claimant's impairment (or combination of impairments) is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This Administrative Law Judge finds that the claimant's medical record will not support a finding that claimant's impairment(s) is a "listed impairment" or equal to a listed impairment. See Ap pendix 1 of Sub part P of 20 CFR, Part 404, Part A. Accordingly, claimant cannot be found to be disabled based upon medical evidence alone. 20 CFR 416.920(d). This Administrative Law Judge finds that the claimant's impairments do not ri se to the level necessary to be listed as disabling by law. Therefore, t he claimant is disqualified from receiving dis ability at Step 3.

In the fourth step of the sequent ial consideration of a disability claim, the trier of fact must determine if the claimant's impairm ent(s) prevents claim ant from doing past relevant work. 20 CFR 416.920(e). It is the finding of this Admini strative Law Judge. based upon the medical eviden ce and objective, physical and psychological findings form any of her daily living ac tivities, which is not that the claimant does not per supported by the objective medi cal evidence on the record. T he claimant felt that her condition has worsened because she has a cyst in her thigh and a nodule in her throat. The claim ant stated that s he is taking medications and in t herapy for her mental impairments at Lifeways. T he claimant does smoke 1 pack of cigarettes a day. She does not drink alcohol since she is not sure where s he drank 2 drinks. The claimant used marijuana and cocaine last in 2000. She did not thin k there was any work s he could do.

At Step 4, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the claimant has not established that she cannot perform any work. The claimant has no pertinent work history. She has

copd and emphysema, but continues to sm oke. She has phys ical limitations with her back. The claimant s hould be able to perform light work. Therefore, the claimant is disqualified from receiving disa bility at Step 4. Howev er, the Administrative Law Judge will still proceed through the se quential evaluation process to determine whether or not the claimant has the residual functional c apacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in her prior jobs.

In the fifth step of the seque ntial consideration of a disability claim, the trier of fact must determine if the claimant's impairment(s) prevents claimant from doing other work. 20 CFR 416.920(f). This determination is based upon the claimant's:

- residual functional capacit y defined simply as "what can you still do despite yo u lim itations?" 20 CF R 416.945;
- (2) age, educ ation, and wo rk experience, 20 CF R 416.963-.965; and
- (3) the kinds of work which exist in significant numbers in the national economy which the claimant could perform despite his/her limitations. 20 CFR 416.966.

...To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy. Thes eterms have the same meaning as they have in the Dictionary of <u>Occupational Titles</u>, published by the Department of Labor.... 20 CFR 416.967.

...To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy. Thes e terms have the same meaning as they have in the Dictionary of <u>Occupational Titles</u>, published by the Department of Labor.... 20 CFR 416.967.

Sedentary w ork. Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occa sionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which in volves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if wa Iking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met. 20 CFR 416.967(a). **Light w ork**. Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though t he weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walk ing or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pus hing and pulling of arm or leg controls.... 20 CFR 416.967(b).

...To be considered capable of performing a full or wide range of light work, you must have the ability to do substantially all of these activities. If someone can do light work, we determine that he or she can also do sedentary work, unless there are additional limiting factors such as loss of fine dexterity or inability to sit for long periods of time. 20 CFR 416.967(b).

Unskilled work. Unskilled work is work which needs little or no judgment to do s imple duties that can be learned on the job in a short period of time. The job may or may not require considerable strength.... 20 CFR 416.968(a).

The objective medical evidence on the record is insufficient that the claimant lacks the residual functional capacity to perform so me other less strenuous tasks than in her previous employment or that she is physically unable to do any tasks demanded of her. The claimant's testimony as to her limitation indicates her limitations are non-exertional and exertional.

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations ar e assessed using the criteria in paragraph (B) of the listings for mental di sorders (descriptions of restrict ions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence, or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated wit h com petitive work).... 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, App. 1, 12.00(C).

In the instant case, the claim ant testified that she had bpd, pa, and anxiety. She was taking medications and in therapy. See MA analysis step 2. The medical ev idence on the record is sufficient to support a mental im pairment that is so s evere to pr event the claimant from performing skille d, detailed work, but the cl aimant should be able to perform simple, unskilled work.

At Step 5, the claimant should be able to meet the physi cal requirements of light work, based upon the claimant's physical abilities. Under the Medical-Vocational guidelines, a younger individual with a high school equiliar ivalent education, and no pertinent work history, who is limited to light work, is not considered disabled. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Rule 202.20. The Medical-Vocational guidelines are not strictly applied with non-exertional impair ments such as bpd, pa, and anxiety. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P,

Appendix 2, Section 200.00. Using the Medical-Vocati onal guidelines as a framework for making this decision and after giving full c onsideration to the cl aimant's mental and physical impairments, the Administrative Law Judg e finds that the claimant can still perform a wide range of simple, unskilled light work and that the claimant does not meet the definition of disabled under the MA program.

The department's Program Eligib ility Manual provides the following policy s tatements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the SDA program.

DISABILITY – SDA

DEPARTMENT POLICY

SDA

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To receive SDA, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person, or age 65 or older. **Note:** There is <u>no</u> disability requirement for AMP. PEM 261, p. 1.

DISABILITY

A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he:

- receives other specified disability-related benefits or services, or
- resides in a qualified S pecial Living Arrangement facility, or
 - is certified as unable t o work due to mental or physical disability f or at least 90 d ays from the onset of the disability.
- is diagnos ed as hav ing Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

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

Other Benefits or Services

Persons receiving one of the following be nefits or services meet the SDA disability criteria:

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- Retirement, Survivors and Disa bility Insurance (RSDI), due to disability or blindness.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), due to disability or blindness.
- Medicaid (including spend-down) as blind or disabled if the disability/blindness is based on:
 - .. a DE/MRT/SRT determination, or
 - .. a hearing decision, or
 - .. having SSI based on blindn ess or disability recently terminated (within the past 12 months) for financial reasons.

Medicaid received by former SSI recipients based on policies in PEM 150 under "SSI TERMINATIONS," INCLUDING "MA While Appealing Disabilit y Termination," does not qualify a person as disabled for SDA. Such persons must be certified as disabled or meet one of the other SDA qualifying criteria. See "Medical Certification of Disability" below.

Michigan Rehabilitation Serv ices (MRS). A person is receiving services if he has been determined eligible for MRS and has an active MRS case. Do not refer or advise applicants to apply for MRS for the purpose of qualifying for SDA.

Special education ser vices from the local intermediate school district. To qualify, the person may be:

- .. attending s chool under a spec ial education plan approved by the local I ndividual Educ ational Planning Committee (IEPC); **or**
- .. not attending under an I EPC approved plan but has been c ertified as a special education st udent **and** is attending a sc hool program leading to a high sc hool diploma or its equivalent, **and** is under age 26. The pr ogram does not have to be designated as "special education" as long as the person has been certified as a special education student. Elig ibility o n this bas is continue s until

the person completes the high s chool program or reaches age 26, whichever is earlier.

Refugee or asylee who lost eligibility for Social Security Income (SSI) due to exceeding the maximum time limit PEM, Item 261, pp. 1-2.

Because the claimant does not meet the definition of di sabled under the MA program and because the evidence in the record does not establish that the claimant is unable to work for a period exc eeding 90 days, the claimant does not me et the disability criteria for SDA.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon t he above findings of fact and conclusion s of law decides that the department has appropriately established that it was acting in compliance with department policy when it denied the claimant's application for SDA, MA-P and retroactive MA-P. The claimant should be able to perform any level of simple, unskilled, light work. The department has est ablished its case by a preponderance of the evidence.

Accordingly, the department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

/s/

Carmen G. Fahie Administrative Law Judge For Maura D. Corrigan, Director Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 12, 2012

Date Mailed: April 12, 2012

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NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may or der a re hearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at t he request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hear ings will not orde r a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's mo tion where the final decis ion 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 mailing 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.

cc:		

CGF/ ka