

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-26753
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 10, 2011
County: Macomb (50-12)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jonathan W. Owens

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, an in-person hearing was held on August 10, 2011, in Clinton Township, MI. Claimant appeared and testified via telephone. Claimant was represented by [REDACTED]. The Department of Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED].

The record was extended to allow additional relevant medical evidence to be submitted. Claimant waived timeliness. The additional medical evidence was received and submitted to SHRT for review prior to this decision being issued.

Claimant's representative requested consideration of a "closed period" from December 2010 through June 2011. Therefore, this decision will only address this period of time.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA-P) program?

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 January 19, 2011, Claimant applied for MA-P and retro MA-P to December 2010.
2. On February 25, 2011, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's request.

3. On March 24, 2011, Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. The State Hearing and Review Team (SHRT) denied Claimant's request.
5. Claimant is 47 years old.
6. Claimant completed education through high school.
7. Claimant has employment experience (last worked 2007) as a forklift driver.
8. Claimant suffers from tendinitis of knees, asthma, memory loss, manic-depression, bipolar disorder and a fractured left rib.
9. Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
10. Claimant has some limitations on physical activities involving sitting, standing, walking, bending, lifting, and stooping.
11. Claimant has significant limitations on understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions; use of judgment; responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and dealing with changes in a routine work setting.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MA-P 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 administers MA-P pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (RFT).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under MA-P. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...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.

A set order is used to determine disability. Current work activity, severity of impairments, residual functional capacity, past work, age, or education and work experience are reviewed. If there is a finding that an individual is disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, there will be no further evaluation. 20 CFR 416.920.

Medical evidence may contain medical opinions. Medical opinions are statements from physicians and psychologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of the impairment(s), including symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

The Administrative Law Judge is responsible for making the determination or decision about whether the statutory definition of disability is met. The Administrative Law Judge reviews all medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement of disability. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations are assessed using the criteria in paragraph (B) of the listings for mental disorders (descriptions of restrictions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated with competitive work). 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1, 12.00(C).

The Claimant testified to the following symptoms and abilities: very depressed, easily confused, inability to concentrate, not motivated to get up, problems laying down because of back pain, knees hurt, wears braces and uses crutches, uses a breathing machine daily, tires easily, can walk around only the house without crutches, can stand one hour, can sit one hour, can lift less than 10 lbs, poor grip and grasp, problems with dropping things, loss of feeling in left hand, back pain prevents bending over, not able to cook because of grip issues with hands, laundry basket is too heavy, able to manage personal care, but mother watches her for showering due to risk of slipping and falling, suicidal thoughts on a daily basis, crying spells on a daily basis, hears voices, sees ghosts, gets 3 hours of sleep at night, not eating on a regular basis, needs reminders to shower, loss of interest in all activities, isolates self from others, she has been hospitalized 5–6 times per year for suicidal issues, paranoid thoughts that people are talking about her behind her back, panic attacks and avoids groups of people and going out in the public. Claimant's medical history includes hospitalizations for suicidal thoughts and attempts. Claimant's treating physician indicated Claimant's mental condition would prevent employment.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant appears to meet listing 12.04 or its equivalent. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that Claimant meets the requirements of a listing.

Therefore, Claimant is found to be disabled.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled as of December 2010.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated January 19, 2011, if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility. The Department shall inform Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case is not necessary as Claimant, through her representative, requested a closed period of December 2010 through June 2011. Therefore the Department will only need to consider eligibility for the above time frame.



Jonathan W. Owens
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 25, 2012

Date Mailed: January 25, 2012

NOTICE: Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

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Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at
Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

JWO/pf

cc:

