

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201114181  
Issue No: 2009; 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: April 20, 2011  
Kent 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 the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 20, 2011. The claimant appeared and testified.

**ISSUE**

Was disability medically established?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

- (1) Claimant is currently unemployed.
- (2) Five years ago the Claimant quit his last job due to a medical reason.
- (3) Claimant's vocational factors are: age 43, high school graduate, and past work experience as a unskilled convention services set-up of tables/chairs, custodian/janitor, [REDACTED] ticket agent and loading and unloading buses, store produce set-up of fruits/vegetables, and security guard requiring walking in the store.
- (4) On January 15, 2010, the Claimant applied for Medicaid/SDA, was denied on February 14, 2010, per BEM 260/261, and requested a hearing on February 26, 2010.

- (5) Claimant's disabling complaints are: 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns on both hands in August 2009.
- (6) Medical exam on [REDACTED] states that Claimant had several large blisters to the dorsal aspect of the fingers on the right hand; that they are not circumferential; that there are no signs of infection at this point as there are no significant erythema or warmth over the hand; that there is a full range of motion at the joints; that he can form a fist without difficulties; and that there are just 2 smaller blisters over the dorsum of the second finger of the left hand (Medical Packet, Page 13).
- (7) SHRT report dated February 14, 2011, states the Claimant's impairments do not meet the duration required (Medical Packet, Page 46).
- (8) SHRT report dated February 14, 2011, states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (Medical Packet, Page 46).

### **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 facts above are undisputed:

"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.

When determining disability, the federal regulations require that several considerations be analyzed in sequential order. If disability can be ruled out at any step, analysis of the next step is not required. These steps are:

1. Does the client perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)? If yes, the client is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 2. 20 CFR 416.920(b).
2. Does the client have a severe impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more or result in death? If no,

the client is ineligible for MA. If yes, the analysis continues to Step 3. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

3. Does the impairment appear on a special listing of impairments or are the client's symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings at least equivalent in severity to the set of medical findings specified for the listed impairment? If no, the analysis continues to Step 4. If yes, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.290(d).
4. Can the client do the former work that he/she performed within the last 15 years? If yes, the client is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 5. 20 CFR 416.920(e).
5. Does the client have the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) to perform other work according to the guidelines set forth at 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Sections 200.00-204.00? If yes, the analysis ends and the client is ineligible for MA. If no, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

At Step 1, the evidence establishes that the Claimant is not engaged in substantial gainful activity. Therefore, disability is not denied at this step.

At Step 2, the objective medical evidence of record establishes that the Claimant is significantly limited in performing basic work activities as defined below, based on the *de minimus* standard, but not for the duration requirements.

...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).

...[The impairment]...must have lasted or must be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. We call this the duration requirement. 20 CFR 416.909.

**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).

**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).

Therefore, disability is denied at this step.

At Step 3, the objective medical evidence does not establish that the Claimant's impairments meet/equal a Social Security listing. Therefore, disability is not denied at this step.

At Step 4, the objective medical evidence does not establish the Claimant's inability to do any of his past work as cited above. Therefore, disability is denied at this step.

At Step 5, the objective medical evidence does not establish the Claimant is without a Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) for the other work in the national economy.

...Your residual functional capacity 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).

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

**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).

Claimant's disabling complaints above that he has no RFC for any work is not supported by the objective medical evidence of record. His medical limitations fall within the definition of sedentary work activities, as defined above. Therefore, the Claimant would be able to perform, at least, sedentary work. At this level, considering the Claimant's vocational profile (younger individual, age 43, high school graduate, and past unskilled work experience) he is not considered disabled under Vocational Rule 201.27. Therefore, disability is denied at Steps.2, 4, and 5.

The department's Program Eligibility Manual contains the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the State Disability Assistance program: to receive State Disability Assistance, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person or age 65 or older. BEM, Item 261, p. 1. Because the Claimant does not meet the definition of disabled under the MA-P program and because the evidence of record does not establish that Claimant is unable to work for a period exceeding 90 days, the Claimant does not meet the disability criteria for State Disability Assistance benefits either.

Therefore, the Claimant has not established disability, as defined above, by the necessary competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, MA denial is UPHELD.

/s/

William Sundquist  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maua D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 10, 2011

Date Mailed: May 11, 2011

**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/ar

cc:

