

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201213347
Issue No: 2009, 4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 9, 2012
Calhoun 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 Thursday, February 9, 2012. Claimant appeared with her authorized representative, [REDACTED].

Medical reports (Claimants Exhibit A) submitted at the hearing for a second SHRT review delayed the decision and order below with the claimant's approval.

ISSUE

Was disability, as defined below, 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 August 19, 2011, claimant applied for Medicaid (MA-P)/SDA, was denied on September 28, 2011 per BEM 260/261, and requested a hearing on November 21, 2011.
2. Claimant's vocational factors are: age 46, with a 12 grade education, and history of semi-skilled work.
3. In July 2007, claimant ended her last job.
4. On date of application, claimant alleges disability due to multiple mental/physical medically diagnosed disorders.
5. Medical exam on June 20, 2011, states the claimant's gait is stable, slow and cautious; that she was cooperative and well groomed; that she was

not in any acute distress; that she was oriented x3; that speech was normal; and that posture was normal (Medical Packet, Page 26).

6. Medical exam on June 20, 2011, states the claimant neurologically has no gross motor focal deficits; that remote and recent memory are intact; that attention span is normal; that she has no muscle weakness; that muscle strength is 5/5 bilaterally; that grip strength is 5/5 bilaterally; that she has full range of motion of cervical neck without pain; that she has negative straight leg raise and no bowel and bladder problems; that she can sit more than ½ hour; that she can stand for ½ hour; that she can walk for more than 20 minutes; that she can lift 10 pounds above her ear; that she can climb stairs; that she can carry 20 pounds; that she can lift 10 pounds over her head; that she can step up an 8 inch step 10x; that she has normal fine motor skills with normal handling of fine objects; and that she has normal concentration (Medical Packet, Page 25).
7. Medical Exam on June 24, 2011, states the claimant has current GAF score of 55 and past year of 50 (Medical Packet, Pages 19 and 20).

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 (BAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

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 (BAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

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.

...We follow a set order to determine whether you are disabled. We review any current work activity, the severity of your impairment(s), your residual functional capacity, your past work, and your age, education 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.

The burden of proof is on the claimant to establish disability in accordance with the 5 step process below. ...20 CFR 460.912(a).

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, disability is not denied. The evidence of record establishes that the claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since July 2007.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record does not establish severe mental/physical impairmentS in combination, on date of application, that had lasted or was expected to last for a continuous one year duration.

Severe/Non-Severe Impairment

...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).

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).

The question is whether the claimant's medically diagnosed disorders and disabling complaints are severe or non-severe, as defined above. Said in another way, do the claimant's medically diagnosed disorders and disabling complaints impair her slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe, as defined above) or severely, as defined above? Most of the medical reports of record are diagnostic and treatment reports, and do not provide **medical assessments** of claimant's work limitations/restrictions relative to inability to perform basic work activities. ...20 CFR 416.93(c)(1)(2).

Claimant's testimony at the hearing shows that she had no difficulty understanding, remembering and asking questions. She appeared to be alert, and oriented x3.

The medical evidence of record establishes the claimant's GAF score of 55 in June 2011 and past year of 50.

50 and below is considered a severe mental impairment with job-functioning. And 51 and above a non-severe mental impairment with job-functioning. DSM-IV (4th edition-revised).

But, the psychological evidence of record does not establish a severe mental impairment, on date of application, that had lasted or was expected to last for a one year continuous duration.

Severe mental/physical impairments in combination meeting the one year continuous duration has not been established by the preponderance of the medical evidence of record.

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, disability has not been established at Step 2, by the 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, Medicaid/SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

/s/
William A. Sundquist
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 23, 2012

Date Mailed: March 23, 2012

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.

201213347/WAS

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.

WAS/tb

cc:

