

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201216169  
Issue No: 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: January 17, 2012  
Wayne 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 Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Claimant personally appeared along with his representative [REDACTED].

**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 October 6, 2011, claimant applied for SDA, was denied on December 7, 2011 per BEM 261, and requested a hearing on December 7, 2011.
2. On date of application, claimant was age 46, had a GED, and past work experience as an unskilled restaurant dishwasher and janitorial maintenance work.
3. In 2000, claimant quit his last job.
4. Ten years ago claimant alleged disability due to the following medical diagnoses and disabling complaints: bi-polar disorder, anxiety, depression and social personality disorder.
5. Medical exam on June 29, 2011, states the claimant's thought process is logical and organized; that his mood is appropriate; that he is fully oriented to person, place, day and years; that his memory is intact in all spheres;

that his insight is good; that his judgment is good (Medical Packet, Pages 21-22).

6. Medical exam on September 21, 2011, states the claimants GAF score of 55 (Medical Packet, Page 16).

### **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).

Facts above are undisputed.

### **DISABILITY**

A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he:

- . receives other specified disability-related benefits or services, or
- . resides in a qualified Special Living Arrangement facility, or
- . is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability.
- . is diagnosed as having Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

If the client's circumstances change so that the basis of his/her disability is no longer valid, determine if he/she meets any of the other disability criteria. Do NOT simply initiate case closure. BEM, Item 261, p. 1.

...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. Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since 2000.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the claimant's significant inability to perform basic mental work activities for the required 90 day **continuous** duration, as defined below.

The question in this case is whether the claimant's medically diagnosed disorders and disabling complaints, on date of application, significantly limit his ability to perform basic work activities, as defined above.

Said in another way, do the diagnosed disorders impair the claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe) or severely?

In September 2011, claimant had a GAF score of 55. This is considered a non-severe mental impairment with job-functioning. DSM IV (fourth edition-revised). Therefore, a severe mental impairment has not been established.

### **Duration of Impairment**

...[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.

The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish a severe mental impairment that had lasted or was expected to last for a 90 day **continuous** duration as required above.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2, as defined above by the competent, material and substantial material 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, SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

/s/

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

Date Signed: March 5, 2012

Date Mailed: March 6, 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.

201216169/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:

