

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No. 201218927
Issue No. 2009, 4031
Case No. [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 9, 2012
Wayne County DHS (57)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

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, an in-person hearing was held on April 9, 2012 from Detroit, Michigan. The claimant appeared and testified; [REDACTED] appeared and testified on behalf of Claimant and [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] appeared as Claimant's authorized hearing representative. On behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS), [REDACTED], Specialist, appeared and testified.

ISSUE

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) on the basis that Claimant is not a disabled individual.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On 6/1/11/11, Claimant applied for MA benefits.
2. Claimant's only basis for MA benefits was as a disabled individual.
3. On 9/14/11, the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual (see Exhibit 3).
4. On an unspecified date, DHS denied Claimant's application for MA and SDA benefits and mailed a Notice of Case Action informing Claimant of the denial.

5. On 2/21/12, Claimant requested a hearing disputing the denial of MA benefits.
6. On 1/30/12, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual (see Exhibits 78-79), in part, by application of Vocational Rule 202.21.
7. On 11/29/10 (see Exhibit 64), Claimant applied for Social Security Administration benefits including an application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.
8. On 8/16/11, SSA held an administrative hearing.
9. On 10/16/11, a SSA administrative decision was mailed to Claimant and held, in part, that Claimant was not a disabled individual.
10. Claimant failed to timely appeal the denial of SSI benefits.

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). DHS (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program 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 Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The controlling DHS regulations are those that were in effect as of 6/2011, the month of the application which Claimant contends was wrongly denied. Current DHS manuals may be found online at the following URL: <http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/>.

MA provides medical assistance to individuals and families who meet financial and nonfinancial eligibility factors. The goal of the MA program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise would not have financial resources to purchase them.

The Medicaid program is comprised of several sub-programs which fall under one of two categories; one category is FIP-related and the second category is SSI-related. BEM 105 at 1. To receive MA under an SSI-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. *Id.* Families with dependent children, caretaker relatives of dependent children, persons under age 21 and pregnant, or recently pregnant, women receive MA under FIP-related categories. *Id.* AMP is an MA program available to persons not eligible for Medicaid

through the SSI-related or FIP-related categories though DHS does always offer the program to applicants. It was not disputed that Claimant's only potential category for Medicaid eligibility would be as a disabled individual.

Disability for purposes of MA benefits is established if one of the following circumstances applies (see BEM 260 at 1-2):

- by death (for the month of death);
- the applicant receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits;
- SSI benefits were recently terminated due to financial factors;
- the applicant receives Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) on the basis of being disabled; or
- RSDI eligibility is established following denial of the MA benefit application (under certain circumstances).

There was no evidence that any of the above circumstances apply to Claimant. Accordingly, Claimant may not be considered for Medicaid eligibility without undergoing a medical review process which determines whether Claimant is a disabled individual. (see *Id.* at 2).

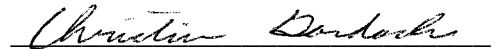
Eligibility for MA based on disability or blindness does not exist once SSA's determination is final. BEM 260 at 3. SSA's determination that disability or blindness does not exist for SSI is final for MA if:

- The determination was made after 1/1/90, and
- No further appeals may be made at SSA; or
- The client failed to file an appeal at any step within SSA's 60 day limit, and
- The client is not claiming:
 - A totally different disabling condition than the condition SSA based its determination on, or
 - An additional impairment(s) or change or deterioration in his condition that SSA has not made a determination on.

In the present case, it was not disputed that Claimant applied for SSI benefits from SSA prior to applying for MA benefits. Following an administrative hearing, SSA denied Claimant's SSI benefit application and found that Claimant was not disabled. The administrative hearing decision (see Exhibits 64-77) was dated 10/6/11. Claimant failed to timely appeal the SSA decision within 60 days thereby finalizing the SSA decision that Claimant was not disabled. There was insufficient evidence that the SSA decision should not have been binding on the finding of Claimant's request for MA benefits. Accordingly, the SSA decision denying SSI benefits to Claimant for not being a disabled individual is binding on the DHS decision concerning MA benefits. It is found that Claimant is not a disabled individual and that DHS properly denied Claimant's application for MA benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS properly denied MA benefits to Claimant on the basis of a final SSA decision that Claimant is not a disabled individual. The actions taken by DHS are AFFIRMED.


Christian Gardocki
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 11, 2012

Date Mailed: April 11, 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.

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail to:

Michigan Administrative hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

201218927/CG

CG/hw

cc:

