

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201219841
Issue No: 2009, 4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 21, 2012
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 Wednesday, March 21, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified on her behalf.

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. Claimant's MA-P/SDA application on September 22, 2011 was denied on November 21, 2011 for SDA and February 1, 2012 for MA-P per BEM 206/261, with a hearing request on December 12, 2011.
2. Claimant was age 42, with a 12 grade education, and history of semi-skilled/skilled work.
3. Claimant last worked in July 2008.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to multiple medically diagnosed mental/physical disorders in combination.
5. Medical exam on November 15, 2011, states the claimant's heart has a regular rate and rhythm without enlargement; that there is a normal S1 and S2; that there is no evidence joint laxity, crepitation or effusion; that grip strength remains intact; that dexterity is unimpaired; that she had no

difficulty getting on and off the examination table, and heel-and-toe walking; that she had mild difficulty squatting and hopping; that straight leg raising is negative; that range of motion is normal for cervical spine and dorsi lumbar spine; that cranial nerves are intact; that motor strength is intact; that muscle tone is normal; that reflexes are intact and symmetrical; that she walks with a normal gait without the use of a assist device; that there were no findings of cardio pulmonary disease; that physically claimant's degree of impairment appears mild but not actively declining; that prognosis is fair and treatable; that she has the ability to sit, stand, bend, stoop, carry, push, pull, button clothes, tie shoes, dress-undress, dial telephone, open door, make a fist, pick-up coin, pick-up pencil, write, squat and arise from squatting, get on and off examination table, climb stairs; that she can walk on heels and toes; that her gait is stable and within normal limits; that she does not need a walking aide; and that her grip strength is 5/5 (Medical Packet, Page 21-26).

6. Medical exam on November 15, 2011, states the claimant's GAF score of 45; that she is not able to engage in full-time competitive employment due to her alcohol dependence, depression, anxiety, and personality disorder; that it is imperative that she enter a detox program and begin recovery from her alcohol dependence; and that she has moderate limitation in her ability to understand and remember simple instructions (Medical Packet, Page 32 and 33).

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 2008.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record does not establish the claimant's significant inability to perform basic work activities due to a severe mental/physical impairment in combination for a one year **continuous** duration, as defined below.

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 mental/physical disorders are non-severe or severe, as defined above. Said in another way, do the claimant's medically diagnosed mental/physical disorders in combination impair the claimant 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 medical/physical limitations/restrictions relative to ability to perform basic work activities, as defined above. .20 CFR 416.913(c)(1)(2).

Medical evidence of record establishes the claimant's GAF score of 45 in December 2011. This is considered a severe mental impairment with occupational functioning. DSM-IV (4th edition-revised).

The medical evidence of record does not establish a mental/physical impairment in combination meeting the one year **continuous duration**.

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 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, 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.

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:

