

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201246779
Issue No: 2009
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 14, 2012
Lapeer 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, an in-person hearing was held on August 14, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her behalf. Claimant was represented at the hearing by L&S Associates. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

The hearing record was extended 90 days for a 2nd SHRT review of medical reports submitted at the hearing. (Claimant Exhibit A, B, and C).

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 application on December 20, 2011 was denied on March 14, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on March 29, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 47, a high school or more education, and semi-skilled work history as a rental park manager, cashier, retail sales person, printer of designs on t-shirts and deli preparer of meats/cheeses (Medical Packet, Pg. 6).
3. Claimant's last employment ended September 20, 2011 due to medical reasons.

4. Claimant alleges disability due to medically diagnosed disorders of headaches, intractable hemorrhage, Crohn's Disease, memory loss and muscle weakness (Medical Packet, Pgs. 10, 11 and 228).
5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
 - a. September 30, 2011: Is alert and appears to be in mild distress; that currently she is in no acute respiratory distress; that she has normal non-labored respirations; that breath sounds are normal with good equal air movement; that neurologically she is alert, oriented to person, place and time; that in the musculoskeletal area, she has no extremity tenderness, edema and has a full range of motion of all extremities (Medical Packet, Pg. 128).
 - b. September 20, 2011: She was alert and oriented; She had no sensory deficit (Medical Packet, Pg. 24).
 - c. September 30, 2011: She is well-developed, well-nourished and in no acute distress at this time; that neurologically her cranial nerves II through XII are intact; that motor strength is full in the upper and lower extremities; that sensation is intact to light touch; that finger to nose testing reveals no dysmetria (Medical Packet, Pgs. 33 & 35).
 - d. September 30, 2011: She appears to be in moderate distress; that neurologically she is alert, oriented to person, place and time; that in the musculoskeletal area, she has no extremity tenderness, full range of motion in all extremities and no extremity edema (Medical Packet, Pg. 172).
 - e. January 5, 2012: She had a stable condition (Claimant Exhibit A, Pg. 2).
 - f. January 23, 2012: She was alert and oriented; neurologically her cranial nerves II through XII are intact (Claimant Exhibit A, Pg. 12).
 - g. April 25, 2011: She has a stable condition (Claimant Exhibit B, Pg. 8).
 - h. July 31, 2012: States claimant has been unable to work due to her medical illness since September 20, 2011 (Claimant Exhibit C, Pg. 1).
6. State Hearing Review Team decision (SHRT) dated June 20, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (Medical Packet, Pg. 228).

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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

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 416.912(a).

When determining disability, the federal regulations are used as a guideline and 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).

Step 1 disability is not denied. The evidence of record established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activities since September 11, 2011.

Step 2 disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to perform basic work activities for the required one year continuous duration, as defined below:

...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).

SEVERE IMPAIRMENT

To qualify for MA-P, claimant must first satisfy both the gainful work and the duration criteria (20 CFR 416.920(a)) before further review under severity criteria. If claimant does not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, an ultimately favorable disability determination cannot result. (20 CFR 416.920(c)).

The medical statement on July 31, 2012, states that the Claimant has been unable to work since September 2, 2011 is not supported by the medical evidence of record. Even if it was, the duration is 11 months (less than the 12 month required duration).

...A statement by a medical source that you are "disabled" or "unable to work" does not mean that we will determine that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

The medical reports of record are examination, diagnostic, treatment and progress reports. They do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's mental/physical basic work limitations. Stated differently, how do the Claimant's medically diagnosed disorders significantly incapacitate her functional ability to perform basic work activities for the required duration. Do the disorders impair the Claimant's ability slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

The Claimant has not sustained her burden of proof by establishing a medically severe mental/physical impairment in combination for the required duration.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 3. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's impairments meet/equal Social Security listing for the required duration.

The Listing of impairments describes for each of the major body systems, impairments which are considered severe enough to prevent a person from doing any gainful activity. Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or specific statement of duration is made. For all others, the evidence must show a one year continuous duration. 20 CFR 416.925(a).

Claimant introduced no medical evidence of record by a treating, examining, or non-examining physician that Claimant's impairments do meet the requirements for any Social Security listing. To the contrary, the SHRT medical consultant addressed the matter and found insufficient medical evidence of a disability under a Social Security listing.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 4. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's functional incapacity, despite her impairments, to perform any of her past work, such as a semi-skilled trailer park manager for the required 1 year continuous duration.

The burden of proof shifts to the DHS at Step 5. If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 5. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, established the Claimant was with a residual functional capacity (RFC), despite her impairments, to perform other work in the National Economy for the required 1 year continuous duration.

...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).

The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant was without a RFC for less strenuous work than her past work, such as sedentary work, as defined above. Under the Medical-Vocational Guidelines Rule 201.21, a younger

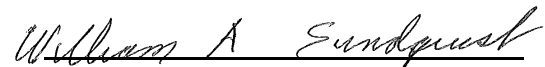
individual age 47, with a 12th grade education or more, and a semi-skilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2 and also would not be established at Steps 3, 4 and 5 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 disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, MA-P denial is **UPHELD**.



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

Date Signed: February 12, 2013

Date Mailed: February 12, 2013

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.

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

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

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Recons ideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

WAS/jk

cc:

