

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201250834  
Issue No: 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 11, 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, July 11, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her behalf. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Was recovered non-disability 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 last SDA approval was in March 2011.
2. On April 26, 2012, the Department of Human Services (DHS) terminated the Claimant's SDA based on a recovered non-disability per BEM 261, with a hearing request on May 2, 2012.
3. Claimant was age 54, with a GED, and work history as an unskilled caregiver, cashier, waitress and bartender, and semi-skilled worker as a cook.
4. Claimant has been working 40 hours a week at [REDACTED]/month as a caregiver since 2008; she admits that she has the residual functional capacity (RFC) for her past work as a bartender.
5. Medical reports of exam on March 27, 2012, states the Claimant can do her activities of daily living; that she is able to drive; that she now mostly spends her time taking care of her ex-husband; that she can sit and stand

for about 20 minutes and can walk for about a block; that she can lift less than 10 pounds; that visual activity right and left eye = 20/40 with corrective lenses; that musculoskeletally, there is no evidence of joint laxity, crepitation, or effusion; that grip strength remains intact; that dexterity is unimpaired; that she could pick-up a coin, tie laces and open a door; that she had no difficulty getting on and off the examination table, no difficulty heel and toe walking, no difficulty squatting, and no difficulty hopping; that there is mild tenderness over the left Si joint; that straight leg raising is negative; that ROM is normal for the dorsolumbar spine, cervical spine, shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, ankles and hands; that cranial nerves are intact; that motor strength and tone re normal; that she walks with a normal gait without the use of an assist device; that neurologically she appears stable; that she had no difficulty doing orthopedic maneuvers; that physically her degree of impairment appears minimal to mild; and that her prognosis appears fair but not declining (Medical Packet, Pages 165-169).

6. SHRT report dated June 5, 2012, states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Exhibit A, Page 177).

### **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.

...Ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. In most instances, we must show that you are able to engage in substantial gainful activity before your benefits are stopped. When doing this, we will consider all your current impairments not just that impairment(s) present at the time of the most recent favorable determination.... 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(v).

...To assure that disability reviews are carried out in a uniform manner, that a decision of continuing disability can be made in the most expeditious and administratively efficient way; the code of federal regulations are used as a guide and that any decision to stop disability benefits are made objectively, neutrally and are fully documented, we will follow specific steps in reviewing the question of whether your disability continues. Our review may cease and benefits may be continued at any point if we determine there is sufficient evidence to find that you are still unable to engage in substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5).

Step 1. Do you have an impairment or combination of impairments which meets or equals the severity of an impairment listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of Part 404 of this chapter? If you do, your disability will be found to continue. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(i).

Step 2. If you do not, has there been a medical improvement as defined in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section? If there has been medical improvement as shown by a decrease in medical severity, see Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section. If there has been no decrease in medical severity, there has been no medical improvement. (see Step 4 in paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section.) 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(ii).

Step 3. If there has been medical improvement, we must determine whether it is related to your ability to do work in accordance with paragraphs (b)(1)(I) through (b)(1)(iv) of this section; i.e., whether or not there has been an increase in the residual functional capacity based on the impairment(s) that was present at the time of the most recent favorable medical determination. If medical improvement is not related

to your ability to do work, see Step 5 in paragraph (b)(5)(v) of this section. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(iii).

Step 4. If we found in Step 2 in paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section that there has been no medical improvement or if we found at Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section that the medical improvement is not related to your ability to work, we consider whether any of the exceptions in paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) of this section apply. If none of them apply, your disability will be found to continue. If any of the first group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, see Step 5 in paragraph (b)(5)(v) of this section. If an exception from the second group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, your disability will be found to have ended. The second group of exceptions to medical improvement may be considered at any point in this process. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(iv).

Step 5. If medical improvement is shown to be related to your ability to do work or if any of the first group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, we will determine whether all your current impairments in combination are severe (see Sec. 416.921). This determination will consider all your current impairments and the impact of the combination of these impairments on your ability to function. If the residual functional capacity assessment in Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section shows significant limitation to your ability to do basic work activities, see Step 6 in paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section. When the evidence shows that all your current impairments in combination do not significantly limit your physical or mental abilities to do basic work activities, these impairments will not be considered severe in nature. If so, you will no longer be considered disabled. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(v).

Step 6. If your impairment(s) is severe, we will assess your current ability to engage in substantial gainful activity in accordance with 416.961. That is, we will assess your residual functional capacity based on all your current impairments and consider whether you can still do work that you have done in the past. If you can do such work, disability will be found to have ended. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(vi).

Step 7. If you are not able to do work you have done in the past, we will consider one final step. Given the residual functional capacity assessment and considering your age, education, and past work experience, can you do other

work? If you can, disability will be found to have ended. If you cannot, disability will be found to continue. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(vii).

At Step 1, continued eligibility is denied. The medical evidence or record does not establish Claimant's impairments meet/equal a Social Security listing.

At Step 2, the evidence of record does establish Claimant's medical improvement by a decrease in medical severity. (See Finding of Facts 5g). Therefore, medical improvement is related to Claimant's ability to work.

At Step 3, the evidence of record does establish the medical improvement was related to Claimant's ability to perform basic work activities, 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).

At Step 4, the evidence of record does establish medical improvement or medical improvement related to Claimant's ability to perform basic work activities. Therefore, Step 4 exceptions did not apply in this case.

At Step 5, all of Claimant's current medical impairments in combination are non-severe, as defined below.

**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).

When all of your current impairments in combination do not significantly limit your physical or mental abilities to do basic work activities, these impairments will not be considered severe in nature. Therefore, Claimant is no longer considered disabled.

Therefore, medical recovery has been established at Step 5 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 as defined above has ended.

201250834/WAS

Accordingly, SDA termination is **UPHELD**, and SO ORDERED.

/s/

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

Date Signed: October 25, 2012

Date Mailed: October 25, 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

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