

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:

BELINDA GUZZI-FORD
[REDACTED]

Reg No.: 2012-65363
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 29, 2012
Wayne County DHS (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

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 conducted from Detroit, Michigan on Monday, October 29, 2012. The Claimant appeared and testified. Participating on behalf of the Department of Human Services ("Department") was [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance ("MA-P") and State Disability Assistance ("SDA") benefit programs?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") on March 16, 2011.
2. The SSA found the Claimant not disabled.
3. On October 3, 2011, the Claimant appealed the SSA determination.
4. The Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking MA-P and SDA benefits on May 17, 2012.

5. On June 27, 2012, the Medical Review Team ("MRT") found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit 1, pp. 3, 4)
6. The Department notified the Claimant of the MRT decision.
7. On July 16, 2012, the Department received the Claimant's timely written request for hearing. (Exhibit 1, p. 2)
8. On August 3, 2012, the Claimant withdrew her SSA appeal.
9. On September 5, 2012, the State Hearing Review Team ("SHRT") found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit 3)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act. 42 USC 1397 and is administered by the Department of Human Services pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et. seq.* The Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3001-3015. Departmental policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual ("BAM"), the Bridges Eligibility Manual ("BEM"), and the Bridges Reference Manual ("BRM").

The disability standard for both disability-related MA and SSI is the same. BEM 271, (2012), p. 1. When the SSA determines that a client is not disabled/blind for SSI purposes, the client may appeal that determination at SSA. BEM 260 (2011), p. 9. The SSA Appeals Process consists of three steps:

1. Reconsideration (if initial application filed prior to October 1, 1999)
2. Hearing
3. Appeals Council

BEM 260, p. 9. The client has 60 days from the date he receives a denial notice to appeal an SSA action. BEM 260, p. 3, 9; BEM 271, p. 7. An SSA determination becomes final when no further appeals may be made at SSA. BEM 260, 3. Once an SSA's determination that a disability or blindness does not exist becomes final, the MA case must be closed. BEM 260, p. 3; BEM 271, p. 8.

In the record presented, the SSA found the Claimant not disabled. The Claimant appealed this determination but subsequently withdrew her appeal. As such, the original denial is a final determination. The Claimant has not alleged a new disabling impairment. In light of the foregoing, the final SSA determination is binding on the Claimant's MA-P case. Accordingly, the Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds the Claimant not disabled for purposes of the MA-P benefit program.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

The Department's determination is **AFFIRMED**.


Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 30, 2012

Date Mailed: October 31, 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,

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- 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 at:

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

CMM/tm

cc:

