

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201210191
Issue No: 2009
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 31, 2012
Wayne 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 Tuesday, January 31, 2012. 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. On December 28, 2010, claimant applied for Medicaid (MA-P), was denied on August 12, 2011 per BEM 260, and requested a hearing on October 31, 2011.
2. Claimant was age 50, and had a high school plus education, and work experience as an semi-skilled residential housekeeper, counter person in fast food establishment, [REDACTED] as a clerk processing mail, [REDACTED] for [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] service helping people with personal needs.
3. In January 2010, claimant temporary employment ended.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to a bi-polar disorder, depression and problems with her left side of body from the neck to the foot.
5. Medical exam on August 2, 2010, states the claimant's GAF score of 55 (Medical Packet, Page 38).

6. Medical exam on December 22, 2010, states the claimant's condition is stable (Medical Packet, Page 31).
7. Effective June 1, 2011, claimant became eligible for Medicaid (MA-P) based on SSI approval.
8. Medical exam on June 1, 2011, states the claimant is well built, well nourished, and in no acute distress; that her cranial nerves III-XVII are grossly normal; that deep tendon reflexes are symmetrical; that power is 5/5 overall; that she has average occupationally capability for her daily activities despite her condition; that her range of motion is normal for cervical spine, lumbar spine, shoulder, elbow, hips, knees, ankles, wrist, hands-fingers; that she is able 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 examining table, climb stairs; that her gait is stable and within normal limits; and that she has a GAF score of 55 (Medical Packet, Pages 8-19).

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 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 are used as a guide 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).

At Step 1, disability is not denied. Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since January 2010.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the claimant's significant inability to perform basic mental/physical work activities for the required 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 psychological evidence of record establishes the claimant's GAF scores in August 2010 and June 2011 of 55. This is considered a non-severe impairment with job-functioning. DSM-IV (4th edition-revised).

Also, the medical evidence of record establishes that the claimant's has an average occupational capability for her daily activities despite her conditions.

Duration of Impairment

...[The impairment]...must have lasted or must be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. We call this the duration requirement. 20 CFR 416.909.

The medical evidence of record, does not establish a severe mental/physical impairment, on date of application, that had lasted or was expected to last for a one year **continuous** duration.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2, as defined above, 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 that disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, Medicaid denial is **UPHELD**.

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

Date Signed: March 9, 2012

Date Mailed: March 12, 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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