

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No: 201221171  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: March 7, 2012  
Van Buren 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 7, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on his 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 applied for MA-P on September 28, 2011, was denied on December 20, 2011 per BEM 260, and requested a hearing on December 23, 2011.
2. Claimant was age 27, with a high school plus education, with a history of unskilled/skilled work.
3. Claimant alleges disability due to multiple medically diagnosed mental/physical disorders in combination.
4. Claimant was terminated from his last job approximately 3 years ago, and became an unemployment compensation benefit recipient two years ago until eligible for union disability benefits.

5. Medical exam on March 8, 2011, states the claimant is alert and oriented x3; and that he has a normal gait and station to heel, toe and tandem; that his power is 5/5 throughout (Medical Packet, Page 54).
6. Medical exam on May 2, 2011, states the claimant is in no apparent distress; that he is alert and oriented x3; and that his language is normal; that overall, since his surgery he has done well except for the breakthrough seizure in March 2011, which was triggered by excessive alcohol intake and possible missed medications; that he has abstained from alcohol since that time and overall has been doing well and has been seizure free since his last visit; and that otherwise he is doing well (Medical Packet, Page 59-60).
7. Medical exam on September 12, 2011, states the claimant GAF score of 58 (Medical Packet, Page 77).

### **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. ...BAM 600.

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).

At Step 1, disability is not denied. The evidence of record established that the claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since 3 years ago.

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 in combination based on the definition above. Said in another way, do the claimant's medical diagnosed mental/physical disorders in combination impair the claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severely impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

Most of the medical reports of record are diagnostic and treatments reports, and do not provide medical assessments of the claimants mental/physical limitations/restrictions relative to ability to perform basic work activities, as defined above. ...20 CFR 416.913(c)(1)(2).

The medical evidence of record established the claimant's GAF score of 58 in September 2011, this is considered a non-severe mental impairment with occupational functioning. DSM IV (4<sup>th</sup> edition-revised).

The medical evidence of record established a non-severe impairment in combination. Therefore, a severe mental/physical impairment in combination meeting one year continued duration has not been established.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2 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 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 14, 2012

Date Mailed: March 15, 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:

