

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201224253
Issue No: 2009, 4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 11, 2012
Mecosta 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 3-way telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. Claimant appeared with her authorized [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

The record was extended 90 days at claimants request for a 2nd SHRT review of additional medical reports introduced 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/SDA application on September 13, 2011 was denied on December 5, 2011 per BEM 260/261, with a hearing request on December 13, 2011.
2. Claimant was 39, with a high school education, and history of unskilled work.
3. Claimant last worked in 2009
4. Claimant alleges disability based on a combination of multiple medically diagnosed mental/physical impairments.
5. Medical reports state the Claimant on:

- a. August 11, 2011, had a fully developed, fairly well maintained, seemingly in no acute distress; that the disc at L5-S1 was moderately dehydrated with a midline bulge; that there was no significant canal or foraminal stenosis at either level (Medical Packet, Pages 13 and 14).
 - b. August 11, 2011, has no muscle cramping, no muscle weakness, no joint pain, and no arthritis; that Claimant has no balance difficulty; that she has no anxiety; that she has no hallucinations; and that she has no attention deficit disorder (Claimant Exhibit A, Page 20).
 - c. September 26, 2011, her condition is stable (Medical Packet, Page 4).
 - d. September 26, 2011, has a stable condition (Claimant Exhibit A, Page 29).
 - e. October 24, 2011, has mild degenerative spine disease; and that she has mild to moderate broad base disc bulge and mild bilateral neural foraminal stenosis at the L4-L5 level (Claimant Exhibit B, Page 37).
 - f. October 24, 2011, her alignment is normal and stable with flexion and extension; that there is minimal narrowing at the L4-5 and L5-S1 disc levels; and that the vertebral bodies and disc spaces are well preserved (Claimant Exhibit B, Page 48).
 - g. March 20, 2012, she does not meet the eligibility criteria for services as a person with a serious mental illness, a person with a developed mentally disability, or a child with a serious emotional disorder, or a person with a substance abuse disorder at Central Michigan Health for Central Michigan (Claimant Exhibit C, Page 1).
6. SHRT report dated February 26, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listed impairment (Medical Packet, Page 16).

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).

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 Claimant has the burden of proof to establish disability as defined above by the preponderance of the evidence of record and 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).

Disability is not denied at Step 1. The evidence of record establishes that the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since 2009.

Disability is denied at Step 2. The medical evidence of record does not establish, on date of application, the Claimant's significant inability to perform basic work activities due to a combination severe mental/physical impairments 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 combination of medically diagnosed mental/physical disorders are nonsevere or severe, as defined above. Said in another way, do the combination of Claimant's diagnosed mental/physical disorders impair the Claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

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

The medical evidence of record established a combination of non-severe impairments. Therefore, a combination of severe mental/physical impairments meeting the one year continuous duration requirement, as defined above, has not been established.

If disability had not been denied at Step 2, the analysis would proceed to Step 3 where the medical evidence of record does not establish a severe impairment meeting/equaling a Social Security listed impairment and the duration requirement.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would have been denied at Step 4. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish Claimant's inability, despite her impairments, to perform any of her past work for the required 1 year continuous duration.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would have been denied at Step 5. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant was without a residual functional capacity (RFC), despite her impairments, to perform any other work in the National Economy for a one 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, a younger individual age 37, with a high school education and unskilled work history, and is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

The department's Program Eligibility Manual contains the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the State Disability Assistance program: to receive State Disability Assistance, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person or age 65 or older. BEM, Item 261, p. 1. Because the claimant does not meet the definition of disabled under the MA-P program and because the evidence of record does not establish that claimant is unable to work for a period exceeding 90 days, the claimant does not meet the disability criteria for State Disability Assistance benefits either.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2 and also at Steps 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 that disability was not medically established.

201224253/WAS

Accordingly, Medicaid/SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

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

Date Signed: May 31, 2012

Date Mailed: May 31, 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:

