

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201225824  
Issue No: 2009, 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: March 8, 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 Thursday, March 8, 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/SDA on August 23, 2011, was denied on October 24, 2011 per BEM 260/261, and requested a hearing on January 13, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 45, with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education, and history of unskilled work.
3. Claimant alleges disability due to multiple medically diagnosed physical disorders in combination.
4. Claimant was fired from last job 1½ years ago.
5. Medical exam on September 2, 2010, states the claimant's eyes are negative for blurred vision, double vision and photophobia; that musculoskeletally he is negative myalgias and back pain; that eye conjunctivae and extraocular motions are normal; that pupils are equal,

round, and reactive to light; that neck has a normal range of motion, that musculoskeletally he has a normal range of motion; that neurologically he is alert, and oriented to person, place and time; that he has normal reflexes (Medical Packet, Page 50-51).

6. Medical exam on June 20, 2011, states the claimant is in no acute distress; that his extremities strength is 4/4 in all; that neurologically his cranial nerves II-XII are grossly intact; that his head, ears, nose and throat exam is unremarkable; that his neurologic exam is grossly intact (Medical Packet, Page 86-92).
7. Medical exam on September 5, 2011, states the claimant's eyes, ears and nose are grossly unremarkable (Medical Packet, Page 68).

### **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 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 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. The evidence of record established that the claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since 1½ 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 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 physical disorders are non-severe or severe in combination based on the definition above. Said in another way, do the claimant's medically diagnosed 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 physical limitations/restrictions relative to ability to perform basic work activities, as defined above. ...20 CFR 416.913(c)(1)(2).

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.

The medical evidence of record established a non-severe impairment in combination. Therefore, a severe physical impairment in combination meeting one year continuous 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/SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

/s/  
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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.

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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:

