

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201236280  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 10, 2012  
Mason 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, May 10, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony 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. Claimant's MA-P application on August 31, 2011 was denied on February 13, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on February 24, 2012.
2. Claimant was 40, with a high school plus education, and history of unskilled/semi-skilled/skilled work.
3. Claimant ended her last employment on December 2009, and became an [REDACTED] with exhaustion in November 2011.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to a combination of multiple medically diagnosed mental/physical impairments (medical packet, page 325).
5. Medical reports state the Claimant on:

- a. September 14, 2010, had a normal back inspection with no decreased range of motion, no CVA tenderness, no muscle tenderness and no vertebrae tenderness; that she had normal extremities inspections, normal range of motion; that psychiatrically she is alert and oriented x3 (medical packet, page 285).
- b. October 18, 2010, had a normal back inspection, no decreased range in motion, no CVA tenderness, no muscle tenderness, and no vertebrae tenderness; that extremities had a normal inspection, normal range of motion, non-tender; that neurologically/psychiatrically she is alert, oriented x3, with normal mood/affect (medical packet, page 289).
- c. July 3, 2012, was alert, well-developed/nourished, and in no apparent distress; that she had a normal back inspection with CVA tenderness; that she had normal extremities inspection; that neurologically/psychiatrically she was alert, oriented x3, normal mood/affect, no motor/sensory deficits (medical packet, page 298).
- d. September 29, 2011, Claimant was alert, well-developed/nourished; that she had a normal back inspection, no decreased range of motion, no CVA tenderness, no muscle tenderness, no vertebrae tenderness; that extremities inspection was normal, range of motion normal, and non-tender; that neurologically she was alert, oriented x 3, normal mood/affect, and no motor/sensory deficits (medical packet, page 306).
- e. Claimant had a current GAF score of 53 and last year of 45 (medical packet, page 96).
- f. January 11, 2012, Claimant has a current GAF score of 54 (medical packet, page 8).

### **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 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 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 December 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 of 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 medical evidence of record established the Claimant's GAF scores of 45 in December 2010, 53 in December 2011, and 54 in January 2012. 45 is considered a severe mental impairment with job-functioning, and 53 and 54 non-severe impairment with job-functioning. DSM-IV (4<sup>th</sup> edition, revised).

The medical reports of record are mostly examination, 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). Stated differently, does the combination mental/physical impairments impair the Claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

The medical evidence of record established a combination non-severe impairment, as defined above. Therefore, a combination severe mental/physical impairment 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, on date of application, does not establish a severe impairment meeting/equaling a social security listed impairment and the duration requirement.

The Listing of impairments describes for each of the major body systems, impairments which are considered severe enough to prevent a person from doing any gainful activity. Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or a specific statement of duration is made. For all others, the evidence must show the one year continuous duration. 20 CFR 416.925(a).

Claimant introduced no medical evidence of record by a treating, examining, or non-examining physician that Claimant's impairments would meet the requirements of any social security listed impairment. To the contrary, the SHRT medical consultant addressed the matter and found insufficient medical evidence of a disability under a social security listing.

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

If disability had not been denied at Step 2, it would be 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 his impairments, to perform any other work in the national economy for the required 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, and individual age 40, with a high school plus education, and unskilled/semi-skilled/skilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

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.

Accordingly, Medicaid denial is **UPHELD**.

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

Date Signed: May 21, 2012

Date Mailed: May 22, 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:

