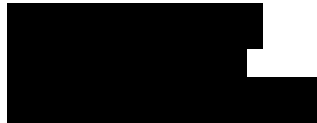


**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No: 201239055  
Issue No: 2009, 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: June 12, 2012  
Ottawa 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, June 12, 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's MA-P (3 months retro)/SDA application on October 31, 2011 was denied on March 6, 2012 per BEM 260/261, with a hearing request on March 12, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 47, with a 7<sup>th</sup> education, and unskilled/semi-skilled work history (Medical Packet, Page 44).
3. Claimant ended his last employment in October 2010.
4. Claimant alleges disability based on a combination mental/physical impairment (Medical Packet, Page 70).
5. Medical reports state that Claimant on:
  - a. September 20, 2011, is oriented to time, place, person and situation; that he has normal insight, and exhibits normal judgment;

and that he demonstrates appropriate mood and affect (Medical Packet, Page 58).

- b. October 10, 2011, was excused from work for two months; that he may return on December 12, 2011; and that activity is restricted to no lifting (Medical Packet, Page 51).
- c. February 1, 2012, had a GAF score of 50; that the combination of his physical distress, along with his clinically significant psychological distress, greatly interferes with his ability to function at a level necessary for him to obtain and maintain **full-time** gainful employment; that he is not significantly limited in ability to remember locations and work-like procedures, understand and remember 1 or 2-step instructions, carryout simple, 1 of 2-step instructions, sustain an ordinary routine without supervision, make simple work-related decisions, ask simple questions or request assistance, get along co-workers or peers without distracting them or exhibiting behavioral extremes, maintain socially appropriate behavior and adhere to basic standards of neatness and cleanliness, respond appropriate to change in work settings, to be aware of normal hazards and take appropriate precautions, travel to unfamiliar places or use public transportation, and set realistic goals or make plans independently of others; and that he is moderately limited in ability to understand and remember detailed instructions, carryout detailed instructions, maintain attention and concentration for extended periods, work in coordination with or proximity to others without being distracted by them, complete a normal workday and work sheet without interruptions from psychologically base symptoms and to perform at a consistent pace without a unreasonable number and length of rest periods, interact appropriate with the general public, and accept instructions and respond appropriately to criticism from supervisors (Medical Packet, Pages 31-34).

### **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 established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since October 2010.

Disability is denied at Step 2. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to perform basic work activities due to a combination severe mental/physical impairment 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).

### **Severe Impairment**

To qualify for MA-P, claimant must first satisfy both the gainful work and the duration criteria (20 CFR 416.920(a)) before further review under severity criteria. If claimant does not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, an ultimately favorable disability determination cannot result. (20 CFR 416.920(c)).

The medical evidence of record established the Claimant's GAF score of 50 in February 2012. This is considered a borderline severe/non-severe mental impairment with occupational functioning. DSM-IV (4<sup>th</sup> edition-revised). But to the contrary, the other psychological evidence shows the Claimant is not significantly limited/moderately limited in basic work activities, as define above.

The medical evidence of record shows that the Claimant was restricted for work for 2 months from October to December 2012 (less than the required one year continuous duration).

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 his functional incapacity to perform basic work activities for one continuous year , as defined above. 20 CFR 416.913(c)(1) and (2). Stated differently, does the combination mental/physical impairment impair the Claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely for one continuous year, 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 a 1 year continuous duration requirement, as defined above, is not established.

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 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, MA-P/SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

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

Date Signed: June 15, 2012

Date Mailed: June 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:

