

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2012-46937  
Issue No.: 2009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 6, 2012  
County: Macomb (50-12)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jonathan W. Owens

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held on August 6, 2012, from Clinton Township, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant, Claimant's [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

The hearing was started on August 6, 2012. Due to Claimant's illness the hearing was not completed on August 6, 2012. The Hearing was continued to October 4, 2012. At the continued hearing, the Department was represented by [REDACTED]. Claimant appeared at the hearing with his [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA-P) program?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On October 28, 2011, Claimant applied for MA-P and retro MA-P to July 2011.
2. On January 9, 2012, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's request.

3. On April 9, 2011, Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. The State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) denied Claimant's request.
5. Claimant is 30 years old.
6. Claimant completed education through the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
7. Claimant has employment experience (last worked 5 years) at a tree service company (standing 4-5 hours, sitting 2 hours and lifting 50-60 lbs) and as a cook (standing 5 hours out of a 5 to 6-hour shift, sitting an hour and lifting 20-30 lbs).
8. Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
9. Claimant suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, chronic pain, and chronic fatigue. At hearing, Claimant alleged bipolar disorder and major depression.
10. Claimant has significant limitations on physical activities involving sitting, standing, walking, bending, lifting, and stooping.
11. Claimant has significant limitations on understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions; use of judgment; responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and dealing with changes in a routine work setting.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

MA-P 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 administers MA-P pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (RFT).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under MA-P. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...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.

A set order is used to determine disability. Current work activity, severity of impairments, residual functional capacity, past work, age, or education and work

experience are reviewed. If there is a finding that an individual is disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, there will be no further evaluation. 20 CFR 416.920.

Medical evidence may contain medical opinions. Medical opinions are statements from physicians and psychologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of the impairment(s), including symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

The Administrative Law Judge is responsible for making the determination or decision about whether the statutory definition of disability is met. The Administrative Law Judge reviews all medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement of disability. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations are assessed using the criteria in paragraph (B) of the listings for mental disorders (descriptions of restrictions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated with competitive work). 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1, 12.00(C).

Claimant testified to the following symptoms and abilities: knee pain, uses the bathroom constantly, mood swings, in a lot of pain, whenever he eats food goes right through him, extreme abdominal pain, can walk ½ mile, can stand 20 minutes, no medical restrictions on lifting, hands hurt, tires easily, not able to dust, family members handle household chores, cooks for himself, not able to grocery shop by himself due to poor concentration, difficulty with reading, struggles with spelling, poor comprehension, in constant pain, has some issues with bowel incontinence, he is currently taking 8-9 medications, struggles with anxiety, suicidal thoughts. Claimant's records indicate hospitalization for psychiatric problems, specifically suicidal attempts. Claimant has not refused to take medication but has an issue with affording medications.

Claimant's grandmother testified to the following: he has constant mood swings, needs reminders to take medications, constantly in the bathroom, doesn't like to be alone and problems with controlling emotions. She worries that he may take his life.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant appears to meet listing 12.04 or its equivalent. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that Claimant meets the requirements of a listing.

Therefore, Claimant is found to be disabled.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled as of July 2011.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated October 28, 2011, if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility. The Department shall inform Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case shall be set for February 2014.



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**Jonathan W. Owens**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 3, 2013

Date Mailed: January 3, 2013

**NOTICE:** Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt 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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
  - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
  - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
  - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

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Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at  
Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P. O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

JWO/pf

cc:

