

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201260125  
Issue No: 2009, 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 28, 2012  
Macomb #12 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, August 28, 2012. Claimant appeared with her authorized representative, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

**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 April 23, 2012 was denied on May 25, 2012 per BEM 260/261, with a hearing request on June 18, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 53, with 12<sup>th</sup> grade education, and work experience as a skilled hair stylist (DHS Exhibit A, Page 75).
3. Claimant's last employment ended January 31, 2012 due to quitting her job.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to medically diagnosed disorders of diabetes and blurred vision in combination (DHS Exhibit A, Page 83).

5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
  - a. April 26, 2011, is well-developed and not in acute distress; (DHS Exhibit A, Page 9).
  - b. May 5, 2011, has mild musculoskeletal range of motion of the lumbar flexion; that she has normal mental status; that she has normal cranial nerves of the II-XII; that her motor exam was normal; and that her sensory exam was normal (DHS Exhibit A, Page 11).
  - c. May 19, 2011, is no apparent distress, alert and oriented x4 (DHS Exhibit A, Page 29).
6. SHRT report dated August 1, 2012, states the Claimant's disorders do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Exhibit A, Page 83).

### **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. ...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).

At Step 1, disability is not denied. The evidence of record established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activities since January 31, 2012.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to perform basic work activities 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 evidence of record establish that the Claimant admitted to the Department of Human Services (DHS) representative at time of application that she could probably do her past work part-time.

Substantial work activities are work activities that involve doing significant physical activities. Your work may be substantial even if it is done on a part-time basis or if you do less, get paid less, or have less responsibility than when you worked before. ...20 CFR 416.972(a).

The Claimant admitted that DHS Exhibit A did not provide medical assessments of her work limitations.

The medical reports of record are examination, diagnostic, treatments reports and do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's basic work limitations for the required duration. Stated differently, the medical diagnosed disorders do not establish whether or not the Claimant is impaired slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

It is the well settled law that fact-finders are not permitted to speculate at material facts in dispute. And it would only be a guess as to whether a severe impairment has been medically established, as defined above, based on the medical evidence of record.

Therefore, the Claimant has not sustained her burden of proof to establish a severe impairment, instead of a non-severe impairment, for the required duration.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, Steps 3 and 4 would also be denied. The medical evidence of record, for the required durations, does not establish Claimant's impairments meet/equal a Social Security listing at Step 3, and inability to perform her past work as a hair stylist at Step 4.

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 would not be established at Steps 3 and 4 by the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record.

