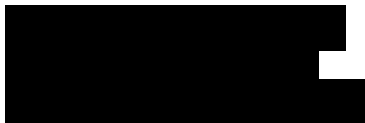


STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No: 2012-75362  
Issue No: 2009;4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 13, 2012  
St Clair County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Landis Y. Lain

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 13, 2012. Claimant personally appeared and testified.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Human Services (the department) properly deny claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA-P) and State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

**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 June 22, 2012, claimant filed an application for Medical Assistance, Retroactive Medical Assistance and State Disability Assistance benefits alleging disability.
2. On August 14, 2012, the Medical Review Team denied claimant's application stating that claimant could perform other work pursuant to Medical Vocational Rule 202.19.
3. On August 22, 2012, the department caseworker sent claimant notice that his application was denied.
4. On August 31, 2012, claimant filed a request for a hearing to contest the department's negative action.
5. On September 28, 2012, the State Hearing Review Team again denied claimant's application stating in its analysis and recommendation: the claimant has no evidence of end organ damage associated with poorly controlled diabetes. The evidence supports that claimant medication non-compliance is a contributing factor to poor control of diabetes. It remains

reasonable that the claimant would benefit from observing limitations to light exertional tasks. The evidence does not support the presence of severe psychiatric impairments. The claimant is not currently engaging in substantial gainful activity based on the information that is available in file. The claimant's impairments/combination of impairments does not meet/equal the intent or severity of a Social Security Administration listing. The medical evidence of record indicates that the claimant retains the capacity to perform light exertional tasks. The evidence does not support the presence of severe psychiatric impairments. The claimant's past work was as a drain cleaner, 406.684-014, 3M. As such, the claimant would be unable to perform the duties associated with their past work. Likewise, the claimant's past work skills will not transfer to other occupations. Therefore, based on the claimant's vocational profile (21 years old, a less than high school education and a history of medium exertional, semiskilled employment), MA-P is denied, 20 CFR 416.920 (e&g), using Vocational Rule 202.18 as a guide. Retroactive MA-P was considered in this determination and is also denied. SDA is denied per BEM 261 because the nature and severity of the claimant's impairments would not preclude work activity at the above stated level for 90 days. Listings 3.03, 4.04, 5.06, 9.00.B.5 and 12.02/04/06 were considered in this determination.

6. The hearing was held on December 13, 2012. At the hearing, claimant waived the time periods and requested to submit additional medical information.
7. Claimant was given until January 30, 2013 to submit additional medical information. No new medical information was submitted and this Administrative Law Judge will proceed to decision.
8. Claimant is a 21-year-old man whose birth date is [REDACTED]. Claimant is 5'6" tall and weighs 185 pounds. Claimant attended the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and does not have a GED. Claimant stated he was in special education for English, social studies, math and civics. Claimant is able to read and write and does have basic math skills.
9. Claimant last worked November, 2011 cleaning and doing janitorial work and buffing/scrubbing, assembly and stock. Claimant has also worked at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] doing overnight stocking and doing fast food work.
10. Claimant alleges as disabling impairments: diabetic ketoacidosis, diabetes mellitus uncontrolled type I, gall bladder removal, hiatal hernia, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and hypertension.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and a appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who

requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges 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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department of Human Services uses the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the Medical Assistance program. 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 is 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.

If an individual is working and the work is substantial gainful activity, the individual is not disabled regardless of the medical condition, education and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

If the impairment or combination of impairments do not significantly limit physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, it is not a severe impairment(s) and disability does not exist. Age, education and work experience will not be considered. 20 CFR 416.920.

Statements about pain or other symptoms do not alone establish disability. There must be medical signs and laboratory findings which demonstrate a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...Medical reports should include –

- (1) Medical history.
- (2) Clinical findings (such as the results of physical or mental status examinations);
- (3) Laboratory findings (such as blood pressure, X-rays);
- (4) Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms)... 20 CFR 416.913(b).

In determining disability under the law, the ability to work is measured. An individual's functional capacity for doing basic work activities is evaluated. If an individual has the ability to perform basic work activities without significant limitations, he or she is not considered disabled. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(iv).

Basic work activities are 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).

Medical findings must allow a determination of (1) the nature and limiting effects of your impairment(s) for any period in question; (2) the probable duration of the impairment; and (3) the residual functional capacity to do work-related physical and mental activities. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

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 your symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

All of the evidence relevant to the claim, including medical opinions, is reviewed and findings are made. 20 CFR 416.927(c).

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).

A statement by a medical source finding that an individual is "disabled" or "unable to work" does not mean that disability exists for the purposes of the program. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

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).

At Step 1, claimant is not engaged in substantial gainful activity and is not disqualified from receiving disability at Step 1.

The subjective and objective medical evidence on the record indicates claimant testified on the record that he lives with his mother in a house and he is single with no children under 18 who live with him. Claimant has no income and does not receive any benefits from the Department of Human Services. Claimant does have a driver's license and does not drive, has no vehicle, but he does take public transportation to doctor's appointments and anger management classes two times per week. Claimant does cook two times per week and cooks things like eggs and fried chicken. Claimant's mother grocery shops for him and claimant testified that he does clean the bathroom, dishes and vacuum. Claimant testified that he does watch television two hours per day and uses the computer 30 minutes per day. Claimant testified that he can stand for 1-2 hours at a time, sit for 2-3 hours at a time and walk 600 ft. Claimant can squat, bend at waist, shower and dress himself, tie his shoes and touch his toes. Claimant testified that his level of pain, on a scale of 1-10, without medication is a 9, and with medication is a 4-5. Claimant testified that he is right handed and his hands/arms are fine and his legs/feet are fine. Claimant testified the heaviest weight he can carry is 50 lbs or a bag of groceries and he doesn't smoke, drink or do any drugs. Claimant testified that on a typical day he makes breakfast, takes his medications, watches television for 30 minutes, takes a nap, sees his son 2 days a week, goes to anger management classes and looks for a job. Claimant testified he was hospitalized approximately 10 times in the last year and he was admitted and the last time he was admitted was December 10-12, 2012 for complications from his diabetes.

An emergency room disposition form dated March 21, 2012, indicates that claimant's pulse rate 86 beats per minute, blood pressure 182/82, pulse oximetry 100% on room air (p 755). His weight was 190 lbs (p 754). His glucose level was at 6:45 pm was 391. On March 22, 2012 at 6:05 was 222 and on March 23, 2012 at 5:45 was 212 (p 758). Glucose average results was 318 (p 759). A January 31, 2012 admittance to the hospital, claimant had sugars elevated to 228. Ketones were positive. CO2 was 434. Because of early diabetic ketosis, the patient was admitted for further evaluation and treatment. The hemoglobin A1C was found to be 11.8. He was assessed with diabetes mellitus, type I, uncontrolled with acute ketoacidosis, vomiting and nausea, dehydration, hyponatremia, hypokalemia, hypertension, history of hiatal hernia and had a guarded prognosis and he had an order for an insulin drip (p 804). A January 5, 2012 consultation indicates that claimant was alert and oriented times three. His weight was 180 lbs, his pulse rate was 84 per minute, respiratory rate 18 per minute, blood pressure 126/57. His HEENT: pupils react to light. Eyelids and conjunctivae are normal. Funduscopic examination was deferred. The neck was supple, no thyromegaly is appreciated. The heart, S1 and S2 heard. No murmurs or gallops appreciated. The lungs were clear with no rales or rhonchi noted. The abdomen was soft, no tenderness, rebound, guarding or rigidity. The extremities had no edema. No focal neurologic deficits. The impression was diabetic ketoacidosis. Uncontrolled type 1 diabetes mellitus and history of MRSA. The medical doctor indicated that the claimant needed to be on a basal bolus regimen (p 855). This Administrative Law Judge did consider the approximately 1,888 pages of medical reports contained in the file in making this decision.

At Step 2, claimant has the burden of proof of establishing that he has a severely restrictive physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last for the

duration of at least 12 months. There is sufficient objective clinical medical evidence in the record that claimant suffers a severely restrictive physical or mental impairment which does meet the durational requirements of 12 months or more. Claimant is a type 1 diabetic who has diabetes mellitus type 1 since the age of 9. Type I diabetes mellitus is an absolute deficiency of insulin production that commonly begins in childhood and continues throughout adulthood. Treatment of Type I diabetes mellitus always requires lifelong daily insulin. Some persons do not achieve good control for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: hyperglycemia, unawareness, other disorders that can affect blood glucose levels, inability to manage diabetes mellitus due to mental disorder or inadequate treatment. Although claimant has been hospitalized approximately once a month for the last year, the reports indicate he has uncontrolled diabetes which always improves with the administration of insulin and that claimant is non-compliant with his medication and non-compliant with his diabetic regimen.

Claimant alleges the following disabling mental impairments: depression, anxiety and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

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, App. 1, 12.00(C).

There is insufficient objective medical/psychiatric evidence in the record indicating claimant suffers severe mental limitations. There is no mental residual functional capacity assessment in the record. There is insufficient evidence contained in the file of depression or a cognitive dysfunction that is so severe that it would prevent claimant from working at any job. Claimant was oriented to time, person and place during the hearing. Claimant was able to answer all of the questions at the hearing and was responsive to the questions. The evidentiary record is insufficient to find that claimant suffers a severely restrictive mental impairment. For these reasons, this Administrative Law Judge finds that claimant has failed to meet his burden of proof at Step 2. Claimant must be denied benefits at this step based upon his failure to meet the evidentiary burden.

If claimant had not been denied at Step 2, the analysis would proceed to Step 3 where the medical evidence of claimant's condition does not give rise to a finding that he would meet a statutory listing in the code of federal regulations.

If claimant had not already been denied at Step 2, this Administrative Law Judge would have to deny him again at Step 4 based upon his ability to perform his past relevant work. There is no evidence upon which this Administrative Law Judge could base a finding that claimant is unable to perform work in which he has engaged in, in the past. Therefore, if claimant had not already been denied at Step 2, he would be denied a gain at Step 4.

The Administrative Law Judge will continue to proceed through the sequential evaluation process to determine whether or not claimant has the residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior jobs.

At Step 5, the burden of proof shifts to the department to establish that claimant does not have residual functional capacity.

The residual functional capacity is what an individual can do despite limitations. All impairments will be considered in addition to ability to meet certain demands of jobs in the national economy. Physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements and other functions will be evaluated.... 20 CFR 416.945(a).

To determine the physical demands (exertional requirements) of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium and 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).

**Light work.** Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walking or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls... 20 CFR 416.967(b).

Claimant has submitted insufficient objective medical evidence that he lacks the residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior employment or that he is physically unable to do light or sedentary tasks if demanded of him. Claimant's activities of daily living do not appear to be very limited and he should be able to perform light or sedentary work even with his impairments. Claimant has failed to provide the necessary objective medical evidence to establish that he has a severe impairment or combination of impairments which prevent him from performing any level of work for a period of 12 months. The claimant's testimony as to his limitations indicates that he should be able to perform light or sedentary work.

There is insufficient objective medical/psychiatric evidence contained in the file of depression or a cognitive dysfunction that is so severe that it would prevent claimant from working at any job. Claimant was able to answer all the questions at the hearing and was responsive to the questions. Claimant was oriented to time, person and place during the hearing. Claimant's complaints of pain, while profound and credible, are out of proportion to the objective medical evidence contained in the file as it relates to claimant's ability to perform work. Therefore, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the objective medical evidence on the record does not establish that claimant has no

residual functional capacity. Claimant is disqualified from receiving disability at Step 5 based upon the fact that he has not established by objective medical evidence that he cannot perform light or sedentary work even with his impairments. Under the Medical-Vocational guidelines, a younger individual (age 21), with a less than high school education and an unskilled work history who is limited to light work is not considered disabled.

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 Department has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it was acting in compliance with department policy when it determined that claimant was not eligible to receive Medical Assistance and/or State Disability Assistance.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department has appropriately established on the record that it was acting in compliance with department policy when it denied claimant's application for Medical Assistance, retroactive Medical Assistance and State Disability Assistance benefits. The claimant should be able to perform a wide range of light or sedentary work even with his impairments. The department has established its case by a preponderance of the evidence.

Accordingly, the department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

Landis

/s/

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Y. Lain  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 11, 2013

Date Mailed: March 11, 2013

**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.

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.

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

LYL/las

cc:

