

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg No.: 2012-52018
Issue No.: 2009, 4031
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 5, 2012
Macomb County DHS (12)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

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 hearing was held in [REDACTED], Michigan on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. The Claimant appeared and testified. The Claimant was represented by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Inc. Participating on behalf of the Department was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

During the hearing, the Claimant waived the time period for the issuance of this decision in order to allow for the submission of additional medical records. The evidence was received and forwarded to the State Hearing Review Team ("SHRT") for consideration. On December 20, 2012, this office received the SHRT determination which approved the Claimant for Medical Assistance based on disability ("MA-P") in accordance with a favorable determination by the Social Security Administration ("SSA").

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance ("MA-P") and State Disability Assistance ("DSA") benefit programs?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking SDA and MA-P benefits, retroactive to January 2012, on February 9, 2012.

2. On April 23, 2012, the Medical Review Team (“MRT”) found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit 1, pp. 67, 68)
3. The Department notified the Claimant of the MRT determination.
4. On May 21, 2012, the Department received the Claimant’s timely written request for hearing.
5. On July 26, 2012, the SHRT found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit 2)
6. On November 2, 2012, the SSA found the Claimant disabled.
7. On December 18, 2012, the SHRT found the Claimant disabled based on the favorable SSA determination.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act, 42 USC 1397, and is administered by the Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, 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 Tables (“RFT”).

A previously denied MA application is treated as a pending application when MRT determined the Claimant was not disabled and subsequently, the SSA determines that the Claimant is entitled to Retirement, Survivors, and Disability (“RSDI”) based on his disability/blindness for some, or all, of the time covered by the denied MA application. BEM 260 (October 2011), p.1. All eligibility factors must be met for each month MA is authorized. BEM 260, p. 2. To be automatically eligible for MA, a Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) recipient must be a Michigan resident and cooperate with third-party resource liability requirements. BEM 150 (June 2011), p. 1.

In this case, the SSA approved the Claimant for social security benefits which covers the dates requested on the Claimant’s MA-P application. Based on the favorable SSA determination, it is not necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to discuss the issue of disability pursuant to BEM 260; BEM 150.

The State Disability Assistance program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180. Department policies are found in BAM, BEM, and RFT. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental

impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

In this case, the Claimant is found disabled for purposes of the MA-P program; therefore, he is found disabled for purposes of SDA benefit program.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds that the Claimant meets the definition of medically disabled for purposes of the MA-P benefit programs.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

1. The Department's determination that the Claimant is not disabled is not upheld.
2. The Department shall initiate processing of the Claimant's February 9, 2012 application for SDA and MA-P benefits, retroactive to January 2012, to determine if all other non-medical criteria are met pursuant to Department policy based on the SHRT determination.
3. The Department shall notify the Claimant and his Authorized Hearing Representative of the determination in accordance with Department policy.
4. The Department shall supplement for lost benefits (if any) that the Claimant was entitled to receive if otherwise eligible and qualified in accordance with Department policy.

Colleen M. Mamelka

Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 9, 2013

Date Mailed: January 9, 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

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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.

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

CMM/tm

cc:

