

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201258768
Issue No: 4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 12, 2012
Genesee #25

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 September 12, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on his behalf. 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 SDA application on April 19, 2012 was denied on June 1, 2012 per BEM 261, with a hearing request on June 12, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 43, with a 6th grade education.
3. Claimant's last employment ended 2007 due to him quitting.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to medically diagnosed disorders of attention deficit hyperactive disorder, carpal tunnel syndrome, upper neck and lower back pain (DHS Ex A, p C101).
5. State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) decision dated July 28, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Ex A, p C100).

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

Facts above are undisputed.

DISABILITY

A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he:

- . receives other specified disability-related benefits or services, or
- . resides in a qualified Special Living Arrangement facility, or
- . is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability.
- .
- . is diagnosed as having Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- .
- . If the client's circumstances change so that the basis of his/her disability is no longer valid, determine if he/she meets any of the other disability criteria. Do NOT simply initiate case closure. BEM, Item 261, p. 1.

...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.

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).

Step 1 disability is not denied. The evidence of record established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activities since 2007.

Step 2 disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to do basic work activities for the required 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 burden of proof is on the claimant to establish disability in accordance with the 5 step process below. ...20 CFR 416.912(a).

...You must provide medical evidence showing that you have an impairment(s) and how severe it is during the time you say that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.912(c).

[In reviewing your impairment]...We need reports about your impairments from acceptable medical sources.... 20 CFR 416.913(a).

Acceptable medical sources about your impairments are an M.D. or D.O. or fully licensed psychologist. Medical reports would include:

- Your ability to do work-related activities such as sitting, standing, moving about, lifting, carrying, handling objects, hearing, speaking, and traveling.
- In cases of mental impairments, your ability to reason or make occupational, personal, or social adjustments. ...20 CFR 416.913(a)(c)(1) and (2).

The medical evidence of record established the Claimant's GAF score of 50 in January 2012 and 45 in May 2012. 50 is considered borderline non-severe/severe mental impairment of occupational functioning and 45 a severe mental impairment with occupational functioning. DSM-IV (4th edition-revised).

The medical evidence of record does not establish abnormal mental findings that persisted on repeated examinations of a reasonable presumption to be made that a severe impairment has lasted or expected to last for at least 90 continuous days.

The residual functional capacity (RFC) mental assessment report on April 30, 2012 states the Claimant is not significantly limited in ability to remember locations and work-like procedures, understand or remember one or two-set instructions, carry out simple one or two-step instructions (DHS Ex A, p C12).

The medical evidence on February 15, 2012 states the Claimant's physical examination revealed bilateral weak grips, with no muscle atrophy, poor discrimination of the thumbs to 4th fingers, positive Tinel's sign and EMG, for right CTS (DHS Ex A, p 60).

The medical report on May 7, 2012 states the Claimant can perform his past usual work with limitations and work at any job with limitations; and that the limitations are that the Claimant can sit for 2 hours at a stretch and walk for 1 hour (DHS Ex A, p 97).

The medical reports of record are mostly examination, diagnostic, treatment and progress reports and do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's basic work limitations for the required duration.

The Claimant has not sustained his burden of proof to establish a severe impairment, instead of a non-severe impairment, for the required duration, and therefore he cannot be considered disabled at Step 2, and the sequential analysis is required to discontinue.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 3. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's impairments meet/equal a Social Security listing for the required duration.

If Step 2 disability had not already been denied, Step 4 disability would also be denied. The medical evidence of record does not establish a severe impairment and inability to do past work.

At Step 5, the burden of proof shifts to the department to establish that claimant does 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...20CFR 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...20CFR 416.967.

Sedentary work. Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 lbs 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. 20CFR 416.967(a).

Under the Medical-Vocational guidelines, Rule 201.25 a younger individual age 43, with a 6th grade education and a semiskilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

The medical evidence of record does not establish the Claimant's inability to do any of his past work that is at least sedentary type work as a preparation cook and light work cooking.

Therefore, medical disability has not been established at Step 2 and also has not been established at Steps 3, 4 and 5 by the competent, material and subjective evidence on the whole record.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, SDA denial is **UPHELD**.

William A Sundquist

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

Date Signed: April 9, 2013

Date Mailed: April 9, 2013

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may or 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

WAS/las

cc:

