

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2012-61925  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 11, 2012  
Jackson 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 September 11, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her 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 MA-P application on February 28, 2012 was denied on May 2, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on June 4, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 35, with a 11<sup>th</sup> grade education and semi-skilled work experience as a cook in a deli store preparing and cooking food.
3. Claimant's last employment ended October 2010 due to medical reasons; and he became eligible for unemployment compensations benefits (UCB) with exhaustion in March 2011.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to medically diagnosed disorders of hip and low back pain, headaches, carpal tunnel syndrome, learning disability, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and personality disorder (DHS Ex A, p 100).

5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
  - a. April 11, 2011 and April 15, 2011 had a GAF score of 25 upon admission and 55 upon discharge (DHS Ex A, p 81-82).
  - b. August 23, 2011 had a GAF score of 30 (DHS Ex A, p 71).
  - c. November 14, 2011 and November 18, 2011 had a GAF score of 20 upon admission and 55 upon discharge (DHS Ex A, p 6-7).
  - d. December 3, 2011 had a GAF score of 66 (DHS Ex A, p 45).
  - e. December 5, 2011 had a GAF score of 61-65 (DHS Ex A, p 50).
  - f. December 21, 2011 and December 28, 2011 had a GAF score of 20 upon admission and 55 upon discharge (DHS Ex A, p 18).
6. State Hearing Review Team (SHRT ) report dated August 16, 2012 states the claimant's disorders don't meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Ex A, p 100).

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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 Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

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.

### **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 October, 2010.

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).

Claimant testified that before her arrival at the Department of Human Services (DHS) for her hearing she was able to leave her home, walk to her car, drive her car to the DHS, park the car across the street from the DHS building, walk to the DHS office, stand while she reported in for the hearing, take the elevator to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, reported in for the hearing, sat down while waiting to go to the hearing room, and finally walked to the

hearing room and sat down at a table for the hearing. She, also, said she could lift-carry 20 pounds; and that she could do sedentary physical acts done by her case worker sitting across the hearing room table.

If the Claimant has the RFC for sedentary type acts, she has the RFC for basic work activities.

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, and the sequential evaluation is required to discontinue.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, Step 3 disability would also be denied. The medical evidence on record, for the required duration, does not establish claimant's impairments meet/equal Social Security listed impairment.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 4. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's functional incapacity, despite her impairments, to perform any of her past work of the required one year continuous duration.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 5. The medical evidence on record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant was without a residual functional capacity (RFC), despite her impairments, to perform any other work in the National Economy for the required one year continuous duration.

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...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).

**Light work.** Light work involves lifting no more than 20 lbs at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 lbs. 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...20CFR 416.967(b).

Claimant is disqualified from receiving disability at Step 5 based upon the fact that she has not established by objective medical evidence that she cannot perform sedentary work even with her impairments. Under the Medical-Vocational Guidelines, Rule 201.25, a younger individual age 35, with an 11<sup>th</sup> grade education and a non-semi-skilled work history who is limited to sedentary is not considered disabled.

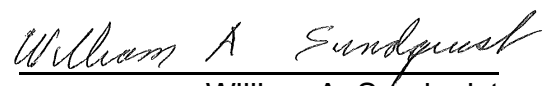
The medical evidence of record discussed under Step 2 establishes the Claimant's RFC for sedentary work.

Therefore, medical disability has not been established at Step 2 and also would not have 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, MA-P denial is **UPHELD**.



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

Date Signed: February 8, 2013

Date Mailed: February 8, 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

WAS/las

cc:

