

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201265433  
Issue No: 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 17, 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 October 17, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her behalf. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Was a recovered non-disability 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 last SDA approval was on January 2011.
2. On June 29, 2012, the Department of Human Services (DHS) terminated the Claimant's SDA based on a recovered non-disability per BEM 261, with a hearing request was on July 16, 2012.
3. Claimant was age 49, 10<sup>th</sup> grade education, and unskilled work history.
4. Claimant alleges continued disability due to a mental impairment of bipolar disorder (DHS Exhibit A, page 84).
5. Medical reports since claimant's last SDA approval state the claimant on:
  - a. April 10, 2012 has fair insight and judgment; and that attention deficit disorder is ruled out (DHS Ex A, p 10).
  - b. April 10, 2012 states the claimant's current GAF score of 55 (DHS Ex A, p 16).

- c. June 12, 2012 Mental Residual Functional Capacity assessment states claimant does not significantly limited and moderately limited in understanding and memory, sustained concentration and persistence, social interaction, adaptation markedly limited in only one category-ability to maintain attention and concentration for extended periods (DHS Ex A, p 5-6).
- d. June 12, 2012 has a current GA F score of 57 and last year of 57 (DHS Ex A, p 8).

### **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" 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.

...Ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. In most instances, we must show that you are able to engage in substantial gainful activity before your benefits are stopped. When doing this, we will consider all your current impairments not just that impairment(s) present at the time of the most recent favorable determination.... 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(v).

...To assure that disability reviews are carried out in a uniform manner, that a decision of continuing disability can be made in the most expeditious and administratively efficient way, and that any decision to stop disability benefits are made objectively, neutrally and are fully documented, we will follow specific steps in reviewing the question of whether your disability continues. Our review may cease and benefits may be continued at any point if we determine there is sufficient evidence to find that you are still unable to engage in substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5). We will follow the specific steps in the federal guidelines in reviewing.

The steps are:

Step 1. Do you have an impairment or combination of impairments which meets or equals the severity of an impairment listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of Part 404 of this chapter? If you do, your disability will be found to continue. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(i).

Step 2. If you do not, has there been a medical improvement as defined in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section? If there has been medical improvement as shown by a decrease in medical severity, see Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section. If there has been no decrease in medical severity, there has been no medical improvement. (see Step 4 in paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section.) 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(ii).

Step 3. If there has been medical improvement, we must determine whether it is related to your ability to do work in accordance with paragraphs (b)(1)(I) through (b)(1)(iv) of this section; i.e., whether or not there has been an increase in the residual functional capacity based on the impairment(s) that was present at the time of the most recent favorable medical determination. If medical improvement is not related

to your ability to do work, see Step 5 in paragraph (b)(5)(v) of this section. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(iii).

Step 4. If we found in Step 2 in paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section that there has been no medical improvement or if we found at Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section that the medical improvement is not related to your ability to work, we consider whether any of the exceptions in paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) of this section apply. If none of them apply, your disability will be found to continue. If any of the first group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, see Step 5 in paragraph (b)(5)(v) of this section. If an exception from the second group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, your disability will be found to have ended. The second group of exceptions to medical improvement may be considered at any point in this process. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(iv).

Step 5. If medical improvement is shown to be related to your ability to do work or if any of the first group of exceptions to medical improvement applies, we will determine whether all your current impairments in combination are severe (see Sec. 416.921). This determination will consider all your current impairments and the impact of the combination of these impairments on your ability to function. If the residual functional capacity assessment in Step 3 in paragraph (b)(5)(iii) of this section shows significant limitation to your ability to do basic work activities, see Step 6 in paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section. When the evidence shows that all your current impairments in combination do not significantly limit your physical or mental abilities to do basic work activities, these impairments will not be considered severe in nature. If so, you will no longer be considered disabled. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(v).

Step 6. If your impairment(s) is severe, we will assess your current ability to engage in substantial gainful activity in accordance with 416.961. That is, we will assess your residual functional capacity based on all your current impairments and consider whether you can still do work that you have done in the past. If you can do such work, disability will be found to have ended. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(vi).

Step 7. If you are not able to do work you have done in the past, we will consider one final step. Given the residual functional capacity assessment and considering your age, education, and past work experience, can you do other

work? If you can, disability will be found to have ended. If you cannot, disability will be found to continue. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(5)(vii).

At Step 1 continued eligibility is denied. The medical evidence of record does not establish Claimant's impairment's meet/equal a Social Security listing.

At Step 2 the evidence of record establishes Claimant's medical improvement by a decrease in medical severity. The evidence of record, establishes a medical improvement. Therefore the analysis continues to Step 3.

At Step 3, the evidence of record establishes the medical improvement was related to Claimant's ability to perform basic work activities, as defined below.

**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).

Therefore, the analysis continues to Step 5.

Claimant testified that she is mentally unable to work due to her medications which causes her dizziness and wooliness.

The medical evidence of record shows the Claimant's GAF score of 55 in April 2012 and 57 in June 2011 and June 2012. These scores are considered a moderate mental impairment (not severe) with occupational-functioning. DSM-IV (4<sup>th</sup> edition-revised).

The RFC assessed as not "significantly limited" and "moderately limited" in understanding and memory, sustained concentration and persistence, social interaction, adaption, and markedly limiting in one category-ability to maintain attention and concentration for extended periods.

This ALJ finds no evidence of record to support the Claimant's claim that she is unable to work related to her medications.

At Step 5 the medical evidence of record establishes that the Claimant's current mental impairment due to medications does not significantly limit her mental abilities to do basic work activities as defined below.

...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).

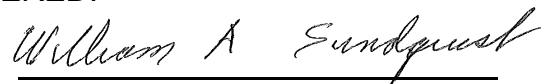
Claimant's impairment can no longer be considered severe and, therefore, no longer be considered disabled.

Therefore, medical recovery has been established at Step 5 by a 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 medical recovery has been medically established.

Accordingly, SDA termination **UPHELD**, and so ORDERED.



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

Date Signed: February 12, 2013

Date Mailed: February 12, 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.

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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:

