

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201322307

Issue No: 2009

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Midland 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, an in person hearing was held on [REDACTED]. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her behalf.

ISSUE

Was disability, as defined below, medically established for the period of [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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 (3 months retro) application [REDACTED] was denied on [REDACTED] per BEM 260, with a hearing request on [REDACTED]. Claimant was approved for SSI on [REDACTED] with an onset date of [REDACTED]
2. Vocational factors: Age [REDACTED] with a high school or more education, and unskilled/ semiskilled/skilled work experience.
3. Claimant's last employment ended three years ago.
4. Claimant's alleged disabling symptoms are chronic pain in feet, back, hips and limited to lifting/carrying 10-15 pounds.
5. Medical reports of exams state the claimant on:

- a. Is well-nourished and in no apparent distress; that musculoskeletal her strength is 5/5; that cranial nerves II-XII are grossly intact. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 144)
- b. [REDACTED]: Has a stable condition with no emergent problems; that she may ambulate and should avoid any *heavy* lifting, pushing, or exertion for four weeks following surgery. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 146).
- c. [REDACTED]: Has a stable condition. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 126).
- d. [REDACTED]: Her lower extremity reflexes are *intact*; that she has muscle strength and decreased range of motion in the left lower extremity, but sensation is *intact*; that she has *normal* right lower extremity muscle strength and *normal* reflexes; that her upper extremity has *normal* strength and reflexes. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 13).
- e. [REDACTED]: Has an abnormal gait and station with an assistive device on left lower extremity; that cranial nerves are *normal*; that reflexes are normal; she has no sensory deficits. (DS Exhibit A, Pg. 79).
- f. [REDACTED]: Is musculoskeletal *normal*; that she is neurologically *normal*. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 82).
- g. [REDACTED]: Has a *stable* condition. (DHS Exhibit A, Pg. 157).
- h. [REDACTED]: Had a *negative* bilateral straight leg raising in a sitting position; that she has very mild/subtle leg length discrepancy with right leg shorter than the left leg; that she can walk with a wobbly gait without any assistive device. (DHS Exhibit A, Pgs. 16-17).

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.

...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).

The claimant had the burden of proof to establish disability in accordance with steps 1-4 above... 20CFR 416.912 (a). The burden of proof shifts to the DHS at Step 5... 20CFR 416.960 (c)(2).

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

Acceptable medical verification sources are licensed physicians, osteopaths, or certified psychologists ...20CFR 416.913(a)

...The medical evidence...must be complete and detailed enough to allow us to make a determination about whether you are disabled or blind. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

It must allow us to determine --

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

Step 1

...If you are working and the work you are doing is substantial gainful activity, we will find that you are not disabled regardless of your medical condition or your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b).

The evidence of record established that the claimant has not engaged in substantial gainful activity since three years ago. Therefore, the sequential evaluation is required to continue to the next step.

Step 2

... [The record must show a severe impairment] which significantly limits your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities.... 20 CFR 416.920(c).

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).

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).

...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).

The medical reports of record are mostly examination, diagnostic, treatment and progress reports. They do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's basic work limitations for the required duration. Stated differently, the medical reports do not establish whether the Claimant is impaired minimally, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above.

The claimants disabling symptoms (Findings of Fact #4) are inconsistent with the objective medical evidence of record (Findings of Fact #6).

...Your symptoms, including pain, will be determined to diminish your capacity for basic work activities...to the extent that your alleged functional limitations and restrictions due to symptoms, such as pain, can reasonably be accepted as consistent with the objective medical evidence and other evidence. 20 CFR 416.929(c)(4).

...Statements about your pain or other symptoms will not alone establish that you are disabled; there must be medical signs and laboratory findings which show that you have a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

The medical reports (Findings of Fact #6) state that Claimant's examinations were normal; that her impairment were minimal to moderate (not severe); and that her condition is stable (not deteriorating).

Step 3

...If you have an impairment(s) which meets the duration requirement and is listed in Appendix 1 or is equal to a listed impairment(s), we will find you disabled without considering your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(d).

For each of the major body systems, the List of Impairments describes impairments which are considered severe enough to prevent a person from doing any substantial gainful activity. Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or make a specific statement of duration. (20 CFR 404.1525 and 416.925).

The Claimant introduced no objective medical evidence of record that her impairments meets/equals a social security listing for the required duration. The SHRT physician agreed.

Step 4

...If we cannot make a decision on your current work activities or medical facts alone and you have a severe impairment, we will then review your residual functional capacity and the physical and mental demands of the work you have done in the past. If you can still do this kind of work, we will find that you are not disabled. 20 CFR 416.920(e).

...We consider that your work experience applies when it was done within the last 15 years, lasted long enough for you to learn to do it, and was substantial gainful activity. We do not usually consider that work you did 15 year or more before the time we are deciding whether you are disabled applies.... 20 CFR 416.965(a).

The claimant introduced no objective medical evidence of a severe impairment for the required one year continuous duration under Step 2 and inability to perform past work under Step 4.

Step 5

If you cannot do any work you have done in the past because you have a severe impairment(s), we will consider your residual functional capacity and your age, education, and past work experience to see if you can do other work. If you cannot, we will find you disabled. 20 CFR 416.920(f)(1).

...Your residual functional capacity is what you can still do despite limitations. If you have more than one impairment,

we will consider all of your impairment(s) of which we are aware. We will consider your ability to meet certain demands of jobs, such as physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements, and other functions, as described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section. Residual functional capacity is an assessment based on all of the relevant evidence.... 20 CFR 416.945(a).

...To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very 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).

Younger person. If you are under age 50, we generally do not consider that your age will seriously affect your ability to adapt to a new work situation.... 20 CFR 416.963(b).

...If you are unemployed because of your age and you can still do a significant number of jobs which exist in the national economy, we will find that you are not disabled.... 20 CFR 416.963(a).

The Claimant introduced no objective medical evidence under Step 4 of inability to do past work (Findings of Fact #2). This ALJ finds that the Claimant should be able to do less strenuous work than her past work, such as sedentary type work, as defined above.

Under the medical-vocational guidelines, Rule 201.21, a younger person aged 48 with a high school or more education and, an previous unskilled/semiskilled/skilled work history that is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

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 substantial 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** and so ORDERED.

/S/

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

Date Signed: 06/11/2013

Date Mailed: 06/11/2013

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.

WAS/hj

cc:

