

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201327362
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 5, 2013
County: Macomb DHS (36)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held on August 5, 2013, from Sterling Heights, Michigan. Participants included the above-named Claimant. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] testified and appeared as Claimant's authorized hearing representative (AHR). Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], Specialist.

ISSUE

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) based on a finding that Claimant was not disabled.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On February 3, 2010, Claimant applied for MA benefits, including retroactive MA benefits from November 2009.
2. Claimant's only basis for MA benefits was as a disabled individual.
3. On September 14, 2012, the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual.
4. On an unspecified date, DHS denied Claimant's application for MA benefits and mailed a Notice of Case Action informing Claimant of the denial.

5. On January 21, 2013, Claimant's AHR requested a hearing disputing the denial of MA benefits.
6. On April 7, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual, in part, by application of Medical-Vocational Rule 202.20.
7. On unspecified dates in 2010, 2011 and 2012, Claimant applied for Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits and was denied based on a determination that she was not disabled.

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). DHS (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) 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 Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Prior to a substantive analysis of Claimant's hearing request, it should be noted that Claimant's AHR noted special arrangements in order to participate in the hearing; specifically, an in-person hearing was requested. Claimant's AHR's request was granted and the hearing was conducted accordingly.

MA provides medical assistance to individuals and families who meet financial and nonfinancial eligibility factors. The goal of the MA program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise would not have financial resources to purchase them.

The Medicaid program is comprised of several sub-programs which fall under one of two categories; one category is FIP-related and the second category is SSI-related. BEM 105 (10/2010), p. 1. To receive MA under an SSI-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. *Id.* Families with dependent children, caretaker relatives of dependent children, persons under age 21 and pregnant, or recently pregnant, women receive MA under FIP-related categories. *Id.* AMP is an MA program available to persons not eligible for Medicaid through the SSI-related or FIP-related categories though DHS does always offer the program to applicants. It was not disputed that Claimant's only potential category for Medicaid eligibility would be as a disabled individual.

Disability for purposes of MA benefits is established if one of the following circumstances applies (see BEM 260 (7/2012), pp. 1-2):

- by death (for the month of death);
- the applicant receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits;
- SSI benefits were recently terminated due to financial factors;

- the applicant receives Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) on the basis of being disabled; or
- RSDI eligibility is established following denial of the MA benefit application (under certain circumstances).

There was no evidence that any of the above circumstances apply to Claimant. Accordingly, Claimant may not be considered for Medicaid eligibility without undergoing a medical review process, which determines whether Claimant is a disabled individual. (see *Id.*, p. 2).

Eligibility for MA based on disability or blindness does not exist once SSA's determination is final. *Id.*, p. 3. SSA's determination that disability or blindness does not exist for SSI is final for MA if:

- The determination was made after 1/1/90, and
- No further appeals may be made at SSA; or
- The client failed to file an appeal at any step within SSA's 60 day limit, and
- The client is not claiming:
 - A totally different disabling condition than the condition SSA based its determination on, or
 - An additional impairment(s) or change or deterioration in his condition that SSA has not made a determination on.

Id., pp. 3-4.

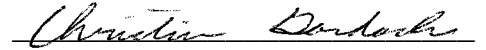
SSA decisions of disability, favorable or unfavorable, are binding on DHS. It was not disputed that Claimant sought SSA benefits based on disability on unspecified dates in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Claimant conceded that she was denied on each occasion. Claimant also conceded that the denials were based on findings that she was not disabled. Claimant stated that she reapplied rather than appealed the denials.

Because the SSA decisions were issued after Claimant alleged a disability with the State of Michigan, it is presumed that the SSA application denials factored all issues that were the basis for the claim of disability for MA benefits; in fact, Claimant conceded the issue.

Based on the presented evidence, it is found that the SSA determinations of disability are binding on Claimant's MA benefit application. Accordingly, the denial of Claimant's application based on a determination that Claimant was not disabled is found to be proper.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS properly denied Claimant's MA benefit application dated February 3, 2010, including retroactive MA from November 2009, based on a determination that Claimant is not disabled. The actions taken by DHS are **AFFIRMED**.


Christian Gardocki
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 21, 2013

Date Mailed: August 21, 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 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.

201327362/CG

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

CG/aca

cc:

