

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2013-63666
Issue No(s): 2009, 4009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 5, 2013
County: Lenawee County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 5, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

During the hearing, the Claimant waived the time period for the issuance of this decision, in order to allow for the submission of additional medical records and documentation of the approval from the Claimant's recent Social Security Hearing. While medical records were not received, the Department has submitted a SOLQ Report documenting the Claimant's approval for Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and/or State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit programs?

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 May 1, 2013, the Claimant applied for MA and SDA.
2. On July 26, 2013, the Medical Review Team (MRT) found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit A, pages 4-5)
3. The Department notified the Claimant of the MRT determination.

4. On August 14, 2013, the Department received the Claimant's timely written request for hearing.
5. On October 10, 2013, the State Hearings Review Team (S HRT) found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit B)
6. The Claimant alleged physical disabling impairments including: shingles with complications, including neuralgia; possible fibromyalgia; arthritis; irritable bowel syndrome; severe headaches; and carpal tunnel syndrome.
7. The Claimant has not alleged any mental disabling impairment(s).
8. At the time of the hearing, the Claimant was 52 years old with a [REDACTED] birth date; was 5'3" or 5'4"; and weighed 190 pounds.
9. The Claimant completed the 12th grade and has some college credits.
10. The Claimant has an employment history of retail and factory work.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act, 42 USC 1397, and is administered by the Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, 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 Tables (RFT).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180. Department policies are found in BAM, BEM, and RFT. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

A person eligible for Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits based on disability or blindness meets the disability or blindness criteria. BEM 260 (7/1/2012), p. 1. Disability or blindness starts from the RSDI disability onset date established by the SSA. BEM 260, p. 1. A previously denied application is treated as if it is a pending application when the reason for the denial was that the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined the individual was not disabled and subsequently the Social Security Administration (SSA) finds the individual entitled to RSDI based on disability for some or all the time covered by the denied MA application. BEM 260, p. 1. If a client is not eligible for RSDI based on disability or blindness, the Medical Review Team certifies disability or blindness. BEM 260, p. 2.

To be automatically eligible for MA, an SSI recipient must be a Michigan resident and cooperate with third-party resource liability requirements. BEM 150 (3/1/2013), p. 1. Ongoing MA eligibility begins the first day of the month of SSI entitlement. BEM 150, p. 1. Retro MA coverage is available back to the first day of the third calendar month prior to entitlement for SSI. BAM 115 (5/1/2013), p. 9. A separate determination of eligibility must be made for each of the three retro months. BAM 115, p. 10. To be eligible for a retro MA month, the person must meet all financial and non-financial (i.e., be disabled) factors in that month and have unpaid medical expense incurred during the month or have been entitled to Medicare Part A. BAM 115, p. 11. A DHS-1171 (application) is not required for SSI recipients. BAM 115, p. 8.

In this case, the Department has submitted a SOLQ Report documenting the Claimant's approval for RSDI benefits with an onset date of August 20, 2012. (Exhibit C) Because of the Social Security Administration determination of a disability onset date prior the date of the Claimant's application for Medicaid and SDA, May 1, 2013, it is not necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to discuss the issue of disability.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds Claimant disabled for purposes of the MA and/or SDA benefit program.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. The Department shall initiate processing of the May 1, 2013, MA application, to determine if all other non-medical criteria are met and inform Claimant of the determination in accordance with Department policy.
2. The Department shall supplement for lost benefits (if any) that Claimant was entitled to receive, if otherwise eligible and qualified in accordance with Department policy.

/s/ _____
Colleen Lack
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 20, 2013

Date Mailed: December 23, 2013

NOTICE OF APPEAL: 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

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).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

CL/hj

cc:

