

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg No: 2013-19613

Issue No: 2009

[REDACTED]  
Monroe County DHS-00

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Aaron McClintic

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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 testified. Claimant's Authorized Hearings Representative IMN through [REDACTED] also appeared for the Claimant. The Department was represented by [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance application?

**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 applied for MA-P on [REDACTED] with a request for retroactive coverage back to [REDACTED].
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on [REDACTED].
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing on [REDACTED] regarding the MA denial.
4. An in person hearing was held on [REDACTED].
5. On [REDACTED] the State Hearing Review Team determined that Claimant retains the capacity to perform sedentary exertional tasks. Based on that the Department found Claimant eligible for MA-P and SDA as of [REDACTED], the day she reached age 50. Prior to [REDACTED] Claimant was found not eligible for MA-P and SDA.

6. Claimant is 5' 1" tall and weighs 135 pounds having gained 35 pounds in the last year.
7. Claimant is 50 years of age.
8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as degenerative disc disease, ruptured disc, PTSD, depression, anxiety and asthma.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue, shortness of breath, insomnia, panic attacks, memory and concentration problems.
10. Claimant completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
11. Claimant is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
12. Claimant is not working. Claimant last worked full time in [REDACTED] providing home care.
13. Claimant lives with her husband.
14. Claimant testified that she cannot perform household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
  - a. Tramadol
  - b. Neurontin
  - c. Flexeril
  - d. Wellbutrin
  - e. Ibuprofen
  - f. Albuterol
16. Claimant testified to experiencing pain at a high level of 8 on an everyday basis with some pain always present at a low level of 5.
17. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
  - i. Sitting: 10 minutes
  - ii. Standing: 20 minutes
  - iii. Walking: 1/2 blocks
  - iv. Bend/stoop: no difficulty
  - v. Lifting: 8 lbs.
  - vi. Grip/grasp: no limitations
18. In April 2013 Claimant was found to have a GAF score of 55 with diagnoses of PTSD and mood disorder.

19. An MRI of Claimant's lumbosacral spine showed evidence of an L5-S1 disk herniation with abutment of the traversing L5 nerve root.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

The Medical Assistance (MA-P) 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 administers the MA-P 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 Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the MA-P program. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...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.

Federal regulations require that the department use the same operative definition for "disabled" as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

"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.

In determining whether an individual is disabled, 20 CFR 416.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity, the severity of the impairment(s), residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are assessed in that order. When a determination that

an individual is or is not disabled can be made at any step in the sequential evaluation, evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if the individual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, the Claimant is not working, therefore, the Claimant is not disqualified at this step in the evaluation.

The second step to be determined in considering whether the Claimant is considered disabled is whether the severity of the impairment. In order to qualify the impairment must be considered severe which is defined as an impairment which significantly limits an individual's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. Examples of these include:

1. Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, 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).

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant meets listing 1.04 or its equivalent. The testimony of Claimant's treating therapist supports this position. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that Claimant meets the requirements of the listing. Claimant has other significant health problems that were not fully addressed in this decision because Claimant is found to meet a listing for a different impairment.

Therefore, Claimant is found to be disabled.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled as of [REDACTED]

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **REVERSED** and the Department is **ORDERED** to initiate a review of the application for MA and Retro MA dated [REDACTED]

████, if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility. The Department shall inform Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case shall be set for █████ █████



**Aaron McClintic**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 05/23/2013

Date Mailed: 05/23/2013

**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.

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

CC:

