

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 20132073
Issue No.: 2009, 4031
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 23, 2013
County: Lenawee

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 on January 23, 2013. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on her behalf. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Was disability, as defined below, 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 MA-P/SDA application on June 6, 2012 was denied on September 25, 2012 per BEM 260/261, with a hearing request on October 2, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 47, with a 7th grade education, and past work experience as an unskilled Meijer deli employee, and placement of advertising flyers into a weekly newspaper.
3. Claimant's last employment ended at the end July 26, 2011.
4. Claimant's diagnosed medical impairment are arthritis, degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease (DHS Exhibit A, Page 33).
5. Claimant's disabling symptoms are especially in cold environments pain in mid-back, shoulders, hips, legs, feet and less pain in warm weather.

6. Medical exams states that the Claimant on:
 - a. August 18, 2011, has **moderate** mid-lower cervical spondosis; that she has **moderate** central canal stenosis at C6-7; that she has **mild** central canal stenosis at C5-6; that she has **mild to moderate** cervical facet hypertrophy (DHS Exhibit A, Page 14).
 - b. May 16, 2012, her condition is deteriorating; that she has low range of motion in neck, shoulders, and arms (DHS Exhibit A, Page 13).
 - c. August 10, 2012, has joint and muscle pain; that musculoskeletally she has no presence of back or calf pain; that motor exam was **normal**; that she had full range of motion in upper and lower extremities and spine; that there is no muscle atrophy present (DHS Exhibit A, Page 17).
7. State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) report dated November 27, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal Social Security listing for the required duration (DHS Exhibit A, Page 81).

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 Program Administrative Manual (BAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

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 416.912(a).

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).

Step 1 disability is not denied. The objective medical evidence of record establishes the Claimant has not engaged in substantial gainful activities since July 26, 2011. Therefore, the sequential evaluation is required to continue to the next step.

Step 2 disability is denied. The objective medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional physical incapacity

to do basic work activities due to a severe physical impairment in combination, but not for the required one year continuous duration, as defined below.

Therefore, the sequential evaluation is not required to continue to the next step.

Severe/Non-Severe Impairment

...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).

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).

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).

SEVERE IMPAIRMENT

To qualify for MA-P, claimant must first satisfy both the gainful work and the duration criteria (20 CFR 416.920(a)) before further review under severity criteria. If claimant does not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits physical or mental ability to do basic

work activities, an ultimately favorable disability determination cannot result. (20 CFR 416.920(c)).

The burden of proof is on the Claimant to establish disability based on the objective medical evidence of record, as defined above. ...20 CFR 416.912(a).

...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).

Therefore, the sequential evaluation is not required to continue to the next step.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, it would have been denied at Step 3. The objective medical evidence of record, for the required duration, does not establish the Claimant's severe physical impairment meet/equal Social Security listed impairment. Therefore, the sequential evaluation would be required to continue to the next step.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, it would have been denied at Step 4. The objective medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's functional physical incapacity, despite his impairments, to perform any of his past work (Findings of Fact #5) for the required one year continuous duration. Therefore, the sequential evaluation is not required to continue to the next step.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, it would have been denied at Step 5. At this step the burden of truth shifts to the Department of Human Services (DHS)....20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(v). To establish the Claimant's residual functional capacity (RFC) for other work in the National Economy.

...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).

Under Step 4, the Claimant introduced no objective medical evidence of record of an inability to perform any of his past work. Therefore, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds that Claimant should not have a RFC to perform less strenuous type work, than past work, such as sedentary work, as defined above.

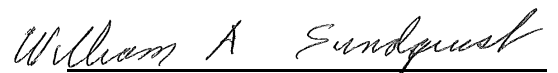
The department's Bridges Eligibility Manual contains the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the State Disability Assistance program: to receive State Disability Assistance, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person or age 65 or older. BEM, Item 261, p. 1. Because the claimant does not meet the definition of disabled under the MA-P program and because the evidence of record does not establish that claimant is unable to work for a period exceeding 90 days, the claimant does not meet the disability criteria for State Disability Assistance benefits either.

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 that disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, MA-P/SDA denial is **UPHELD**.



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

Date Signed: February 6, 2013

Date Mailed: February 6, 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.

201320733/WAS

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.

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/tb

cc:

