

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████

Reg No: 201329431  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: ██████████  
Hearing Date: June 20, 2013  
Kent 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, a telephone hearing was held on June 20, 2013. Claimant appeared and testified. ██████████, served as translator. The Department was represented by, Lakeitha Walker, and, Susan Verheek.

**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 October 3, 2012 with a request for retroactive coverage back to July 2012.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on January 25, 2013.
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing on February 11, 2013, regarding the MA-P denial.
4. A telephone hearing was held on June 20, 2013.
5. On April 30, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team denied the application because the medical evidence, or record, indicates that the Claimant retains the capacity to perform light work.
6. Claimant is 4' 11" tall, and weighs 187.
7. Claimant is 55 years of age.

8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as blindness, diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, and neck tumor.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness, fatigue, and pain.
10. Claimant completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
11. Claimant is not able to read, write, and perform basic math skills in English.
12. Claimant is not working. Claimant last worked in 2010, as a housekeeper.
13. Claimant lives with her daughter.
14. Claimant testified that she cannot perform some household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
  - a. Insulin
  - b. Metformin
  - c. Coumadin
  - d. Omeprazole
  - e. Norvasc
  - f. Metroprolol
  - g. Tramadol
16. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
  - a. Sitting: 15 minutes
  - b. Standing: 15 minutes
  - c. Walking: 100 feet
  - d. Bend/stoop: no difficulty
  - e. Lifting: 25-30 lbs.
  - f. Grip/grasp: no limitations
17. An eye examination report dated February 28, 2013 showed best corrected visual acuity as follows: Right eye: count fingers @ 1 foot, Left eye: Light perception, visual field: abnormal all quadrants both eyes. Based on this information the patient is considered legally blind.

### **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

201329431/AM

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 2.02 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 July 2012.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **REVERSED** and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application for MA dated October 3, 2012, 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 July 2014.



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

Date Signed: 07/12/2013

Date Mailed: 07/15/2013

**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

201329431/AM

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 affect the substantial rights of the claimant,
  - 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

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cc: [REDACTED]  
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