

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-2751  
Issue No(s): 4009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 12, 2014  
County: Genesee-02

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Vicki L. Armstrong

**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 February 12, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Claimant appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing's Coordinator [REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's State Disability Assistance (SDA) 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. On July 1, 2013, Claimant filed an application for SDA benefits alleging disability.
2. On September 12, 2013, the Medical Review Team (MRT) denied Claimant's application for SDA for lack of duration. (Depart Ex. A, pp 3-4).
3. On September 19, 2013, the department caseworker sent Claimant notice that her application for SDA had been denied.
4. On October 1, 2013, Claimant filed a request for a hearing to contest the department's negative action.
5. On November 13, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) found Claimant was not disabled and retained the capacity to perform light work. (Depart Ex. B).

6. Claimant was appealing the denial of Social Security disability benefits at the time of the hearing.
7. Claimant is a 40 year old woman whose birthday is [REDACTED]. Claimant is 5'10" tall and weighs 217 lbs.
8. Claimant does not have an alcohol or drug problem. She is in the process of quitting smoking and is down to 2 cigarettes a day.
9. Claimant has a driver's license and is able to drive.
10. Claimant has a high school equivalent education.
11. Claimant is not currently working. Claimant last worked in July, 2012.
12. Claimant alleges disability on the basis of degenerative disc disease, chronic hepatitis C, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hyperlipidemia, rheumatoid arthritis, a tumor in her inner ear, vertigo, nausea, insomnia, sciatica, depression and anxiety.
13. Claimant's impairments have lasted, or are expected to last, continuously for a period of twelve months or longer.
14. Claimant's complaints and allegations concerning her impairments and limitations, when considered in light of all objective medical evidence, as well as the record as a whole, reflect an individual who is so impaired as to be incapable of engaging in any substantial gainful activity on a regular and continuing basis.

### **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 Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Current legislative amendments to the Act delineate eligibility criteria as implemented by department policy set forth in program manuals. 2004 PA 344, Sec. 604, establishes the State Disability Assistance program. It reads in part:

Sec. 604 (1) The department shall operate a state disability assistance program. Except as provided in subsection (3), persons eligible for this program shall include needy citizens of the United States or aliens exempt from the Supplemental Security Income citizenship requirement who are at least 18

years of age or emancipated minors meeting one or more of the following requirements:

(b) A person with a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards, except that the minimum duration of the disability shall be 90 days. Substance abuse alone is not defined as a basis for eligibility.

Specifically, this Act provides minimal cash assistance to individuals with some type of severe, temporary disability which prevents him or her from engaging in substantial gainful work activity for at least ninety (90) days.

"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. [SDA = 90 day duration].

[As Judge] We are responsible for making the determination or decision about whether you meet the statutory definition of disability. In so doing, we review all of the medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

Claimant's treating physician completed a Medical Needs-Path form for the Department in April, 2013. The physician indicated Claimant could not work at her prior job or any job for 6 months. She was limited to lifting less than 10 pounds occasionally, and standing less than 2 hours and sitting less than 6 hours in an 8 hour work day.

In July, 2013, Claimant's treating physician completed a Medical Examination Report on behalf of the Department. The physician indicated Claimant is limited in sustained concentration, memory and social interaction. The physician opined that Claimant is unable to meet her needs in the home.

The credible testimony and medical records submitted at hearing verify Claimant was legally disabled for ninety (90) days. Moreover, Claimant's treating physician opined that Claimant is disabled for 6 months beginning in April, 2013, and as of July, 2013, was no longer able to meet her own needs in the home. Because Claimant's treating physician's opinion is well supported by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques, it has controlling weight. 20 CFR 404.1527(d)(2). As such, the department's denial of SDA pursuant to Claimant's July 1, 2013, SDA application cannot be upheld.

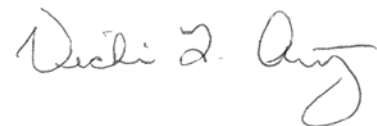
**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the department erred in determining Claimant is not currently disabled for SDA eligibility purposes.

Accordingly, the department's decision is **REVERSED**, and it is ORDERED that:

1. The department shall process Claimant's July 1, 2013, SDA application, and shall award her all the benefits she may be entitled to receive, as long as she meets the remaining financial and non-financial eligibility factors.
2. The department shall review Claimant's medical condition for improvement in June, 2014, unless her Social Security Administration disability status is approved by that time.
3. The department shall obtain updated medical evidence from Claimant's treating physicians, physical therapists, pain clinic notes, etc. regarding her continued treatment, progress and prognosis at review.

**It is SO ORDERED.**



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Vicki L. Armstrong  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 3, 2014

Date Mailed: March 3, 2014

**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

VLA/las

cc:

