

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.:
Issue No.:
Case No.:
Hearing Date:
County:

[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

HEARING DECISION

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, upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 12, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included the Claimant and her guardian [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance and State Disability applications?

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Claimant applied for MA-P and SDA on June 13, 2013.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on October 7, 2013.
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing on November 1, 2013, regarding the MA and SDA denials.
4. A telephone hearing was held on March 12, 2014.
5. On January 9, 2014, the State Hearing Review Team denied the application because the medical evidence of record indicates that the Claimant retains the capacity to perform unskilled work.
6. Claimant is 5' 6" tall and weighs 170 pounds.

7. Claimant is 54 years of age.
8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as depression, left arm paralysis, low back pain, bipolar disorder and anxiety.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue, insomnia, memory and concentration problems, suicide attempts, and crying spells.
10. Claimant completed 10th grade and a GED.
11. Claimant is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
12. Claimant is not working. Claimant last worked in 2010 as a stocker.
13. Claimant lives with her sister.
14. Claimant testified that she cannot perform some household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
 - a. Simvastatin
 - b. Seroquel
 - c. Citalopram
 - d. Trazodone
 - e. hydrocodone
16. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
 - i. Sitting: 120 minutes
 - ii. Standing: 25 minutes
 - iii. Walking: 3 blocks
 - iv. Bend/stoop: some difficulty
 - v. Lifting: 10 lbs.
 - vi. Grip/grasp: no limitations
17. In a psychological evaluation dated September 5, 2013, Claimant was found to have a GAF score of 55 with diagnosis of bipolar I disorder, most recent episode mixed. Claimant's prognosis was found to be guarded regarding future employment status.
18. In the psychological evaluation dated September 5, 2013, the examining psychologist stated the following under DISCUSSION OF THE FOUR WORK RELATED MENTAL ABILITIES AND CAPABILITY TO MANAGE FUNDS: "1. Ms. [REDACTED] is not believed to have the mental ability to relate to others; including fellow workers, supervisors, and the general public in a work related environment. 2.

Ms. [REDACTED] mental ability to understand, remember and carry out simple tasks is within normal limits. Her physical limitations may interfere with her performance. 3. Ms. [REDACTED] does not have the mental ability to learn and work independently as evidences by prior work history and current guardianship status. 4. Ms. [REDACTED] ability to maintain her attention, concentration, persistence and pace when performing routine, well learned tasks is moderately impaired. 5. Ms. [REDACTED] ability to withstand the stress and pressures associated with day to day work is markedly impaired due to her mental health status. 6. Ms. [REDACTED] is not believed to be capable of independently managing her finances given her guardianship status.”

19. Claimant testified to experiencing pain at a high level of 7 on an everyday basis.
20. Claimant had a 10 day psychiatric admission in July 2013.

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).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

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 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, the Claimant’s medical evidence of record supports a finding that Claimant has significant physical and mental limitations upon Claimant’s ability to perform basic work activities such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling. Medical evidence has clearly established that the Claimant has

an impairment (or combination of impairments) that has more than a minimal effect on the Claimant's work activities. See Social Security Rulings: 85-28, 88-13, and 82-63.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant meets listing 12.04 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 June 2013.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **REVERSED** and the Department is ORDERED to:

1. Initiate a review of the application for SDA and MA dated June 13, 2013, if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility.
2. The Department shall inform Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case shall be set for April 2015.



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

Date Signed: April 4, 2014

Date Mailed: April 4, 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

ATM/nr

cc:

