

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

IN THE MATTER OF:





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



ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 March 6, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included  

ISSUE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Claimant applied for MA-P on May 21, 2013, with a request for retroactive coverage back to February 2013.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on August 19, 2013.
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing October 17, 2013, regarding the MA denial.
4. A telephone hearing was held on March 6, 2014.
5. On December 5, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team denied the application because the medical evidence of record indicates that the Claimant retains the capacity to perform light unskilled work.
6. Claimant is 5' 4" tall and weighs 160 pounds.
7. Claimant is 29 years of age.

8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as fibromyalgia, bipolar disorder, ADHD and social anxiety disorder.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue, insomnia, memory and concentration problems, panic attacks, crying spells, social isolation, joint swelling and numbness in extremities.
10. Claimant completed a master's in fine arts.
11. Claimant is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
12. Claimant is working part time 8-15 hours performing visitor services earning \$11 per hour at an art museum and 8-15 hours earning \$12 per hour as a [REDACTED]
13. Claimant lives alone.
14. Claimant testified that she cannot perform some household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
 - a. Abilify
 - b. Lamictal
 - c. Adderall
 - d. Cymbalta
 - e. Flexeril
 - f. ultram
16. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
 - i. Sitting: 15 minutes
 - ii. Standing: 5 minutes
 - iii. Walking: 2-3 blocks
 - iv. Bend/stoop: difficulty
 - v. Lifting: 7-10 lbs.
 - vi. Grip/grasp: no limitations
17. Claimant testified to experiencing pain, at a high level of 9, on an everyday basis with some pain always present at a low level of 5.
18. Claimant's treating physician Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] submitted the following statement dated June 24, 2013 that reads as follows in relevant parts: "He examination revealed severely limited range of motion in the thoracic-lumbar region. Orthopedic tests such as spinal compression tests were positive with increased pain intensity. X-ray study revealed reversed cervical lordosis with instability in the segments C5-6 and C6-7. Thoracic and lumbar spine revealed severe double scoliosis on AP projection. There is 48 degrees Cob's angle at the right thoracic curve and 39 degree [REDACTED] angle at the left lumbar curve. Prognosis: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]"

responded well to treatment, her pain has decreased and she noticed more mobility in her spine. Due to severe scoliosis and chronicity of her condition, she will require continuous treatment to relieve her symptoms or at least make her more functional.”

19. Claimant's treating psychiatrist Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] submitted a statement dated June 13, 2013 that found Claimant to have a GAF score of 45-50 with diagnoses of atypical Bipolar disorder, social anxiety disorder, attention deficit disorder-inattentive type.
20. In a Mental Residual Functional Capacity Assessment dated June 13, 2013 Dr. [REDACTED] found Claimant to be moderately limited in 12 categories, markedly limited in 2 categories and not significantly limited in 6 categories.
21. Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] completed a medical needs form that answered “yes” to the question “Can patient work any job?” with a notation “lifting <10#”.
22. In a Medical Examination report dated June 12, 2013 Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] found that Claimant was capable of lifting 25 pounds occasionally and 10 pounds frequently, stand and/or walk at least 2 hours in an 8 hour day and sit about 6 hours in an 8 hour day.

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 working part time earning approximately \$900 per month. This is less than statutory amount for substantial gainful activity. Therefore, the Claimant is not disqualified a this step in the evaluation. Claimant did testify that she worked 40 hours per week in November 2013.

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 the third step of the analysis, the trier of fact must determine if the Claimant's impairment (or combination of impairments) is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant's medical record does not support a finding that the Claimant's impairment(s) is a "listed impairment" or equal to a listed impairment. See Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR Part 404, Part A. Listings 1.04 and 12.04 were considered.

The person claiming a physical, or mental, disability has the burden to establish it through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for a recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities or ability to reason and to make appropriate mental adjustments, if a mental disability is being alleged. 20 CFR 416.913. A conclusory statement by a physician, or mental health professional, that an individual is disabled, or blind, is not sufficient without supporting medical evidence, to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927.

The fourth step of the analysis to be considered is whether the Claimant has the ability to perform work previously performed by the Claimant within the past 15 years. The trier of fact must determine whether the impairment(s) presented prevent the Claimant from doing past relevant work. In the present case, the Claimant's current employment is as a visitor services worker and ceramics technician. Working as a visitor services worker and ceramics technician, as described by Claimant at hearing, would be considered light work. The Claimant's impairments would not prevent Claimant from doing her current work full time. Claimant's testimony regarding her physical limitations was not supported by substantial medical evidence. Claimant testified that there are weeks when she works full time when special projects come up at the art center and did so in November 2013. Claimant's treating psychiatrist found Claimant's psychological impairments to be only moderately limiting. Claimant's psychological issues do not appear to significantly affect her ability to perform her current part time jobs.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is NOT medically disabled for the purposes of MA-P eligibility.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **AFFIRMED**.



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

Date Signed: March 28, 2014

Date Mailed: March 28, 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.

2014-7752/ATM

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:

