

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-001356
Issue No.: 2009;4009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 6, 2014
County: St. Clair

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 August 6, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Claimant personally appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Family Independence Manager [REDACTED] and Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit programs?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On January 31, 2014, Claimant applied for MA/Retro-MA and SDA benefits.
2. On March 13, 2014, the Department's Medical Review Team (MRT) denied disability status, followed by pre-hearing concurrence issued by the Department's State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) on June 19, 2014.
3. Claimant's self-requested appeal hearing disputing these decisions was held on August 6, 2014.
4. At hearing, Claimant testified that he had been approved for SSI-disability.
5. The Department provided this presiding Administrative Law Judge with verification of the Fully Favorable Social Security Administration's (SSA's) decision finding Claimant was disabled with a disability onset date of March 1, 2013, which is before Claimant filed his disputed MA/Retro-MA and SDA application (See Finding of Fact #1 above).

6. The Department stipulated on the record during the hearing that Claimant's SSA approval establishes a disability allowance for MA/Retro-MA eligibility purposes.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness, automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

A person eligible for Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits based on disability or blindness meets the disability or blindness criteria. BEM 260 (7/1/14), pp 1-2. Disability or blindness starts from the RSDI disability onset date established by the SSA. BEM 260, p 1. A previously denied application is treated as if it is a pending application when the reason for the denial was that the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined the individual was not disabled and subsequently the Social Security Administration (SSA) finds the individual entitled to RSDI based on disability for some or all the time covered by the denied MA application. BEM 260, pp 1-2. If a client is not eligible for RSDI based on disability or blindness, MRT certifies disability or blindness. BEM 260, p 3.

To be automatically eligible for MA, an SSI recipient must be a Michigan resident and cooperate with third-party resource liability requirements. BEM 150 (1/1/14), p 1. Ongoing MA eligibility begins the first day of the month of SSI entitlement. BEM 150, p 1. Retro MA coverage is available back to the first day of the third calendar month prior to entitlement for SSI. BAM 115 (7/1/14), p 11. A separate determination of eligibility must be made for each of the three retro months. BAM 115, p 13. To be eligible for a retro MA month, the person must meet all financial and non-financial (i.e., be disabled) factors in that month and have unpaid medical expense incurred during the month or have been entitled to Medicare Part A. BAM 115, p 13. A DHS-1171 (application) is not required for SSI recipients. BAM 115, p 1.

In this case, Claimant submitted a letter from the Social Security Administration dated 7/11/14, indicating Claimant has been found to meet the medical requirements for disability benefits with a disability onset date of 3/1/13. Thus, Claimant is disabled and has been disabled at all times relevant to his January 31, 2014, MA/Retro-MA/SDA application.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds Claimant disabled for purposes of the MA and the SDA benefit program.

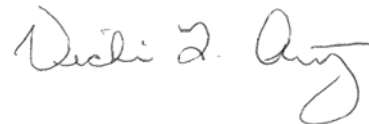
DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. The Department shall approve MA/Retro-MA benefits back to October, 2013, for Claimant as long as he is otherwise eligible to receive them, and SDA back to January, 2014.
2. Departmental review of Claimant's medical condition is not necessary as long as his SSA disability status continues.

It is SO ORDERED.



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

Date Signed: **8/7/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/7/2014**

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NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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

cc:

