

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 14-005333
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 6, 2014
County: Wayne (19)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

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; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 6, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants included the above-named Claimant. [REDACTED] testified and appeared as Claimant's authorized hearing representative. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], Medical Contact Worker.

ISSUE

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) for the reason that Claimant is not a disabled individual.

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 [REDACTED], Claimant applied for MA benefits, including retroactive MA benefits from 4/2012.
2. Claimant's only basis for MA benefits was as a disabled individual.
3. On [REDACTED] the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual (see Exhibits 14-15).
4. On [REDACTED] DHS denied Claimant's application for MA benefits and mailed a Notice of Case Action informing Claimant of the denial.

5. On [REDACTED], Claimant's AHR requested a hearing disputing the denial of MA benefits.
6. On [REDACTED], SHRT determined that Claimant was not a disabled individual, in part, by application of Medical-Vocational Rule 204.00
7. On [REDACTED], an administrative hearing was held.
8. As of the date of the administrative hearing, Claimant was a 50 year old male with a height of 5'11" and weight of 245 pounds.
9. Claimant alleged disability based on impairments and issues including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), knee problems, back pain, psychological problems, and cardiac problems.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105. Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) and Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Prior to a substantive analysis of Claimant's hearing request, it should be noted that Claimant's AHR noted special arrangements in order to participate in the hearing; specifically, a 3-way telephone hearing was requested. Claimant's AHR's request was granted and the hearing was conducted accordingly.

Claimant was approved for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits beginning 1/2013. Claimant's approval was based on a disability onset date of [REDACTED]. DHS conceded Claimant's disability and Medicaid approval from 1/2013. The SSI approval still leaves Claimant's Medicaid eligibility in dispute for the period from 4/2012 through 12/2012.

A consideration must be undertaken as to whether a disability onset month of 1/2013 is binding on this decision. If it were binding, Claimant would be found to be appropriately denied Medicaid from 4/2012-12/2012.

The Social Security Administration's final determination that the client is not disabled/blind for SSI, not RSDI, takes precedence over an MRT determination. BEM 260 (7/2013), p. 3. Similar guidance is found elsewhere within DHS policies.

For MA, SSA's final determination that a client is not disabled/blind for SSI purposes supersedes MRT's/SHRT's certification. BAM 815 (7/2013), pp. 1-2. See BEM 260 to determine when to proceed with a medical determination for these clients. *Id.*

Eligibility for MA based on disability or blindness does not exist once SSA's determination is final. *Id.*, p. 3. SSA's determination that disability or blindness does not exist for SSI is final for MA if:

- The determination was made after 1/1/90, and
- No further appeals may be made at SSA; or
- The client failed to file an appeal at any step within SSA's 60 day limit, and
- The client is not claiming:
 - A totally different disabling condition than the condition SSA based its determination on, or
 - An additional impairment(s) or change or deterioration in his condition that SSA has not made a determination on.

Id., pp. 3-4.

Claimant's AHR presented a "fully favorable" administrative hearing decision and correspondence (Exhibits A1-A11). The administrative decision stated that Claimant alleged a disability onset date from 2009. The SSA administrative judge could have found that Claimant was disabled before 1/2013, but decided not to do so. One of the stated reasons was that res judicata barred Claimant from disputing disability prior to [REDACTED] the date of a previous unfavorable SSA hearing decision. The judge went on to state that because Claimant did not apply for SSI benefits until [REDACTED], a disability onset date of 1/9/13 renders the decision to be "fully favorable".

Claimant's AHR contended that a disability onset date of [REDACTED] was not necessarily binding. Claimant was only potentially eligible for SSI benefits back to the date of his SSI application ([REDACTED]), thus, the AHR contended that the SSA administrative law judge had little incentive to consider an earlier onset date. Claimant's AHR's contention makes sense, however, the SSA ALJ could have easily found that Claimant was disabled earlier than 1/2013. The lack of incentive to find a disability onset date earlier than 1/2013 does not alter the fact that [REDACTED] was the disability onset date found by SSA. Thus, decision is binding, on Claimant and DHS.

It is found that Claimant is a disabled individual as of 1 [REDACTED]. Accordingly, it is found that DHS properly determined to be not disabled for the period of 4/2012-12/2012.


DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS properly denied Claimant's MA application for purposes of MA eligibility for the period of 4/2012-12/2012. The actions taken by DHS are **PARTIALLY AFFIRMED**.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds that DHS improperly denied Claimant's application for MA benefits. It is ordered that DHS:

- (1) reinstate Claimant's MA benefit application dated [REDACTED];
- (2) evaluate Claimant's eligibility for benefits subject to the finding that Claimant is a disabled individual, **effective** [REDACTED] and
- (3) initiate a supplement for any benefits not issued as a result of the improper application denial.

The actions taken by DHS are **PARTIALLY REVERSED**.



Christian Gardocki
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **10/31/2014**

Date Mailed: **10/31/2014**

CG / hw

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:

