

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 0

Reg. No.: 14-012832
Issue No.: 4009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 06, 2014
County: GENESEE-DISTRICT 2

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susanne Harris

HEARING DECISION

Following the 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 November 6, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing Facilitator, [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant was not disabled for the purpose of the State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit program?

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 September 1, 2014, the Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On September 18, 2014, the Medical Review Team denied the Claimant's request.
3. On September 29, 2014, the Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. Born [REDACTED], the Claimant is 52 years old.
5. The Claimant completed education through high school and a year of college.
6. The Claimant has employment experience (last worked 2012) as a customer service representative at the customer service counter in a [REDACTED] grocery store. Before that she worked for a debt collection agency and was a receptionist for a law firm. She also has experience being a dispatcher for security and was once a manager of a fitness center.

7. The Claimant suffers from anxiety, fibromyalgia, arthropathy, severe joint pain, carpal tunnel syndrome and tendinitis.
8. The Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
9. The Claimant has significant limitations on understanding, memory, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions; use of judgment; responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and dealing with changes in a routine work setting.
10. The Claimant has significant limitations on walking, standing, sitting, lifting, and the use of all of her extremities.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MA-P 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 MA-P 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 Bridges Reference Manual (RFT).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under MA-P. 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.

A set order is used to determine disability. Current work activity, severity of impairments, residual functional capacity, past work, age, or education and work experience are reviewed. If there is a finding that an individual is disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, there will be no further evaluation. 20 CFR 416.920.

Medical evidence may contain medical opinions. Medical opinions are statements from physicians and psychologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of the impairment(s), including symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

The Administrative Law Judge is responsible for making the determination or decision about whether the statutory definition of disability is met. The Administrative Law Judge reviews all medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement of disability. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations are assessed using the criteria in paragraph (B) of the listings for mental disorders (descriptions of restrictions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated with competitive work). 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1, 12.00(C).

The Claimant testified to the following symptoms and abilities: anxiety and panic attacks, crying spells and severe depression. The Claimant's treating mental health provider indicates that the Claimant is obsessed with phone calls, going to group, her bills, housework or just about anything. The Claimant worries about life, daily activities and the future. Even while being medicated, she still has overwhelming symptoms. Claimant's daily activities of living are dramatically impacted by her psychological condition. Her psychiatric records demonstrate an ongoing struggle with daily functioning. Her GAF score is 55. The Claimant has been compliant with medications and her condition still hinders her ability to function.

The Claimant's mental health professional reports that the Claimant is markedly limited in the following categories:

1. The ability to understand and remember detailed instructions.
2. The ability to carry out detailed instructions.
3. The ability to maintain attention and concentration for extended periods.
4. The ability to perform activities within a schedule, maintain regular attendance, and be punctual within customary tolerances.
5. The ability to work in coordination with or proximity to others without being distracted by them.
6. The ability to make simple work-related decisions.
7. The ability to complete a normal workday and work week without interruptions from psychologically-based symptoms and to perform at a consistent pace without an unreasonable number and length of rest periods.
8. The ability to accept instructions and respond appropriately to criticism from supervisors.
9. The ability to get along with coworkers or peers without distracting them or exhibiting behavioral extremes.
10. The ability to travel in unfamiliar places or use public transportation.

The Claimant's treating mental health professional indicates that the Claimant is moderately limited in the following categories:

1. The ability to remember locations and work like procedures.
2. The ability to carry out simple, one of two-step instructions.
3. The ability to sustain an ordinary routine without supervision.
4. The ability to interact appropriately with the general public.
5. The ability to ask simple questions or request assistance.
6. The ability to maintain socially appropriate behavior and to adhere to basic standards of neatness and cleanliness.
7. The ability to respond appropriately to change in the work setting.

8. The ability to be aware of normal hazards and take appropriate precautions.
9. The ability to set realistic goals or make plans independent of others.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. The Claimant appears to meet listing 12.06 or its equivalent. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. The Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that the Claimant meets the requirements of a listing.

Therefore, the 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 the Claimant is medically disabled as of September, 2014.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **REVERSED** and the Department is **ORDERED** to initiate a review of the application dated September 1, 2014, if not done previously, to determine the Claimant's non-medical eligibility. The Department shall inform the Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case shall be set for December 2015.



Susanne Harris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **11/17/2014**

Date Mailed: **11/17/2014**

SEH / hj

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 48909-8139

cc:

