

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-005677  
Issue No.: 2009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 08, 2014  
County: CLINTON

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susanne E. 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 an in-person hearing was held on October 8, 2014, from St. Johns, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included [REDACTED] and her Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR), [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing Facilitator, [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and Retro-MA programs?

**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 December 17, 2013, the Claimant's AHR applied for MA and Retro-MA.
2. On March 7, 2014, the Medical Review Team denied the Claimant's request.
3. On June 19, 2014, the Claimant's AHR submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. Born [REDACTED], the Claimant is 46 years old.
5. The Claimant completed education through high school and one year of college.
6. The Claimant has employment experience (last worked 2006) as a factory worker.

7. The Claimant suffers from anxiety, bipolar disorder, COPD, hepatitis C, spina bifida, hepatitis C, endometriosis, chronic lumbar pain, and insomnia.
8. The Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
9. The Claimant has significant limitations on understanding, 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 physical activities involving sitting, standing, walking, bending, lifting, and stooping.

### **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 underwent a psychological examination November 13, 2014. The psychologist that examined the Claimant concluded that the Claimant exhibited signs of significant mental illness where mental illness is defined as a substantial disorder of thought or mood which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life. The Claimant shows some inability to remember and perform two-step instructions and is markedly limited in her ability to remember detailed instructions. The Claimant could not carry out detailed instructions without assistance. The Claimant is unable to sustain attention and concentration for extended periods. The examining psychologist concluded that the Claimant would need constant supervision and even then it would be questionable whether she could perform work-related tasks for a full day. The Claimant would disturb others and be distracted by people around her creating inefficiency in the workplace. The Claimant would have difficulty maintaining appropriate behavior and would not interact well with the public or supervisors, especially during periods where she was suffering from acute schizoid withdrawal. The Claimant would have difficulty adapting to change and not be able to recognize hazards or hazardous situations. The Claimant is unable to use public transportation or to travel in unfamiliar places because of her bipolar impairment and anxiety. The Claimant exhibits severe limitations in setting realistic goals nor does she make appropriate plans. The examining psychiatrist concluded that the Claimant's multiple mental limitations and mental illness result in a severely impaired capacity to perform work-related activities. The Claimant's prognosis is guarded to poor. The Claimant's GAF score is 50 which is indicative of serious symptoms or any serious impairment in social, occupational or school functioning.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. The Claimant appears to meet listing 12.04 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, 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 September, 2013.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **REVERSED** and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated December 18, 2013, 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 January, 2015.



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

Date Signed: **12/15/2014**

Date Mailed: **12/15/2014**

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:

