

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-006559
Issue No.: 4009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 9, 2014
County: Kent #1

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susanne Harris

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, an in-person hearing was held on September 9, 2014, from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing Facilitator, [REDACTED] and Family Independence Manager, [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant was not disabled for 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 February 4, 2014, Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On June 16, 2014, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's request.
3. On July 11, 2014, Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. Claimant is [REDACTED] years old.
5. Claimant completed education through [REDACTED]. However, the Claimant cannot read.
6. Claimant has very sporadic employment experience. She testified that she once worked for a [REDACTED] waving signs; she worked at [REDACTED] and once worked in a [REDACTED], but could otherwise not remember her work experience.

7. Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
8. Claimant suffers from a Traumatic Brain Injury, Dyslexia, Major Depressive Disorder, severe headaches, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Personality Disorder NOS.
10. 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.

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.

The Department conforms to State statute in administering the SDA program.

2000 PA 294, Sec. 604, of the statute states:

Sec. 604. (1) The Department shall operate a state disability assistance program. Except as provided in subsection (3), persons eligible for this program shall include needy citizens of the United States or aliens exempted from the supplemental security income citizenship requirement who are at least 18 years of age or emancipated minors meeting 1 or more of the following requirements:

- (a) A recipient of supplemental security income, social security, or medical assistance due to disability or 65 years of age or older.
- (b) A person with a physical or mental impairment which meets federal supplemental security income disability standards, except that the minimum duration of the disability shall be 90 days. Substance abuse alone is not defined as a basis for eligibility.

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).

In this case, the record contains a psychological assessment completed by [REDACTED] It indicates that, with her dyslexia, the Claimant cannot read. The Claimant has been in several abusive relationships in her life. The Claimant reported having hallucinatory experiences of seeing demons come out of the

walls, she hears them and they go back in the walls. The Claimant reported having some cutting experiences on her wrist within just the last month of the assessment. The Claimant reported having an average of two black outs per week. The Claimant reports that she has severe memory issues and has once taken a bus to an appointment and then was missing because she forgot to get off the bus when she was supposed to. The Claimant reported low self-esteem and limited energy. The assessment indicates that the Claimant is moderately impaired in memory, impaired in information, moderately impaired in calculations and moderately impaired in judgment.

The assessment indicates that examinations administered to the Claimant are suggestive of significant and severe neurocognitive impairment and neurocognitive disorder. The clinical impression was that there are severe obstacles to vocational and social functioning. The Claimant has serious reading issues, limits in cognitive skills and then suffered subsequent head injury. Her serious depression, posttraumatic elements, and her almost schizophrenic-like status are expected to be exacerbated by her head trauma. Her prognosis is expected to be limited due to the number and severity of an emotional as well as neurocognitive problems.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant appears to meet listing 12.03 or its equivalent. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that 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 [REDACTED] 14.

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



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

Date Signed: **9/15/2014**
Date Mailed: **9/16/2014**

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 Claimant;
- 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

SEH / tb

cc:

