

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-006567
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 19, 2014
County: Washtenaw

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Y. Lain

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 August 19, 2014, from Ypsilanti, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant's and his authorized hearings representative [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Whether Claimant meets the disability criteria for Medical Assistance (MA-P)?

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 May 8, 2014, Claimant filed an application for Medical Assistance (MA-P) and retroactive Medical Assistance benefits alleging disability.
2. On May 22, 2014, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's application stating that Claimant could perform other work.
3. On May 28 2014, the Department caseworker sent Claimant notice that the application was denied.
4. The hearing was held August 19, 2014. At the hearing, Claimant waived the time periods and requested to submit additional medical information.

5. Additional medical information was submitted and considered by the Administrative Law Judge when making this determination.
6. Claimant is a [REDACTED]-year-old [REDACTED] whose [REDACTED]. He is 6'1" tall and weighs 178 pounds. He has [REDACTED]. He is able to read and write and does have basic math skills.
7. Claimant alleges as disabling medical impairments: anemia, stage III kidney disease, hypertension, retinopathy, vision problems, neuropathy, pacemaker placed, [REDACTED], fatigue, diabetes mellitus and poor circulation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Claimants have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or Department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The State Disability Assistance program differs from the federal Medical Assistance regulations in that the durational requirement is 90 days. This means that the person's impairments must meet the SSI disability standards for 90 days in order for that person to be eligible for SDA benefits.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program 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 of Human Services (DHS or Department) administers the MA program 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 Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department of Human Services uses the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the Medical Assistance program. 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 is 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.

If an individual is working and the work is substantial gainful activity, the individual is not disabled regardless of the medical condition, education and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

If the impairment or combination of impairments do not significantly limit physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, it is not a severe impairment(s) and disability does not exist. Age, education and work experience will not be considered. 20 CFR 416.920.

Statements about pain or other symptoms do not alone establish disability. There must be medical signs and laboratory findings which demonstrate a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...Medical reports should include –

- (1) Medical history.
- (2) Clinical findings (such as the results of physical or mental status examinations);
- (3) Laboratory findings (such as blood pressure, X-rays);
- (4) Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms).... 20 CFR 416.913(b).

In determining disability under the law, the ability to work is measured. An individual's functional capacity for doing basic work activities is evaluated. If an individual has the ability to perform basic work activities without significant limitations, he or she is not considered disabled. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(iv).

Basic work activities are the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. Examples of these include --

- (1) Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling;
- (2) Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
- (3) Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
- (4) Use of judgment;
- (5) Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and
- (6) Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

Medical findings must allow a determination of (1) the nature and limiting effects of your impairment(s) for any period in question; (2) the probable duration of the impairment; and (3) the residual functional capacity to do work-related physical and mental activities. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

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 your symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

All of the evidence relevant to the claim, including medical opinions, is reviewed and findings are made. 20 CFR 416.927(c).

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).

A statement by a medical source finding that an individual is "disabled" or "unable to work" does not mean that disability exists for the purposes of the program. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

When determining disability, the federal regulations require that several considerations be analyzed in sequential order. If disability can be ruled out at any step, analysis of the next step is not required. These steps are:

1. Does the Claimant perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)? If yes, the Claimant is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 2. 20 CFR 416.920(b).

2. Does the Claimant have a severe impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more or result in death? If no, the Claimant is ineligible for MA. If yes, the analysis continues to Step 3. 20 CFR 416.920(c).
3. Does the impairment appear on a special listing of impairments or are the Claimant's symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings at least equivalent in severity to the set of medical findings specified for the listed impairment? If no, the analysis continues to Step 4. If yes, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.290(d).
4. Can the Claimant do the former work that he/she performed within the last 15 years? If yes, the Claimant is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 5. 20 CFR 416.920(e).
5. Does the Claimant have the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) to perform other work according to the guidelines set forth at 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Sections 200.00-204.00? If yes, the analysis ends and the Claimant is ineligible for MA. If no, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

At Step 1, Claimant is not engaged in substantial gainful activity and has not worked since [REDACTED] Claimant is not disqualified from receiving disability at Step 1.

The subjective and objective medical evidence on the record indicates that Claimant lives with his former wife in a house and she supports him. He provides some home healthcare for his daughter who requires [REDACTED] and is in a wheelchair. He is divorced with no children under 18 and no income. He does receive the Healthy Michigan Plan. Claimant does have a [REDACTED] and drives occasionally. Claimant cooks every day makes things like soup and sandwiches and salad. Claimant does not grocery shop but is able to grocery shop. Claimant cleans the kitchen, vacuums and cut the lawn. He watches television two hours per day and plays the computer for 10 minutes at a time. Claimant testified he can stand for one hour at a time it can sit with no limits. He can walk 1/8 of a mile. He's able to shower, dress, ties shoes, squat, bend at the waist and touch his toes. His knees and back are fine. His hands and arms are fine but he has neuropathy and numbness as well as poor circulation in his feet. He can lift 25 to 30 pounds but not do anything repetitively. Claimant testified he fatigues quickly and naps a lot. His [REDACTED]-year-old [REDACTED] is in a [REDACTED] and has been since she was [REDACTED] also he does assist his ex-wife and watching her. Claimant testified his eyesight is deteriorating and he has to have shots in his eyes to assist with his retinopathy.

Medical examination report of [REDACTED] indicates that Claimant has chronic kidney disease stage III and anemia. His blood pressure was 113/53, pulse was 60, and temperature was 97°F. Height was 61 inches tall and weight was hundred and 77 pounds. His BMI is 23.48, page A-1. Claimant has diabetes mellitus type II insignificant anemia. His hemoglobin on [REDACTED] was 8.7. His kidney disease has progressed quite rapidly in the past few months. His Lasix was increased and that has helped his edema. His lungs were clear. Heart was regular rate and rhythm. Extremity showed probability 1+ pitting edema, page 5. Claimant is lost 25 pounds since [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] examination report indicates that Claimant has diabetic macular edema. He had a [REDACTED] before the report with a [REDACTED] put in.

At Step 2, Claimant has the burden of proof of establishing that he has a severely restrictive physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last for the duration of at least 12 months. There is sufficient objective clinical medical evidence in the record that Claimant suffers a severely restrictive physical or mental impairment. In fact, Claimant's condition seems to be worsening. Claimant is not disqualified from receiving disability at step two.

If Claimant had not been denied at Step 2, the analysis would proceed to Step 3 where the medical evidence of Claimant's condition does not give rise to a finding that he would meet a statutory listing in the code of federal regulations.

This Administrative Law Judge would have to deny him again at Step 4 based upon his ability to perform his past relevant work. There is sufficient evidence upon which this Administrative Law Judge could base a finding that Claimant is unable to perform work in which he has engaged in, in the past. Therefore, Claimant is not denied at step four at Step 4.

The Administrative Law Judge will continue to proceed through the sequential evaluation process to determine whether or not Claimant has the residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior jobs.

At Step 5, the burden of proof shifts to the Department to establish that Claimant does not have residual functional capacity.

The residual functional capacity is what an individual can do despite limitations. All impairments will be considered in addition to ability to meet certain demands of jobs in the national economy. Physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements and other functions will be evaluated.... 20 CFR 416.945(a).

To determine the physical demands (exertional requirements) of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium and heavy. These terms have the same meaning as they have in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, published by the Department of Labor... 20 CFR 416.967.

Sedentary work. Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met. 20 CFR 416.967(a).

Light work. Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walking or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls.... 20 CFR 416.967(b).

Claimant has submitted sufficient objective medical evidence that he lacks the residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior employment or that he is physically unable to do light or sedentary tasks if demanded of him. Claimant's activities of daily living do not appear to be very limited but his condition seems to be deteriorating. Claimant does have extreme fatigue and extreme anemia. Claimant has provided the necessary objective medical evidence to establish that he has a severe impairment or combination of impairments which prevent him from performing any level of work for a period of 12 months. The Claimant's testimony as to his limitations indicates that he should be able to perform light or sedentary work but not on a sustained basis.

Claimant was able to answer all the questions at the hearing and was responsive to the questions. Claimant was oriented to time, person and place during the hearing. Claimant's complaints of pain, while profound and credible, are in proportion to the objective medical evidence contained in the file as it relates to Claimant's ability to perform work. Therefore, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the objective medical evidence on the record does establish that Claimant has no residual functional capacity. Claimant is not disqualified from receiving disability at Step 5 based upon the fact that he has established by objective medical evidence that he cannot perform a full range of light or sedentary work with his impairments. Based upon the fact that Claimant is advanced age and is not retain the ability to perform even sedentary work on a sustained basis, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant should be found to be disabled.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that based upon the medical record contained in the file that Claimant has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that he is disabled for purposes of Medical Assistance benefit eligibility.

The Department is required to initiate a determination of Claimant's financial eligibility for the requested benefits, if not previously done.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Claimant meets the definition of medically disabled under the Medical Assistance Program in accordance with the Social Security Administration's disability onset date as of the [REDACTED].

Accordingly, the Department is **ORDERED** to initiate a review of the [REDACTED] Medical Assistance and retroactive Medical Assistance application if it is not already done so, to determine if all other non-medical eligibility criteria are met. The Department shall inform the Claimant of the determination in writing.

A medical review should be scheduled for [REDACTED]. The Department should check to see if Claimant is in current payment status or not. If the Claimant is in current payment status at the medical review no further action will be necessary. However, if the Claimant is not in current payment status at the medical review, the Department is to obtain updated application forms (DHS49) and obtain updated medical records.

It is **ORDERED** that the Department shall review this case in one year from the date of this Decision and Order.



Landis Y. Lain
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 9/22/14

Date Mailed: 9/23/14

NOTICE OF APPEAL: The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted 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 Department, AHR or the Claimant 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 the hearing decision is mailed.

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

LYL/tb

cc:

