

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-012239
Issue No.: 4009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 22, 2015
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, in-person hearing was held on January 22, 2015, from St. Johns, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist, [REDACTED] and Family Independence Specialist, [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 June 9, 2014, the Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On September 11, 2014, the Medical Review Team denied the Claimant's request.
3. On September 17, 2014, the Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. Born [REDACTED], the Claimant is 61 years old.
5. The Claimant completed education through high school.

6. The Claimant has employment experience (last worked 2014) as a cashier and she also has previous employment experience as a cook and a bartender.
7. The Claimant suffers from generalized anxiety disorder resulting from posttraumatic stress, social phobia, avoidant personality disorder, borderline personality disorder with schizoid and depressive personality traits, major depression that is recurrent and severe without psychotic features, insomnia, and agoraphobia.
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.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MA 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 she isolates herself from others. The Claimant testified that she has lost 18 pounds since April due to severe anxiety which would actually induce vomiting. The Claimant hears things, but not voices. The Claimant suffers from racing thoughts and has problematic interactions with people and she is very confrontational with others. The Claimant has problems with concentration and memory. The Claimant's daily activities of living are dramatically impacted by her psychological condition.

The Claimant was deferred for a psychological examination and the August 22, 2014 report stemming from that examination is included in the record. The States psychologist concluded the following: That the Claimant could carry out simple instructions on her own, but she could not carry out detailed instructions without assistance and supervision. The Claimant is unable to sustain attention and concentration for extended periods. The Claimant would not be able to maintain a schedule with punctuality and regular attendance. The Claimant would need consistent and nurturing supervision and even then it would be questionable whether or not she could perform work-related tasks for a full day. The Claimant would likely 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, supervisors or other employees, especially during periods where she displayed inappropriate affect or was stressed.

The States psychologist concluded that the Claimant would have difficulty adapting to change and she would 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 significant depression and anxiety. The Claimant exhibits moderate limitations in setting realistic goals and does not make appropriate plans. The Claimant's multiple mental limitations result in a severely impaired capacity to perform work-related activities. The Claimant's prognosis was reported to be guarded to poor.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. Claimant appears to meet listing 12.04 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, the Claimant is found to be disabled. The Department's Bridges Eligibility Manual contains the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the State Disability Assistance program: to receive State Disability Assistance, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person or age 65 or older. BEM, Item 261, p. 1. Because the Claimant meets the definition of disabled under the Assistance program and because the evidence of record establishes that the Claimant is unable to work for a period exceeding 90 days, the Claimant also meets the disability criteria for State Disability Assistance benefits.

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 June, 2014.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated June 9, 2014, if not done previously, to determine 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 February, 2016.



Susanne E. Harris
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **1/26/2015**

Date Mailed: **1/26/2015**

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:

