

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-014031  
Issue No.: 4009  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 13, 2015  
County: GENESEE-DISTRICT 6 (CLIO R

**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, a telephone hearing was held on October 13, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. The Claimant, [REDACTED], appeared and testified as did her case manager from [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by Hearing Facilitator, [REDACTED].

The record was extended to allow additional relevant medical evidence to be submitted. The Claimant waived timeliness. The additional medical evidence was received and reviewed prior to this decision being issued.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes 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 8, 2015, the Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On July 25, 2015, the Medical Review Team denied the Claimant's request.
3. On August 14, 2015, the Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. The Claimant is [REDACTED] years old.
6. The Claimant completed education through high school.

7. The Claimant has employment experience (last worked 2014) as a cook supervisor. Previous to that she worked in a packing company.
8. The Claimant suffers from mood disorder with depression and anxiety.
9. The Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
10. 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**

Medical Assistance (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. 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: lack of concentration, crying jags, fears being around people because she is afraid they will do something to her, anxiety and panic attacks. She suffers from suicidal thoughts and was hospitalized in December of 2014 due to anxiety.

The objective, psychiatric evidence in the record includes mental residual functional capacity assessments from both the Claimant's therapist and the Claimant's nurse practitioner. Both consistently report that the Claimant is a markedly limited in the following categories:

1. The ability to understand and remember detailed instructions.
2. The ability to maintain attention and concentration for extended periods.
3. The ability to work in coordination with or proximity to others without being distracted by them.
4. The ability to interact appropriately with the general public.
5. The ability to accept instructions and respond appropriately to criticism from supervisors.
6. The ability to travel in unfamiliar places or use public transportation.

Both the Claimant's nurse practitioner and her therapist agreed that the Claimant is a moderately limited in several additional categories involving understanding and memory, sustained concentration and persistence, social interaction and adaptation. The Claimant's current GAF score is 45, down from 55 in 2012.

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. 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.

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 MA 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, 2015.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated June 8, 2015, 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 November, 2016.



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

Date Mailed: **11/20/2015**

SEH/sw

**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:

