



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: July 10, 2018
MAHS Docket No.: 18-004169
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on June 13, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department), Respondent, was represented by Maureen Curran. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-135 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that Petitioner was not disabled for purposes of the State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Petitioner applied for SDA on December 1, 2017.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on February 23, 2018.
3. Petitioner filed a request for hearing on April 25, 2018, regarding the SDA denial.
4. A telephone hearing was held on June 13, 2018.
5. Petitioner is [REDACTED]' [REDACTED]" tall and weighs [REDACTED] pounds.
6. Petitioner is [REDACTED] years old.

7. Petitioner's impairments have been medically diagnosed as bulging disks, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive, bipolar disorder, schizoaffective disorder, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
8. Petitioner has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue, concentration problems and panic attacks.
9. Petitioner completed 11th grade.
10. Petitioner is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
11. Petitioner is not working. Petitioner last worked in January 2018 fast food worker. Petitioner previously worked as a property maintenance.
12. Petitioner lives with friends.
13. Petitioner testified that he cannot perform some household chores.
14. Petitioner takes the following prescribed medications:
 - a. Truvada
 - b. Effexor
 - c. Tivicay
 - d. Depakote
 - e. Seroquel
 - f. Trazodone
15. Petitioner testified to the following physical limitations:
 - a. Sitting: 3 hours
 - b. Standing: 3 hours
 - c. Walking: 1 mile
 - d. Bend/stoop: difficulty
 - e. Lifting: 20 pounds
 - f. Grip/grasp: no difficulty
16. Petitioner testified that he would be able to perform the fast food job he last held.
17. Petitioner testified that he experiences no symptoms related to his HIV status or related to medication side effects.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services

Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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.

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the MA-P 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.

Federal regulations require that the Department use the same operative definition for “disabled” as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

“Disability” is:

...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.

In determining whether an individual is disabled, 20 CFR 416.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity, the severity of the impairment(s), residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are assessed in that order. When a determination that an individual is, or is not, disabled can be made at any step in the sequential evaluation, evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if the individual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, Petitioner is not working. Therefore, Petitioner is not disqualified at this step in the evaluation.

The second step to be determined in considering whether Petitioner is considered disabled is the severity of the impairment. In order to qualify the impairment must be considered severe, which is defined as an impairment which significantly limits an

individual's physical, or mental, ability to perform basic work activities. Examples of these include:

1. Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, 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).

In this case, Petitioner's medical evidence of record supports a finding that Petitioner has significant physical and mental limitations upon Petitioner's ability to perform basic work activities such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling. Medical evidence has clearly established that Petitioner has an impairment (or combination of impairments) that has more than a minimal effect on the Petitioner's work activities. See Social Security Rulings: 85-28, 88-13, and 82-63.

In the third step of the analysis, the trier of fact must determine if Petitioner's impairment (or combination of impairments) is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This Administrative Law Judge finds that Petitioner's medical record does not support a finding that Petitioner's impairment(s) is a "listed impairment" or equal to a listed impairment. See Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR Part 404, Part A. Listings 14.11, 1.04 and 12.04 were considered.

The person claiming a physical, or mental, disability has the burden to establish it through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for a recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities or ability to reason and to make appropriate mental adjustments, if a mental disability is being alleged. 20 CFR 416.913. A conclusory statement by a physician, or mental health professional, that an individual is disabled, or blind, is not sufficient without supporting medical evidence, to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927.

The fourth step of the analysis to be considered is whether Petitioner has the ability to perform work previously performed by Petitioner within the past 15 years. The trier of fact must determine whether the impairment(s) presented prevent Petitioner from doing past relevant work. In the present case, Petitioner's past employment was as a fast food worker. Working as a fast food worker, as described by Petitioner at hearing, would be considered light work. Petitioner's impairments would not prevent Petitioner


from doing past relevant work. Petitioner's testimony that he was capable of doing his previous job as a fast food worker was credible. Petitioner failed to present substantial medical evidence that he has an ongoing psychological impairment that is significantly limiting.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Petitioner is NOT medically disabled for the purposes of SDA eligibility.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby **AFFIRMED**.

AM/bb



Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; 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

DHHS

Pam Farnsworth
903 Telegraph
Monroe, MI 48161

Monroe County, DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

L. Karadsheh via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
MI