GRETCHEN WHITMER GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

ORLENE HAWKS DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: February 5, 2019 MAHS Docket No.: 18-011597

Agency No.: Petitioner:

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 10, 2018, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Petitioner included herself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Elizabeth, Eligibility Specialist.

During the hearing, Petitioner waived the time period for the issuance of this decision in order to allow for the submission of additional records.

records were received and marked into evidence as Exhibit 1. The record closed on January 10, 2019, and the matter is now before the undersigned for a final determination based on the evidence presented.

<u>ISSUE</u>

Did the Department properly determine 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. On November 16, 2017, Petitioner submitted an application seeking cash assistance on the basis of a disability.
- 2. On September 1, 2018, the Disability Determination Service (DDS)/Medical Review Team (MRT) found Petitioner not disabled for purposes of the SDA program (Exhibit A, pp. 22-28).

- 3. On September 7, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action denying the application based on DDS/MRT's finding of no disability (Exhibit A, pp. 17-21).
- 4. On November 1, 2018, the Department received Petitioner's timely written request for hearing (Exhibit A, p. 4).
- 5. Petitioner alleged disabling impairment due to degenerative disc disease; scoliosis; nerve damage; bilateral hip impairment; depression; insomnia; anxiety; and arthritis.
- 6. On the date of the hearing, Petitioner was years old with a June 18, birth date; she is the in height and weighs about pounds.
- 7. Petitioner completed the eighth grade and has not obtained her GED.
- 8. At the time of application, Petitioner was not employed.
- 9. Petitioner has an employment history of work as sign demonstrator, lunchroom attendant and medical worker.
- 10. Petitioner has a pending disability claim with the Social Security Administration.

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 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.

Petitioner applied for cash assistance alleging a disability. A disabled person is eligible for SDA. BEM 261 (July 2015), p. 1. An individual automatically qualifies as disabled for purposes of the SDA program if the individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medical Assistance (MA-P) benefits based on disability or blindness. BEM 261, p. 2. Otherwise, to be considered disabled for SDA purposes, a person must have a physical or mental impairment for at least ninety days which meets federal SSI disability standards, meaning the person is unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment. BEM 261, pp. 1-2; 20 CFR 416.901; 20 CFR 416.905(a).

Determining whether an individual is disabled for SSI purposes requires the application of a five step evaluation of whether the individual (1) is engaged in substantial gainful

activity (SGA); (2) has an impairment that is severe; (3) has an impairment and duration that meet or equal a listed impairment in Appendix 1 Subpart P of 20 CFR 404; (4) has the residual functional capacity to perform past relevant work; and (5) has the residual functional capacity and vocational factors (based on age, education and work experience) to adjust to other work. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(1) and (4); 20 CFR 416.945. If an individual is found disabled, or not disabled, at any step in this process, a determination or decision is made with no need to evaluate subsequent steps. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4). If a determination cannot be made that an individual is disabled, or not disabled, at a particular step, the next step is required. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4).

In general, the individual has the responsibility to establish a disability through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as his or her medical history, clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities or, if a mental disability is alleged, to reason and make appropriate mental adjustments. 20 CFR 416.912(a); 20 CFR 416.913. An individual's subjective pain complaints are not, in and of themselves, sufficient to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.908; 20 CFR 416.929(a). Similarly, conclusory statements by a physician or mental health professional that an individual is disabled or blind, absent supporting medical evidence, are insufficient to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927(d).

Step One

The first step in determining whether an individual is disabled requires consideration of the individual's current work activity. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(i). If an individual is working and the work is SGA, then the individual must be considered not disabled, regardless of medical condition, age, education, or work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b); 20 CFR 416.971. SGA means work that involves doing significant and productive physical or mental duties and that is done, or intended to be done, for pay or profit. 20 CFR 416.972.

In this case, Petitioner was not working during the period for which assistance might be available. Because Petitioner was not engaged in SGA, she is not ineligible under Step 1, and the analysis continues to Step 2.

Step Two

Under Step 2, the severity and duration of an individual's alleged impairment is considered. If the individual does not have a severe medically determinable physical or mental impairment (or a combination of impairments) that meets the duration requirement, the individual is not disabled. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(ii). The duration requirement for SDA means that the impairment is expected to result in death or has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 90 days. 20 CFR 416.922; BEM 261, p. 2.

An impairment, or combination of impairments, is severe if it significantly limits an individual's physical or mental ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(ii); 20 CFR 416.920(c). Basic work activities mean the abilities and

aptitudes necessary to do most jobs, such as (i) physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling; (ii) the capacity to see, hear, and speak; (iii) the ability to understand, carry out, and remember simple instructions; (iv) use of judgment; (v) responding appropriately to supervision, coworkers and usual work situations; and (vi) dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b). A claim may be denied at Step 2 only if the evidence shows that the individual's impairments, when considered in combination, do not have more than a minimal effect on the person's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. Social Security Ruling (SSR) 85-28.

The individual bears the burden to present sufficient objective medical evidence to substantiate the alleged disabling impairments. While the Step 2 severity requirement may be employed as an administrative convenience to screen out claims that are totally groundless solely from a medical standpoint, under the de minimis standard applied at Step 2, an impairment is severe unless it is only a slight abnormality that minimally affects work ability regardless of age, education and experience. Higgs v Bowen, 880 F2d 860, 862-863 (CA 6, 1988), citing Farris v Sec of Health and Human Services, 773 F2d 85, 90 n.1 (CA 6, 1985). A claim may be denied at Step 2 only if the evidence shows that the individual's impairments, when considered in combination, are not medically severe, i.e., do not have more than a minimal effect on the person's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. Social Security Ruling (SSR) 85-28. If such a finding is not clearly established by medical evidence or if the effect of an impairment or combination of impairments on the individual's ability to do basic work activities cannot be clearly determined, adjudication must continue through the sequential evaluation process. Id.; SSR 96-3p.

The medical evidence presented at the hearing, and in response to the interim order, was reviewed and is summarized below.

On August 8, 2017, Petitioner was seen for medication refill GERD and chronic pain. Petitioner presented with panic attacks. Her symptoms were noted to be improving. Petitioner reported chronic back pain with no change in her condition. Petitioner reported that her depression has been stable since her last visit. Petitioner denied any thoughts of suicide. Petitioner was noted to be obese. (Exhibit A, pp. 184-189).

On October 11, 2017, Petitioner was seen for a medication refill for management of GERD, insomnia, and chronic pain. Petitioner presented with complaints of panic attacks. However, it was noted that petitioner symptoms were improving. Petitioner reported chronic back pain. There was no change in her condition. Petitioner reported that her depression had been stable since the last visit. Petitioner denied any thoughts of suicide. Petitioner's physical exam yielded normal results. (Exhibit A, pp. 178-183).

On November 6, 2017, Petitioner was seen to complete her paperwork for DHS. Petitioner presented with complaints of panic attacks. It was noted that her symptoms were improving. Petitioner has chronic back pain and it was noted that there was no

change in her condition. Petitioner indicated that her depression had worsened since her last visit. (Exhibit A, pp. 172-177).

On December 5, 2017, Petitioner was seen for follow-up on depression with anxiety and bipolar disorder. It was noted that Petitioner had an appointment scheduled with Community Mental Health on December 11, 2017. Petitioner presented with symptoms of panic attacks. It was noted that petitioner symptoms were improving. Petitioner reported no change in her back pain condition. It was noted that petitioner has stable lower back pain, stable back stiffness, stable lower extremity pain, and stable lower extremity paresthesia. Petitioner was counseled to quit smoking. Petitioner stated that her depression has been stable since her last visit. Petitioner's physical exam yielded normal results. (Exhibit A, pp. 166-171).

On January 17, 2018, Petitioner was saying for two-month checkup on bipolar disorder, depression, and anxiety. Petitioner presented with complaints of panic attacks. Her symptoms were noted as improving. Petitioner stated that her depression has been stable since the last visit. Petitioner's diagnosis included bipolar disorder, depression with anxiety, and low back pain. (Exhibit A, pp. 160-165).

On March 29, 2018, Petitioner was seen for a routine follow-up on bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, and low back pain. Petitioner was given a physical exam which yielded normal results. Petitioner's diagnoses included bipolar disorder, depression with anxiety, arthritis, and low back pain. There was a discussion relating to Petitioner quitting smoking. (Exhibit A, pp. 154-159).

On April 3, 2018, Petitioner presented at being seen for lower back pain. Petitioner described the onset of the pain as gradual. She noted that the pain had been occurring in an increasing and unchanging pattern. Petitioner indicated that the pain was aggravated by bending, lying on the affected side, lying on a flat surface, sitting, lifting, getting out of a chair, getting in and out of a car, riding in a car, prolonged walking, running, prolonged standing, climbing stairs, descending stairs, and changes in weather pattern. Petitioner had an x-ray exam of her lower spine. There was market degeneration of the L5-S1 disc, as evidenced by disk space narrowing and anterior osteophyte formation. There was early minimal degenerative change at the remaining levels. Pedicles were intact. There were five lumbar vertebrae. S1 joints were unremarkable. Hips showed evidence of femoral acetabular impingement as visualized. Petitioner's diagnosis included spinal stenosis, lumbosacral region, M51.37 and other intervertebral disc degeneration. (Exhibit 1, pp. 1-5).

On April 14, 2018, Petitioner had an MRI of the lumbar spine without contrast. Petitioner became claustrophobic and could not complete the examination. The findings were based on a limited study given Petitioner's inability to complete the examination. There was no evidence of focal disc herniation at L1-L2. The L2-L3 and L3-L4 interspaces showed broad-based disc protrusion/bulging which is less prominent at the L2-L3 level as compared to the prior study but otherwise stable. There was some disc bulging at

L4-L5 which was grossly unremarkable. There was disc spacing narrowing and broad-based disc herniation at the L5-S1 level which was similar to that seen previously. Degenerative endplate signal changes at L5-S1 were noted. Height and alignment of the segments were otherwise unremarkable. Visualized conus medullaris was unremarkable. (Exhibit A, pp. 190-191).

On April 26, 2018, Petitioner was seen for a pre-opt evaluation pending a sedated MRI of the lumbar spine. The records indicate that on April 21, 2018, Petitioner was seen in the emergency room for anxiety and an MRI without sedation was unsuccessfully attempted. The risks of anesthesia were discussed. It was indicated that Petitioner needed to see a psychiatrist due to worsening bipolar and manic symptoms. (Exhibit A, pp. 149-453).

In consideration of the *de minimis* standard necessary to establish a severe impairment under Step 2, the foregoing medical evidence is sufficient to establish that Petitioner suffers from severe impairments that have lasted or are expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 90 days. Therefore, Petitioner has satisfied the requirements under Step 2, and the analysis will proceed to Step 3.

Step Three

Step 3 of the sequential analysis of a disability claim requires a determination if the individual's impairment, or combination of impairments, is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(iii). If an individual's impairment, or combination of impairments, is of a severity to meet or medically equal the criteria of a listing and meets the duration requirement (20 CFR 416.909), the individual is disabled. If not, the analysis proceeds to the next step.

Based on the medical evidence presented in this case, listings 1.01 (Category of Impairments, Musculoskeletal); 12.04 (depressive, bipolar and related disorders); 12.06 (anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders); and 14.09 (inflammatory arthritis) were considered. The medical evidence presented does not show that Petitioner's impairments meet or equal the required level of severity of any of the listings in Appendix 1 to be considered as disabling without further consideration. Therefore, Petitioner is not disabled under Step 3 and the analysis continues to Step 4.

Residual Functional Capacity

If an individual's impairment does not meet or equal a listed impairment under Step 3, before proceeding to Steps 4 and 5, the individual's residual functional capacity (RFC) is assessed. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4); 20 CFR 416.945. RFC is the most an individual can do, based on all relevant evidence, despite the limitations from the impairment(s), including those that are not severe, and takes into consideration an individual's ability to meet the physical, mental, sensory and other requirements of work. 20 CFR 416.945(a)(1), (4); 20 CFR 416.945(e).

RFC is assessed based on all relevant medical and other evidence such as statements provided by medical sources, whether or not they are addressed on formal medical

examinations, and descriptions and observations of the limitations from impairment(s) provided by the individual or other persons. 20 CFR 416.945(a)(3). This includes consideration of (1) the location/duration/frequency/intensity of an applicant's pain; (2) the type/dosage/effectiveness/side effects of any medication the applicant takes to relieve pain; (3) any treatment other than pain medication that the applicant has received to relieve pain; and (4) the effect of the applicant's pain on his or her ability to do basic work activities. $20 \ CFR \ 416.929(c)(3)$. The applicant's pain must be assessed to determine the extent of his or her functional limitation(s) in light of the objective medical evidence presented. $20 \ CFR \ 416.929(c)(2)$.

Limitations can be exertional, nonexertional, or a combination of both. 20 CFR 416.969a. If individual's impairments and related symptoms, such as pain, affect only the ability to meet the strength demands of jobs (i.e., sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling), the individual is considered to have only exertional limitations. 20 CFR 416.969a(b).

The exertional requirements, or physical demands, of work in the national economy are classified as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy. 20 CFR 416.967; 20 CFR 416.969a(a). 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 and occasionally walking and standing. 20 CFR 416.967(a). 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 the light 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). Medium work involves lifting no more than 50 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds. 20 CFR 416.967(c). Heavy work involves lifting no more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 50 pounds. 20 CFR 416.967(d). Very heavy work involves lifting objects weighing more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing 50 pounds or more. 20 CFR 416.967(e).

If an individual has limitations or restrictions that affect the ability to meet demands of jobs other than strength, or exertional, demands, the individual is considered to have only nonexertional limitations or restrictions. 20 CFR 416.969a(a) and (c). Examples of non-exertional limitations or restrictions include difficulty functioning due nervousness. anxiousness. or depression; difficulty maintaining concentration; difficulty understanding or remembering detailed instructions; difficulty in seeing or hearing; difficulty tolerating some physical feature(s) of certain work settings (i.e., unable to tolerate dust or fumes); or difficulty performing the manipulative or postural functions of some work such as reaching, handling, stooping, climbing, 20 CFR 416.969a(c)(1)(i) - (vi). crawling, or crouching, For mental disorders. functional limitation(s) is assessed based upon the extent to which the impairment(s) interferes with an individual's ability to function independently, appropriately, effectively, and on a sustained basis. Id.; 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(2). Chronic mental disorders, structured settings, medication, and other treatment and the effect on the overall degree

of functionality are considered. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(1). Where the evidence establishes a medically determinable mental impairment, the degree of functional limitation must be rated, taking into consideration chronic mental disorders, structured settings, medication, and other treatment. The effect on the overall degree of functionality is evaluated under four broad functional areas: (i) understand, remember, or apply information; (ii) interact with others; (iii) concentrate, persist, or maintain pace; and (iv) adapt or manage oneself. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(3). For the first three functional areas, a five-point scale is applied (none, mild, moderate, marked, and extreme). 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(4). The last point on each scale represents a degree of limitation that is incompatible with the ability to do any gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(4).

In this case, Petitioner alleges both exertional and nonexertional limitations due to her medical condition. Petitioner testified that she could dress/undress herself bathe/shower herself; use the bathroom; eat by herself; and prepare her meals. Petitioner indicated that she could not squat; stand for more than ten minutes; walk for more than a block; sit for more than ten minutes; kneel; climb stairs; or use her hands for an extended period of time due to her arthritic condition. Petitioner testified that she had issues with her short-term memory and with concertation but was unable to articulate a reason. Petitioner indicated that she was unable to complete tasks due to pain. Petitioner also indicated that she could not work well with others due to her anxiety.

Petitioner testified that she has been prescribed a walker by her doctor. The Department witness confirmed that Petitioner entered the hearing using a walker. Further, the Department witness testified that Petitioner was unable to stand up straight and that she changed positions on multiple occasions during the 35-minute hearing.

Petitioner's stated limitations based upon mental conditions were not supported by the medical evidence provided. However, Petitioner's testimony of her severe back pain was supported by medical evidence. At nearly each doctor's visit, Petitioner complained of chronic back pain with no change in her condition. Specifically, Petitioner's April 2018 MRI revealed she had broad-based disc protrusion/bulging and or disc spacing narrowing and broad-based disc herniation.

A two-step process is applied in evaluating an individual's symptoms: (1) whether the individual has a medically determinable impairment that could reasonably be expected to produce the individual's alleged symptoms and (2) whether the individual's statement about the intensity, persistence and limiting effects of symptoms are consistent with the objective medical evidence and other evidence on the record from the individual, medical sources and nonmedical sources. SSR 16-3p.

With respect to Petitioner's exertional limitations, it is found based on a review of the entire record that Petitioner maintains the physical capacity to perform sedentary work as defined by 20 CFR 416.967(b). Petitioner's RFC is considered at both Steps 4 and 5. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4), (f) and (g).

Step Four

Step 4 in analyzing a disability claim requires an assessment of Petitioner's RFC and past relevant employment. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(iv). Past relevant work is work that has been performed by Petitioner (as actually performed by Petitioner or as generally performed in the national economy) within the past 15 years that was SGA and that lasted long enough for the individual to learn the position. 20 CFR 416.960(b)(1) and (2). An individual who has the RFC to meet the physical and mental demands of work done in the past is not disabled. *Id.*; 20 CFR 416.960(b)(3); 20 CFR 416.920. Vocational factors of age, education, and work experience, and whether the past relevant employment exists in significant numbers in the national economy are not considered. 20 CFR 416.960(b)(3).

Petitioner's work history in the 15 years prior to the application consists of work as a sign demonstrator, lunchroom attendant and medical worker. Petitioner's work as a medical worker required prolonged sitting but did not require any prolonged standing or heavy lifting. As such, Petitioner's prior work required sedentary physical exertion. Based on the RFC analysis above, Petitioner's exertional RFC limits her to less than sedentary work activities. As such, Petitioner is incapable of performing past relevant work. Although Petitioner is unable to perform past relevant work, Petitioner cannot be found disabled, or not disabled, at Step 4 as it must be determined whether she is able to adjust to other work. Therefore, the assessment continues to Step 5.

Step 5

If an individual is incapable of performing past relevant work, Step 5 requires an assessment of the individual's RFC and age, education, and work experience to determine whether an adjustment to other work can be made. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(v); 20 CFR 416.920(c). If the individual can adjust to other work, then there is no disability; if the individual cannot adjust to other work, then there is a disability. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(v).

At this point in the analysis, the burden shifts from Petitioner to the Department to present proof that Petitioner has the RFC to obtain and maintain substantial gainful employment. 20 CFR 416.960(c)(2); *Richardson v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 735 F2d 962, 964 (CA 6, 1984). While a vocational expert is not required, a finding supported by substantial evidence that the individual has the vocational qualifications to perform specific jobs is needed to meet the burden. *O'Banner v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 587 F2d 321, 323 (CA 6, 1978).

When the impairment(s) and related symptoms, such as pain, only affect the ability to perform the exertional aspects of work-related activities, Medical-Vocational guidelines found at 20 CFR Subpart P, Appendix 2, may be used to satisfy the burden of proving that the individual can perform specific jobs in the national economy. *Heckler v Campbell*, 461 US 458, 467 (1983); *Kirk v Secretary*, 667 F2d 524, 529 (CA 6, 1981) cert den 461 US 957 (1983).

However, if the impairment(s) and related symptoms, such as pain, only affect the ability to perform the non-exertional aspects of work-related activities, the rules in Appendix 2 do not direct factual conclusions of disabled or not disabled. 20 CFR 416.969a(c)(2).

When a person has a combination of exertional and nonexertional limitations or restrictions, the rules pertaining to the strength limitations provide a framework to guide the disability determination **unless** there is a rule that directs a conclusion that the individual is disabled based upon strength limitations. 20 CFR 416.969a(d).

In this case, Petitioner was vears old at the time of application and vears old at the time of hearing, and, thus, considered to be a younger individual (age 45-49) for purposes of Appendix 2. Petitioner did not graduate from high school and did not obtain a GED. As discussed above, Petitioner maintains the exertional RFC for work activities on a regular and continuing basis to meet the physical demands to perform less than sedentary work activities.

In this case, the Medical-Vocational Guidelines, Appendix 2 do not support a finding that Petitioner is not disabled based on her exertional limitations. Petitioner has not worked more than five years and has a limited education. The Department has failed to counter with evidence of significant numbers of jobs in the national economy which Petitioner could perform despite her limitations. Therefore, the Department has failed to establish that, based on his RFC and age, education, and work experience, Petitioner can adjust to other work. Therefore, Petitioner is disabled at Step 5.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds Petitioner **disabled** for purposes of the SDA benefit program.

Accordingly, the Department's determination is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE THE ORDER WAS ISSUED:

 Reregister and process Petitioner's November 16, 2017 SDA application to determine if all the other non-medical criteria are satisfied and notify Petitioner of its determination;

- 2. Supplement Petitioner for lost benefits, if any, that Petitioner was entitled to receive if otherwise eligible and qualified;
- 3. Review Petitioner's continued eligibility in August 2019.

JAM/tlf

Administrative Law Judge for Robert Gordon, 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

Via Email:	
Petitioner – Via First-Class Mail:	