



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

MDD/152954

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed August 07, 2013, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Kenosha County Human Service Department in regard to Medical Assistance (MA), a hearing was held on November 19, 2013, at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether petitioner is disabled for MA purposes.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
By: No Appearance

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Kelly Cochrane
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Kenosha County.
2. Petitioner is 24 years old. He has alleged to be or has been diagnosed with sickle cell, depression and chronic pain.
3. On or about February 26, 2013 petitioner applied for disability through the state MA program. He did not apply for federal disability through the Social Security Administration.

4. On July 23, 2013 the Disability Determination Bureau (DDB) concluded petitioner was not disabled, as it did not appear his impairments were severe enough to be considered disabling.
5. On August 7, 2013 petitioner filed a MA-Reconsideration Request.
6. On or about October 21, 2013 his reconsideration request was again denied by the DDB.

DISCUSSION

A person between ages 18 and 65, with no minor children, must be blind or disabled to be eligible for MA. A finding of disability must be in accordance with federal social security/SSI standards. See Wis. Stat. §49.47(4)(a)4. To be eligible for MA as disabled, a person must meet the definition of that term as it is used for SSI purposes. See, Wis. Stat. §49.47(4).

The applicable SSI disability standards are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 20, Part 416, Subpart I, and by reference Appendices 1 and 2, Subpart P, Part 404. Specifically, to be disabled means to be unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a medically determinable physical or mental condition which will result in death, or will, or has, lasted at least twelve months. To determine if this definition is met, the applicant's current employment status, the severity of his/her medical condition, and their ability to return to vocationally relevant past work or adapt to new forms of employment are evaluated in that sequence. See 20 C.F.R. §416.905 and §416.920.

In this case, the Disability Determination Bureau (DDB) determined that petitioner's impairment(s) were not severe. This means that it was the DDB's determination that petitioner is not disabled because his present conditions do not form an impairment which can be legally determined to be severe.

Under the regulations established to interpret Title XVI, a claimant's conditions must pass five sequential tests established in the Social Security Administration regulations. Those tests are as follows:

1. An individual who is working and engaging in substantial gainful activity will not be found to be disabled regardless of medical findings. 20 C.F.R. §416.920.
2. An individual who does not have a "severe impairment" will not be found to be disabled. 20 C.F.R. §416.920(c).
3. If an individual is not working and is suffering from a severe impairment which meets the duration requirement and meets or equals a listed impairment in Appendix I of the federal regulations, a finding of disabled will be made without consideration of vocational factors (age, education, and work experience.) 20 C.F.R. §416.920(d).
4. If an individual is capable of performing work he or she has done in the past, a finding of not disabled must be made. 20 C.F.R. §416.920(f).
5. If an individual's impairment is so severe as to preclude the performance of past work, other factors, including age, education, past work experience and residual functional capacity must be considered to determine if other types of work the individual has not performed in the past can be performed. 20 C.F.R. §416.920(f).

If it is determined that an applicant for MA is not disabled at the second step in the review, it is not necessary to review the case under any later test or tests. 20 C.F.R. §404.1521.

To be found disabled, an individual must have a medically determinable severe impairment(s). To be considered severe, the impairment or combination of impairments must have more than a minimal effect on the individual's physical or mental abilities to do basic work activities. 20 C.F.R. § 416.921

The Bureau has determined that the petitioner's conditions, singly or combined, do not constitute a "severe impairment" under the Social Security Regulations, and thus, he fails to meet step two of the sequence. Therefore, a determination of "not disabled" is correct if the examiner finds that this determination was properly made.

The petitioner reports the conditions listed in Finding of Fact #2, above. However, he has not established that his impairments have more than a minimal impact on his physical and mental abilities to do very basic work activities. In fact, he is already performing many basic work-like activities in his general activities of daily living. In short, the medical evidence is very weak in this case to support a finding of disability. I do not mean to diminish the challenges he faces, however, the evidence is simply not there.

I concur with the DDB determination. These conditions do not establish a severe impairment. He has not demonstrated with medical and clinical evidence that the conditions have any more than a minimal effect on his overall basic physical and mental abilities to do very basic work activities. The instant application is denied. If the petitioner later determines that his ability to perform basic work activities is significantly impaired, he may always file a new application for MA – Disability in the future.

I add, assuming petitioner finds this decision unfair, that it is the long-standing position of the Division of Hearings & Appeals that the Division's hearing examiners lack the authority to render a decision on equitable arguments. See, Wisconsin Socialist Workers 1976 Campaign Committee v. McCann, 433 F.Supp. 540, 545 (E.D. Wis.1977). This office must limit its review to the law as set forth in statutes, federal regulations, and administrative code provisions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Petitioner is not disabled as required for MA eligibility.

THEREFORE, it is ORDERED

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 10th day of December, 2013

\sKelly Cochrane
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on December 10, 2013.

Kenosha County Human Service Department
Disability Determination Bureau