

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1920-0599

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal of the Director's decision to deny them eligibility under Section 5(1)(a) of *The Manitoba Assistance Act*. The date of the decision was <date removed>.

The decision letter sent to <name removed> indicated the reason for the denial was that there was insufficient medical information to support their eligibility.

<name removed> stated they have <health conditions removed>. The Department's requesting they provide it with detail on the severity, frequency and duration of their conditions was not necessary, they said, due to them having the conditions since childhood. <name removed> indicated the answer to the question of their conditions' severity is that they take away their entire life.

<name removed> stated their conditions prevent them from going into the community and cause difficulty sleeping, and that their symptoms prevent them from maintaining employment.

The Department told the Board that the medical information provided by <name removed>'s doctor did not provide any details on how they would be precluded from all employment, nor did the doctor make any notes on the severity of their conditions. <name removed>'s doctor had noted on the disability assessment report that they could work with temporary limitation of function, and indicated that having minimal contact with others would be helpful. The doctor made a note that <name removed> could work in an environment with animals.

In addition to the disability assessment report, the medical panel considered <name removed>'s self report, which stated they have difficulty only with sleeping. The medical panel denied <name removed> eligibility for assistance as a person with a disability as it was not provided any objective medical information that indicated they could not work. After the medical panel made its decision, the Department informed <name removed> that they could provide additional medical information for a reconsideration of their eligibility.

The Board asked <name removed> when they last worked. <name removed> responded, indicating they last worked in <year removed> as a veterinary assistant at an animal shelter.

<name removed> told the Board that after getting out of bed they typically attends resources for computer access. The appellant then does their daily tasks and, if time permits, attends to the library to read. Beginning in <year removed> they have been

involved as a volunteer training service dogs. Since acquiring their veterinary assistant diploma they have been trying to find work, but has had no success due to their age and mental health. The appellant stated that receiving disability assistance would help them get the therapy they need so they can return to the work force.

In response to a question from the Board, <name removed> indicated they have been on the wait list for mental health services for eight months. The appellant has not yet been provided a spot to attend.

The Board asked <name removed> about the Department's offering them the option to provide additional medical information. <name removed> responded, stating the purpose of the disability assessment report they provided was to give the Department the information they asked for. If the Department felt it did not have enough medical information, it was due to its not asking him for the details at the outset.

The Board acknowledges <name removed>'s health conditions, but notes that they do not appear to be actively taking steps to recover.

Based on the verbal and written evidence presented to it, the Board determines that there is insufficient information to determine that <name removed> is unable to work in any capacity for more than 90 days. The Board confirms the Director's decision to deny <name removed> eligibility under Section 5(1)(a) of *The Manitoba Assistance Act*.

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