

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

LESLIE NATHAN GROETTUM,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No: 2:17-cv-611-FtM-29CM

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on consideration of Magistrate Judge Carol Mirando's Report and Recommendation (Doc. #21), filed on January 7, 2019, recommending that the Decision of the Commissioner be reversed and remanded with instructions to the Commissioner. No objections have been filed, and the time to do so has expired.

The Court reviews the Commissioner's decision to determine if it is supported by substantial evidence and based upon proper legal standards. Crawford v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 363 F.3d 1155, 1158 (11th Cir. 2004)(citing Lewis v. Callahan, 125 F.3d 1436, 1439 (11th Cir. 1997)). Substantial evidence is more than a scintilla but less than a preponderance, and is such relevant evidence as a reasonable person would accept as adequate to support a conclusion. Moore v. Barnhart, 405 F.3d 1208, 1211 (11th Cir. 2005)(citing

Crawford, 363 F.3d at 1158-59). Even if the evidence preponderates against the Commissioner's findings, the Court must affirm if the decision reached is supported by substantial evidence. Crawford, 363 F.3d at 1158-59 (citing Martin v. Sullivan, 894 F.2d 1520, 1529 (11th Cir. 1990)). The Court does not decide facts anew, make credibility judgments, reweigh the evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner. Moore, 405 F.3d at 1211 (citing Bloodsworth v. Heckler, 703 F.2d 1233, 1239 (11th Cir. 1983)); Dyer v. Barnhart, 395 F.3d 1206, 1210 (11th Cir. 2005)(citing Phillips v. Barnhart, 357 F.3d 1232, 1240 n.8 (11th Cir. 2004)). The Court reviews the Commissioner's conclusions of law under a *de novo* standard of review. Ingram v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec. Admin., 496 F.3d 1253, 1260 (11th Cir. 2007)(citing Martin, 894 F.2d at 1529).

The Magistrate Judge recommends remand to the Commissioner to obtain and review records from the VA that relate to plaintiff's disability rating, to re-evaluate the severity of plaintiff's mental impairments and plaintiff's RFC, to re-evaluate whether jobs exist that plaintiff could perform given her RFC, and to make any other determinations consistent with the Report and Recommendation. After an independent review, the Court agrees with the findings and recommendations in the Report and Recommendation.

Accordingly, it is now

ORDERED:

1. The Report and Recommendation (Doc. #21) is **accepted and adopted** by the Court.

2. The Decision of the Commissioner of Social Security is **reversed** and the matter is **remanded** to the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) so that the Commissioner can:

A. Obtain and review the records from the Department of Veterans Affairs that relate to Plaintiff's disability rating and consider those records with all of Plaintiff's medical records and Plaintiff's testimony, and determine the weight to be given to such evidence and the reasons therefor;

B. Re-evaluate the severity of Plaintiff's mental impairments;

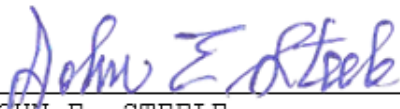
C. Re-evaluate Plaintiff's RFC given his alleged impairments singularly and in combination, including both his physical and mental medically determinable impairments;

D. Re-evaluate whether jobs are available in significant numbers that Plaintiff can perform given her RFC, which may require additional testimony from a vocational expert; and

E. Make any other determinations consistent with this Report
and Recommendation, or in the interests of justice.

3. The Clerk of the Court shall enter judgment accordingly
and close the file.

DONE and ORDERED at Fort Myers, Florida, this 23rd day
of January, 2019.



JOHN E. STEELE
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies:
Hon. Carol Mirando
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Counsel of Record