

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CATHERINE J. H.,

Plaintiff,

8:23-CV-0160
(GTS/MJK)

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

APPEARANCES:

OF COUNSEL:

LAW OFFICES OF KENNETH HILLER
Counsel for Plaintiff
6000 North Bailey Avenue, Suite 1A
Amherst, New York 14226

JUSTIN M. GOLDSTEIN, ESQ.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
Counsel for Defendant
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

VERNON NORWOOD, ESQ.
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

GLENN T. SUDDABY, United States District Judge

DECISION and ORDER

The above-captioned matter comes to this Court following a Report-Recommendation by United States Magistrate Andrew T. Baxter,¹ filed on December 15, 2023, recommending that (1) Plaintiff's motion for judgment on the pleadings be granted, (2) Defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings be denied, (3) the Commissioner's decision denying disability benefits be reversed, and (4) this matter be remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). (Dkt. No. 16.) Objections to the Report-

¹ On January 5, 2024, this matter was reassigned to United States Magistrate Judge Mitchell J. Katz because of Magistrate Judge Baxter's retirement. (Dkt. No. 17.)

Recommendation have not been filed, and the deadline by which to do so has expired. (*See generally* Docket Sheet.)

After carefully reviewing all of the papers herein, including Magistrate Judge Baxter's thorough Report-Recommendation, the Court can find no clear error in the Report-Recommendation.² Magistrate Judge Baxter employed the proper legal standards, accurately recited the facts, and correctly applied the law to those facts. (Dkt. No. 16.) As a result, the Report-Recommendation is accepted and adopted in its entirety for the reasons stated therein; Plaintiff's motion for judgment on the pleadings is granted, Defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings is denied, the Commissioner's decision is vacated, and this matter is remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

ACCORDINGLY, it is

ORDERED that Magistrate Judge Baxter's Report-Recommendation (Dkt. No. 16) is **ACCEPTED** and **ADOPTED** in its entirety; and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for judgment on the pleadings (Dkt. No. 10) is **GRANTED**; and it is further

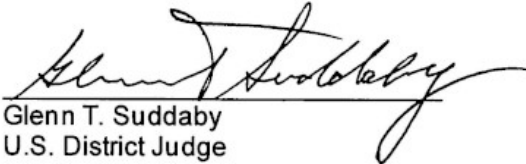
ORDERED that Defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings (Dkt. No. 14) is **DENIED**; and it is further

² When no specific objection is made to a report-recommendation, the Court subjects that report-recommendation to only a clear-error review. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), Advisory Committee Notes: 1983 Addition. When performing such a clear-error review, "the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." *Id.*; see also *Batista v. Walker*, 94-CV-2826, 1995 WL 453299, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. July 31, 1995) (Sotomayor, J.) ("I am permitted to adopt those sections of [a magistrate judge's] report to which no specific objection is made, so long as those sections are not facially erroneous.") (internal quotation marks omitted).

ORDERED that the Commissioner's decision denying disability benefits is **REVERSED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this matter is **REMANDED** to the Commissioner of Social Security for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

Dated: February 7, 2024
Syracuse, New York


Glenn T. Suddaby
U.S. District Judge