

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF
BETH J. CIANGIULLI, S.L.P.	*	EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS
LICENSE NUMBER: 03394	*	HEARING AID DISPENSERS AND
RESPONDENT	*	SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS
	*	CASE NUMBER: AHS 13-08

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

The State Board of Examiners of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists ("the Board") charged Beth J. Ciangiulli, S.L.P. ("the Respondent"), D.O.B. 02/20/1972, license number 03344, with violating certain provisions of the Maryland Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists Act ("the Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 2-101 *et seq.* (Repl. Vol. 2005 and Supp. 2007). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

H.O. § 2-314. Denial, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations –Grounds.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 2-315 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license or limited license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a limited license, place any licensee or holder of a limited license on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or limited license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

- (10) Commits any act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of audiology, hearing aid dispensing, or speech-language pathology, or the assistance of the practice of speech-language pathology;
- (15) Practices audiology, provides hearing aid services, or practices speech-language pathology with an unauthorized person or supervises or aids an unauthorized person in the practice of audiology, the provision of hearing aid services, or the practice of speech-language pathology.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Respondent is licensed to practice speech-language pathology in Maryland, having been issued license number 03394 on June 19, 1997.
2. The Respondent owns and operates Stepping Stone Therapy, LLC ("Stepping Stone"), located in Bethesda, Maryland.
3. Stepping Stone provides occupational and speech-language evaluations therapy to children.
4. The Respondent employs contractual and non-contractual employees to work at Stepping Stone.
5. In 2004, the Respondent hired an unlicensed speech-language pathologist ("Worker A") to provide speech-language evaluations and treatment to children.¹
6. Worker A's license to practice speech-language pathology in the State of Maryland expired on May 31, 2002.
7. Worker A continued to work for the Respondent until September 2007.
8. The Respondent failed to verify the status of Worker A's license.
9. By allowing Worker A, an unauthorized individual, to practice speech-language pathology, the Respondent violated H.O. § 2-314 (10) and (15).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated H.O. § 2-314 (10) and (15).

¹ The name of Worker A is not disclosed herein in order to protect the identity of Worker A. The name of Worker A has been disclosed to the Respondent.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 20 day of November 2008, by a majority of the full authorized membership of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that Respondent is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year**, beginning the effective date of this Consent Order, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Respondent shall pay to the Board, for payment into the General Fund of the State, a monetary fine in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000) within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Order;

2. The Respondent shall take and pass the Maryland law examination;

3. The Respondent shall show proof that she has completed twenty (20) continuing educations credits, which shall include a Board-pre-approved ethics course, by February 1, 2009;

4. The continuing education credits required in the foregoing paragraph cannot be used to satisfy the requirements for licensing renewal and are in addition to those required to renew her license; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall comply with and practice within all statutes and regulations governing the practice of speech-language pathology in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that any violation of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct, in addition to any other applicable grounds under the Act; and it is further

ORDERED that any violation of the terms and conditions herein shall constitute a violation of probation and of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Board has probable cause to believe that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, the Board, without prior notice and an opportunity for a hearing, may summarily suspend the Respondent's license, provided that the Respondent is given prompt written notice of the Board's suspension, the finding, and the reason in support thereof, and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-226 (c) (Repl. Vol.2005 and Supp. 2008); and is further

ORDERED that the Respondent may file a written petition for early termination of her probationary period, if the Respondent has fulfilled all the terms and conditions set forth herein, is not in violation of this Consent Order and there are no outstanding complaints against the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent does not petition for early termination of her probationary status then at the end of Respondent's probationary period, the Respondent shall file a written petition to the Board for termination of the probationary status and the removal of any conditions or restrictions that resulted from this

disciplinary action provided that she has fulfilled all the terms and conditions set forth herein, is not in violation of this Consent Order and there are no outstanding complaints against the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to make any such petition, then the probationary period status shall continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Board determines that the terms or conditions of this Consent Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify one or more terms or conditions upon which the Respondent was placed on probation, upon notice to the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms of this Consent Order, the Board, after notice and a hearing, and a determination of violation, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, and in such event, the burden of proof is on the Respondent to show the violation of this Consent Order did not occur; and it is further

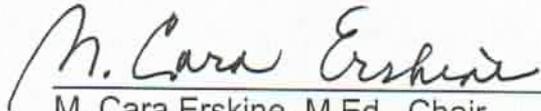
ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Consent Order is the date that this Consent Order is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (Repl. Vol. 2005 and Supp. 2008), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report; and be it further

ORDERED that this order is a public document pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-601 *et seq.* (Repl. Vol. 2005 and Supp. 2008).

11-20-08
Date


M. Cara Erskine, M.Ed., Chair
Board of Examiners for Audiologists
Hearing Aid Dispensers and
Speech-Language Pathologists

CONSENT OF BETH J. CIANGIULLI, S.L.P.

I, Beth J. Ciangiulli, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am represented by an attorney.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 2-315 (Repl. Vol. 2005 and Supp. 2007) and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (Repl. Vol. 2004 & Supp. 2008).
3. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
4. I voluntarily enter into and consent to the foregoing findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, and I agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth

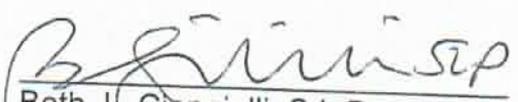
herein, as a resolution of the Board's case which is based on the findings set forth herein.

5. I waive my right to contest the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing and any right to appeal this Consent Order as set forth in Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 2-316 (Rep. Vol. 2005 and Supp 2007) and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (Rep. Vol. 2004 and Supp. 2008).

6. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order, and, following proper procedures, I may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include revocation of my license to practice speech-language pathology in the State of Maryland.

7. I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

11/12/08
Date


Beth J. Ciangiulli, S.L.P.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this 12 day of Nov, 2008, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally

appeared Beth J Ciangiulli and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

James E. Beckett
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

