

SEP 28 2009

LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (LBESPA)

IN THE MATTER OF

LBESPA ADMINISTRATIVE

MELISSA CONNOLLY

COMPLAINT # 2010-06

PROVISIONAL SLP ASSISTANT

LICENSE No. 5947

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, this matter came before The Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (hereinafter referred to as "Board") pursuant to administrative action upon receipt of renewal for licensure.

WHEREAS, Ms. Melissa Connolly holds Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant license number 5947, and appeared before the Board in a Compliance Hearing on August 7, 2009. Based upon documentation submitted and testimony presented, the following Consent Agreement and Order was drafted.

WHEREAS, Melissa Connolly, hereby admits and the Board hereby makes the following findings of fact:

1. That during the time period from August 2008, through May 2009, Ms. Connolly worked as a Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant for Hayes Healthcare under the supervision of Jennifer Hayes.

2. That during the time period of August, 2008 through August, 2009, Ms. Connolly practiced as a Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant without appropriate supervision, clearly a violation of the Board's *Rules, Regulations and Procedures*, Rule 127.M.

3. That during the periods lacking supervision, Ms. Connolly practiced outside

the scope of practice of a Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

4. That during the periods lacking supervision, Ms. Connolly submitted billing statements for unsupervised services provided.

WHEREAS, by practicing without appropriate supervision Ms. Connolly exceeded her scope of competence and has violated the Louisiana Administrative Code § 105 (B), as defined by the rules established by the board, or has violated the code of ethics adopted and published by the board as identified in: Rule 701(E)(2)(a) which states individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training and experience; Rule 701 (E)(2)(e) which states individuals shall neither provide services...for which they have not been properly prepared...

WHEREAS, Ms. Connolly has also violated Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:2662.A.6. and Rule 701 4.G. by violating the rules adopted by the Board.

WHEREAS, by submitting billing statements for unsupervised services provided, Ms. Connolly violated her professional and ethical duty as set forth in LA R.S. 2662(A)(3) by engaging in billing practices that have violated the code of ethics adopted and published by the Board.

WHEREAS, Ms. Connolly has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through this Consent Agreement and Order;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by LA R.S. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Melissa Connolly accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:958:

1. Within ninety (90) days of the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, Applicant shall complete an open book examination, and pay all related testing fees, regarding Louisiana Revised Statute 37:2650-2666, the Board's *Rules, Regulations and Procedures*, and Ethical Questions – Situations.

2. Ms. Connolly must complete ten (10) weeks of additional supervision as a Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, in addition to the required weekly supervision, to replace the lacking supervision. Within thirty (30) days of completion of the additional supervision, Ms. Connolly must submit proof of successful completion to be approved by the Board.

3. If Licensee **fails to successfully and timely complete** all requirements set forth above, the Applicant's license shall be **SUSPENDED** indefinitely without further notice until such time as the Board receives and accepts documentation of Licensee's completion of the requirements set forth above.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act and the Rules, Regulations and Procedures. Licensee is to be Publicly Reprimanded for violation of the above referenced sections in the Practice Act (LA R.S. 37:2650 et seq.) and the Rules, Regulations and Procedures. Such reprimand shall include publication by LBESPA, notification to the Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools, Inc. (SPALS), Early Steps, and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection (HIP) Data Bank.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, The Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech- Language Pathology and Audiology has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and has executed same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this 2nd day of October, 2009.

The Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

By: [Signature]
Board Chair

[Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

Board Member

IN WITNESS HEREOF, Melissa Connolly, Licensee, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Fort Polk, Louisiana, on this 24th day of September, 2009.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of September, 2009.
[Signature]
Notary Public

[Signature]
Melissa Connolly

