

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NO. 2023-08

LISA HALE

LAPSED L-SLP LICENSE NO. 7960

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, LISA HALE ("Ms. Hale") was a Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist subject to the jurisdiction and laws and regulations for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (La. R.S. 37:2650, et seq.), and the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, et seq.);¹

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2023, the Board received a complaint against Ms. Hale, which alleged that Ms. Hale billed for a session with a client during which the client was asleep and also billed for a therapy session for which Ms. Hale failed to show. This complaint was identified as Complaint No. 2023-08, and sent to investigation.

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2023, the Board notified Ms. Hale of the Board's decision regarding the complaint filed against her, which included a summary of the nature of the complaint, and offered resolution of this matter via a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, Ms. Hale submitted a response to the Board;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the complaint and administrative investigation, Ms. Hale has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in LAC 46:LXXV §501(H) and La. R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act;

¹ Ms. Hale's license is currently in a lapsed status.

Lisa Hale #2023-08
Initial: *LA*
4934281.v1

WHEREAS, Ms. Hale has admitted to the following:

1. Ms. Hale was a Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist ("SLP") licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the rules and regulations for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, La. R.S. 37:2650 et. seq., which was evidenced by License Number 7960.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Hale was actively engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology and employed by Synergy Care, Inc.
3. Complainant is a former employer of Ms. Hale.
4. The complaint alleges that on or around January 14, 2023, Ms. Hale was found asleep in a patient's room while the patient was asleep during the patient's scheduled session. Ms. Hale is also alleged to have failed to show up for a therapy session with another patient on the same day. Ms. Hale disputes the allegations as written.
5. Ms. Hale billed for the services with the two patients.
6. Ms. Hale has since retired from the practice of speech-language therapy and no longer lives in Louisiana.
7. Ms. Hale acknowledges that her actions were in violation of La. R.S. 37:2662(4) and LAC 46:LXXV §701(E)(1)(a)(p)(2)(3)(d)(4)(d)(e)(m).

WHEREAS, the undersigned attorney for LBESPA has communicated with Ms. Hale, who has indicated that it is her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hale agrees that if her license is reinstated, she shall not repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and acknowledges that any further misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order will be considered a violation of the

terms of this Consent Agreement and Order and shall be cause for further disciplinary action. Ms. Hale further recognizes that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement and Order by Ms. Hale shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause for LBESPA to immediately suspend the license of Ms. Hale to practice speech-language pathology in the State of Louisiana for a period of up to two (2) years, as determined by LBESPA at a regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting of LBESPA, without the need to institute new disciplinary proceedings against Ms. Hale;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hale recognizes her right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Ms. Hale would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on her behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by LBESPA based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. Ms. Hale nonetheless hereby waives her right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Hale also acknowledges that she hereby waives any rights to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, et seq., or which she otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest her agreement to, or the force and effect of the LBESPA's investigation or this Consent Agreement and Order in any Court or other forum.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in LBESPA by La. R.S. 49:975(D), LBESPA orders and Ms. Hale accepts the following administrative action, which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The license of Ms. Hale to be engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by License Number 7960 shall

be, and is hereby REPRIMANDED. Accordingly, Ms. Hale accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.

2. Ms. Hale shall reimburse legal and investigative costs associated with Complaint No. 2023-08 in the amount of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO AND 50/100 (\$1,252.50) (including \$240 investigative costs) within eighteen (18) months from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment being due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card.
3. Ms. Hale shall pay an administrative fine for the above referred violations in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500.00) within eighteen (18) months from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payment(s) shall be made on a quarterly basis, with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card.
4. Ms. Hale shall complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in documentation, ethics and recordkeeping. All courses must be pre-approved by the Board. A certificate of completion must be submitted by June 30, 2024. These continuing education hours are in addition to the ten (10) hours required for the annual renewal of her license, should her license be reinstated.
5. Ms. Hale shall successfully complete the Board's open book examination, and pay all related testing fees. The exam questions relate to the Louisiana Speech-

Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:250, et seq.); the Board's Rules and Regulations; and Ethical Questions.

6. Ms. Hale further acknowledges that failure to reimburse the fees set forth above at paragraphs 2 and 3 will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent has eighteen (18) months to reimburse the expenses before the debt will be considered final and transferred to the Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery (ODR). After transfer, the debt is subject to an additional collection fee of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total debt liability, as provided for in La. R.S. 47:1675(E).
7. Ms. Hale shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and its approval to any board or agency located in the United States with which she is licensed.
8. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Hale waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement. Ms. Hale acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. She further acknowledges and agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed relative to the allegations contained herein. If this Consent Agreement and Order is rejected by the Board, it will not constitute a waiver of Ms. Hale's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. She further agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, the members of the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and their consideration of this Consent Agreement and Order shall not alone be grounds for recusal of any member of the Board,

including any claims that the Board is biased against her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received ex-parte communication.

Address of Board. All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement shall be addressed to:

Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Towne Park Center
37283 Swamp Road, Suite 3B
Prairieville, LA 70769

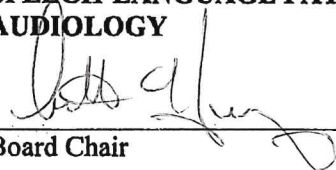
THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the LBESPA and is a matter of public record. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported in, including but not limited to, the LBESPA website, the Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

THE ADMISSIONS AND FINDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before LBESPA involving Respondent, Ms. Hale.

ORDER

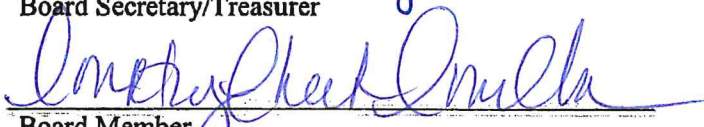
The Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, and Complaint Number 2023-08, adopt the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter on this 2nd day of February, 2024.

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND
AUDIOLOGY**

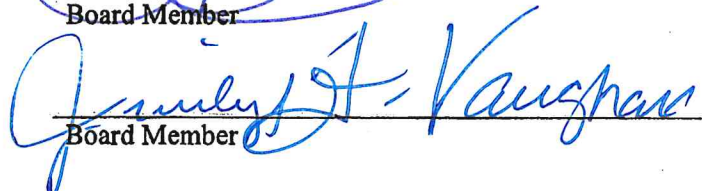

Board Chair


Board Vice-Chair


Board Secretary/Treasurer


Board Member


Board Member


Board Member

Board Member

I, **JAMES R. RAINES**, serving as counsel, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which Ms. Hale could be charged under Complaint Number 2023-08, and further certify that this Consent Agreement and

Lisa Hale #2023-08
Initial 
4934281.v1

Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.


JAMES R. RAINES

1/31/24
Date

I, Lisa Hale, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint Number 2023-08 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth herein and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, by agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize any member of the discipline committee to present this Order to the LBESPA for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LBESPA the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LBESPA shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LBESPA's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LBESPA decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LBESPA approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.


LISA HALE

1/31/24
Date

I, **LISA HALE**, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

DATED: 1/31/24 Lisa Hale
LISA HALE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 31st day of January, 2024,
at 3:25pm, The UPS Store

[Signature]
Notary Public
Print Name: Cassandra Munoz
My Commission Expires: 01-20-2026

