

STATE OF OHIO
STATE PERSONNEL BOARD OF REVIEW

CHERI JONES,

Appellant,

v.

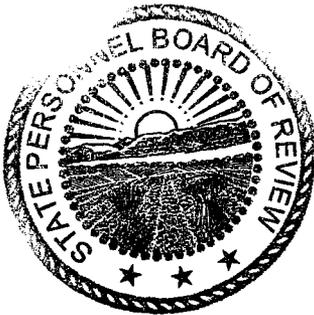
Case No. 12-REM-06-0148

ASHTABULA COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES,

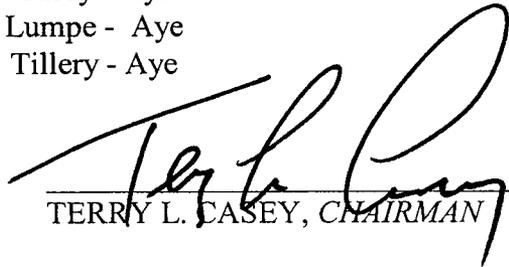
Appellee

ORDER

This matter came on for consideration on the motion of Appellant that the Withdrawal attached hereto be adopted. Being fully advised in the premises, the Board hereby orders that the attached withdrawal, incorporated herein by reference and made a part of the case file in this appeal, be **ADOPTED**. Accordingly, the above-referenced appeal is hereby **DISMISSED**.



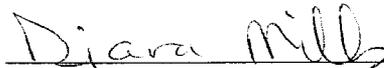
Casey - Aye
Lumpe - Aye
Tillery - Aye


TERRY L. CASEY, CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATION

The State of Ohio, State Personnel Board of Review, ss:

I, the undersigned clerk of the State Personnel Board of Review, hereby certify that this document and any attachment thereto constitutes (the original/a true copy of the original) order or resolution of the State Personnel Board of Review as entered upon the Board's Journal, a copy of which has been forwarded to the parties this date, November 9, 2012.


Clerk

11-9-12

STATE PERSONNEL
BOARD OF REVIEW
Nov, 1, 2012

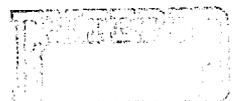
2012 NOV -1 PM 1:06

State Personnel Board of Review
65 East State St. 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-4213

In the matter of
Cheri Jones, appellant VS Ashtabula County Children Services, appellee

Case number: 12 REM -06-0148
Judge Beth A. Jewell

This notice is to notify the Personnel Board that I am withdrawing my complaint. Please be very clear- this is not something I want to do however since my administrative leave that started on 5/10/12-I was forbidden to return to my office. I should have followed my instincts and ignored that directive-because all the evidence I had collected regarding Ashtabula County Children Services discriminatory and "stacking" of complaints conveniently disappeared. I was never allowed to collect my professional and personal items from my office-instead my files, desk, even my rolodex with personal numbers/business cards were kept from me-all these items were not work products-including trainings I had developed, children's CD's, books, and DVD's which I had lent to workers. None of these items were returned. So now I can add deviousness and thievery to my description of Children Services. All my evidence was gathered in my Children Services Personnel handbook-and confiscated. If Children Services had no worries about my termination-why would the administration keep my evidence? In addition, Children Services rewarded Ms. Hillary Strauss, the woman who unmercifully harassed me and reported falsely that I was not performing my duties-with my position. This is what she wanted all along. I had devoted my life to Children Services and never believed I would work elsewhere. I constantly professionally improved myself starting as a line worker-caseworker (1990) -gaining the social work license, becoming an expert in sexual assaults in child abuse and domestic violence, then becoming a part time supervisor, completed my master's degree at Case Western Reserve University, earning my independent clinical social work license, and then becoming for the past 9 years, a program director and supervisor of Help Me Grow. The program had failed in the county and with my leadership and a dedicated staff-became one of the best home visiting programs in the state! I have served under 11 different administrations, different supervisors and never received any formal complaints until the recent administration (past 2 years). I may never know whether it was simply Ms. Strauss's ambition to secure my position (I have since learned that she was let go from her previous program job due to deceitful, manipulative behavior) or if Children Services Board did not want me as an employee for whatever reason. The bottom line is that I was a good employee who was mistreated; however I cannot prove that-witnesses are afraid to speak against them as they are still employed by them or connected to them and my written documentation disappeared. So after meeting with 3 attorneys, I am withdrawing my complaint as I cannot prove my case. In addition, the attorney's reported that it would have cost me more than \$3000.00 additional monies for a case I cannot win-my grant position was terminated by Children Services and picked up by another agency. So there is no position to return to. However,, Ms. Strauss was given that position in combination with her other job and she remains an employee of Children Services. It should be noted that it is public record that Children Services filed criminal charges of unlawful restraint against me and I beat those false charge even though it cost me \$1700. When there is no monies coming in (unemployment was also denied), it is unreasonable to keep fighting an unwinnable fight. It also important to note that my supervisor Tania Burnett never completed any



performance evaluations on me(due annually) nor made a corrective action plan to address my alleged unprofessional conduct as both state and local personnel practice indicate. My personnel record has no such documents since these actions were never taken. Ms.Burnett also never addressed my verbal or written concerns about Ms.Strauss's conduct-and she was also her supervisor.

Today, I am still an active board member of Homesafe, our local domestic violence shelter and serve as the President of Ashtabula County's Council of Violence Against Women. And I remain a committed social worker who recognizes that families are in crisis beyond the new 9-5 social work ethic and philosophy which Children Services has adopted. I have printed this long dialogue for a matter of record. It is unlikely that Children Services will change its new philosophy or thinking, so it is only a matter of time before another terminated employee comes forward to contest the termination .And although I could not have my "day in court" at least there will be a paper trail, documenting a history of behavior. On a local level, I will not ever financially support a Children Services or Board of Developmental Disability levy ever again. That is my right as a citizen of Ashtabula County. As a former public servant, I will not support an agency's image (paint, new desks, office décor) over services to families. America, including Ohio is in financial hardship, and the trimmings are not as important as the people.

Sincerely,

Cheri L. Jones
P.O. Box 1383
Andover, Ohio 44003