J	Case 2:07-cr-00260-DGC	Filed 02/23/09 Page 1 of 15
		THED LODGED
		RECEIVED COPY
1	DIANE J. HUMETEWA	FEB 2 3 2009
2	United States Attorney District of Arizona	CLERK US DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
3	STEPHEN W. LARAMORE Assistant U.S. Attorney Two Renaissance Square	BYDEPUTY
4	Assistant U.S. Attorney Two Renaissance Square 40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1200 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4408 Arizona State Bar No. 11903	
5	Telephone (602) 514-7500	
6	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
7	DISTRICT OF ARIZONA	
8	United States of America,	
9	Plaintiff,	CR-07-0260-07-PHX-DGC
10	V.	AMENDED PLEA AGREEMENT
11	Brian Ongaro,	Cooperation/Testimony Required
12	Defendant.	Cooperations resumenty resigning
13		
14	Plaintiff, United States of America, and	d defendant, Brian Ongaro, hereby agree to the
15	following disposition of this matter:	
16	<u>PLEA</u>	
17	Defendant will plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment charging defendant with a	
18	violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, Mail Fraud, a Class C felony offense.	
19		
20	<u>TERMS</u>	
21	Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the United States Sentencing	
22	Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") among other factors in determining	
23	defendant's sentence. Defendant understands, however, that the Sentencing Guidelines are only	
24	advisory, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court may be free to exercise	
25	its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes	
26	of conviction.	
27		
28		

Maximum Penalties

3 4

1

2

- A violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, is punishable by a a. maximum fine of \$250,000, a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years, or both and a term of supervised release of 5 years.
- 5
- According to the Sentencing Guidelines issued pursuant to the Sentencing Reform b. Act of 1984, the court shall:

pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663, the court determines that restitution

supervised release or incarceration, unless, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section

3572, the Court finds upon consideration of the factors therein and in Section 3553 that a fine

to serve a term of supervised release when required by statute or when a sentence of

imprisonment of more than one year is imposed, and the court may impose a term of supervised

impose a special assessment on the defendant of \$100.00. The special assessment is due at the

time the defendant enters the plea of guilty, but in no event shall it be paid later than the time of

Order the defendant to pay a fine, which may include the costs of probation,

Order the defendant, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583,

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the court is required to

- 6 7
- Order the defendant to make restitution to any victim of the offense unless, (1)

(2)

(3)

release in all other cases.

C.

sentencing.

is not appropriate;

- 8
- 9 would not be appropriate in this case;
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21

22 23

- 2. Cooperation Required
- 24 25
- The defendant will cooperate with the United States on the following terms and conditions.
- 26 27
- Defendant will waive the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination a. and will provide information in an interview and testify completely and truthfully at any time
- 28

and any place requested by the United States, including at any state or federal grand jury proceeding, forfeiture proceeding, bond hearing, pretrial hearing, civil and criminal trial, retrial or post-trial hearing regarding his role and the role of the others in the offenses charged in the Indictment under this cause number. Defendant shall answer all questions on cross-examination and redirect examination truthfully and completely, asked by any party, regarding the above-named persons, and all other persons.

- b. All such information and testimony shall be truthful, honest, candid, and complete with no knowing material false statements or omissions. Such information and testimony shall include all criminal activity known to the defendant.
- c. Defendant will be available for interviews by attorneys and law enforcement officers from the government upon request and reasonable notice.
- d. Defendant will provide the United States with all documents, records, memoranda and the like, at the request of the United States, within the defendant's custody and control or to which the defendant has access which are related to the subject matter of the investigation or case.
- e. Defendant will neither attempt to protect any person or entity through false information or omissions nor falsely implicate any person or entity.
- f. In the event the defendant or the defendant's family is harassed, threatened or otherwise subjected to intimidation because of defendant's cooperation, the United States shall in its complete discretion, take appropriate action to protect defendant and the defendant's family.
- g. Nothing in this agreement requires the United States to accept any cooperation or assistance the defendant may choose to proffer. The decision whether and how to use any information and/or cooperation that defendant provides is in the exclusive reasonable discretion of this office.
 - h. Defendant will not violate any local, state, federal or foreign laws.

8

5

9 10

12 13

11

14 15 16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23 24

25

26

27

28

3.

Agreements Regarding Sentencing

Stipulated Sentence At the conclusion of defendant's cooperation, pursuant to this agreement, the United States will, at the time of sentencing, move pursuant to Title 18, United

i. <u>Defendant Not in Custody</u> The defendant shall comply with all terms and conditions of his release.

j. The defendant will also provide all information concerning all forfeitable assets.

- k. Defendant shall not knowingly contact any person who has been criminally charged in any forum, except any family members of the defendant regarding innocent family matters.
- 1. Self-incriminating information provided by the defendant during cooperation involving criminal activity for which the defendant has not been or will not be charged pursuant to this agreement will not be used against the defendant and in particular will not be used in determining defendant's advisory guideline range pursuant to Section 1B1.8 of the Sentencing Guidelines.
- m. Nothing shall limit the United States' methods of verifying the truthfulness of defendant's statements. The United States may confirm the accuracy of any information which defendant provides under the terms of this agreement by use of any investigative means which it deems appropriate and necessary. Whether there has been a complete, truthful and candid disclosure by the defendant will be evaluated and decided by the United States Attorney for the District of Arizona and by him alone.
 - n. The plea of guilty shall be entered as soon as practicable.
- The sentencing on the guilty plea will be deferred, with consent of the court, for 0. a period of six months, and, after such six-month period, upon recommendation of the United States and agreement by this court, may be deferred for additional periods. It is the intention of the parties that sentencing on the instant charges be postponed until such time as defendant's cooperation has been completed.

States Code, Section 3553(e), Title 28, United States Code, Section 994(n) that the court depart from the Guidelines and impose a sentence below a level established by law as the minimum sentence to reflect defendant's substantial assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C) the United States and the defendant stipulate that the following is the appropriate departure:

That Sec. 2B1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines is applicable for purposes of determining defendant's offense level;

That the loss amount for purposes of calculating defendant's offense level under Section 2B1.1is \$392,500 (the amount the defendant was unjustly enriched for his role in the mail fraud);

That the court may impose any sentence <u>not to exceed</u> the minimum sentence computed under the applicable guidelines based on said loss of \$392,500, including home detention and/or probation;

That the defendant reserves the right to argue for a lesser offense level and sentence within this stipulated range, including home detention and/or probation;

That the United States recommends that the Court depart downward pursuant to Sec. 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines enough levels that defendant receive a sentence of home detention in lieu of prison.

If the court, after reviewing the plea agreement, concludes that any provision is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement giving the defendant, in accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5), an opportunity to withdraw the guilty plea.

The United States will bring the nature and extent of defendant's cooperation to the attention of the court, and the Bureau of Prisons, if applicable, at sentencing and any other appropriate time. The United States retains the unrestricted right to make any and all statements it deems appropriate to the Probation Office and to make factual and legal responses to any statements made by the defendant or defense counsel or objections to the presentence report or to questions by the court at the time of sentencing.

8 9

11

10

13

12

14

15

16

18

17

19

20 21

22

2324

25

26 27

28

Acceptance of Responsibility Assuming the defendant makes full and complete disclosure to the Probation Department of the circumstances surrounding the defendant's commission of the offense and, if the defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for this offense up to and including the time of sentencing, the United States will stipulate to a three-point reduction as set forth in the advisory sentence guideline offense level, pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Guidelines, and in the event defendant does not qualify for a three-point reduction under the Guidelines, the United States will stipulate to a two-point reduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1.

<u>Criminal History Options</u> This plea agreement is expressly conditioned upon the accuracy of the defendant's criminal history as known by the government at the time of the plea. The discovery of any criminal history in addition to that known shall entitle the government to withdraw from this agreement.

4. Breach of the Agreement

If the defendant fails to comply with any obligation or promise pursuant to this agreement, the United States:

- (1) may, in its sole discretion, declare any provision of this agreement null and void in accordance with paragraph (6) below and the defendant understands that the defendant will not be permitted to withdraw the plea of guilty made in connection with this agreement;
- (2) may prosecute the defendant for any offense known to the United States for which the defendant is responsible, and defendant waives any statute of limitations, Speedy Trial Act, and constitutional restrictions for bringing charges after the execution of this agreement;
- (3) may argue for a maximum statutory sentence for the offenses to which defendant has pled guilty;
- (4) may use in any prosecution any information, statements, documents, and evidence provided by defendant both before and after the plea agreement including derivative evidence;

- (5) may advise the Bureau of Prisons that defendant is no longer a cooperating witness, and recommend redesignation of defendant to a higher custodial level.
- (6) If there is a dispute regarding the obligations of the parties under this agreement, the United States District Court shall determine whether the United States or the defendant has failed to comply with this agreement including whether the defendant has been truthful.

5. Agreement to Make Restitution

Defendant specifically agrees to make restitution to in an amount to be determined at sentencing.

6. Agreement to Dismiss or Not to Prosecute

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A), the United States will dismiss all remaining counts in the Indictment pertaining to the defendant.

- a. This office will not prosecute the defendant for any offenses committed by the defendant, and known by the government, in connection with his role in this offense.
- b. This agreement does <u>not</u>, in any manner, restrict the actions of the United States in any other district nor bind any other United States Attorney's Office.
- c. The United States is not presently aware of any federal/state investigations or charges.

7. Waiver of Defenses and Appeal Rights

The defendant waives any and all motions, defenses, probable cause determinations, and objections which the defendant could assert to the indictment or information or to the Court's entry of judgment against the defendant and imposition of sentence upon the defendant, providing the sentence is consistent with this agreement. The defendant further waives: (1) any right to appeal the Court's entry of judgment against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the

imposition of sentence upon defendant under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 (sentence appeals); and (3) any right to collaterally attack defendant's conviction and sentence under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, or any other collateral attack. The defendant acknowledges that this waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal or collateral attack the defendant might file challenging his conviction or sentence in this case.

8. Perjury and Other False Statement Offenses or Other Offenses

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant in any way from prosecution for perjury, false declaration or false statement, or any other offense committed by defendant after the date of this agreement. Any information, statements, documents, and evidence which defendant provides to the United States pursuant to this agreement may be used against the defendant in all such prosecutions.

9. Reinstitution of Prosecution

If defendant's guilty plea is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed at any time, the United States will be free to prosecute the defendant for all charges of which it has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because of this plea agreement will be automatically reinstated. In such event, defendant waives any objections, motions, or defenses based upon the Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act or constitutional restrictions in bringing of the later charges or proceedings. The defendant understands that any statements made at the time of the defendant's change of plea or sentencing may be used against the defendant in any subsequent hearing, trial, or proceeding as permitted by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410.

10. <u>Disclosure of Information to U.S. Probation Office</u>

The defendant will cooperate fully with the United States Probation Office. Such cooperation will include truthful statements in response to any questions posed by the Probation Department including, but not limited to:

- All criminal history information, i.e., all criminal convictions as defined under the Sentencing Guidelines.
- All financial information, e.g., present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine or restitution.
- All history of drug abuse which would warrant a treatment condition
- All history of mental illness or conditions which would warrant a treatment condition as a part of sentencing.]

Forfeiture, Civil, and Administrative Proceedings

- Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant from civil forfeiture proceedings or prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating an
- Defendant will identify all assets and identify the source of income used to obtain the assets. Defendant will identify all assets used to facilitate the commission of any crime charged in this indictment. Defendant will testify truthfully in any civil forfeiture proceeding.
- Further, this agreement does not preclude the United States from instituting any civil or administrative proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.

FACTUAL BASIS

I further admit that if this matter were to proceed to trial the United States could prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

ELEMENTS OF TITLE 18 U.S.C. § 1341 - (Count 7)

First, the defendant knowingly devised or participated in a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by making false promises or statements; Second, the defendant knew that the promises or statements were false; Third, the promises or statements were material, that is they would reasonably influence a person to part with money or property; Fourth, the defendant acted with the intent to defraud; and

Fifth, the defendant used or caused to be used the mails or other interstate commercial carrier to carry out and attempt to carry out an essential part of this scheme.

A mailing is caused when one knows that the mails will be used in the ordinary course of business or when one can reasonably foresee such use. It does not matter whether the material mailed was itself false or deceptive so long as the mail was used as part of the scheme, nor does it matter whether the scheme or plan was successful or that any money or property was obtained.

AUTHORITY:

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341; Ninth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instructions (2003), 8.101 as modified. <u>United States v. Stapleton</u>, 293 F.3d 1111, 1115-1118 (9th Cir. 2002) (A knowing participant in a scheme to defraud is liable for the substantive acts of his co-schemers.)

Intent to Defraud

An intent to defraud is an intent to deceive or cheat.

Model Jury Criminal Instructions, (2003) 3.17

FACTS

On or about January 23, 2001, defendants **BRIAN ONGARO** and his partner RAYMOND MARSHALL entered into an agreement with CORF Licensing Services, LP (hereafter "CLS") to establish two CORFs (Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility), one located in Lewisville, Texas and the other, Richardson, Texas, also known as "Texas Therapy Centers," and "RMBO Enterprises, Ltd" (hereafter "RMBO"). Pursuant to the the terms of the contract **ONGARO** and MARSHALL paid CLS \$187,500.

Co-defendants DAVID GOLDFARB, RICHARD ROSS, PAUL WOODCOCK and MILTON GUENTHER were the principals of CLS.

CORF Management Services, LP ("CMS") handled RMBO's billings. CMS was owned and operated by the aforementioned co-defendants and principals of CLS. RMBO provided CMS its patient visits and types of therapy so CMS could bill Medicare or other insurance carriers.

Both the Lewisville and Richardson facilities were certified in September 2001 and open for business. Before becoming certified, **ONGARO** and MARSHALL at the request of GOLDFARB agreed to talk to prospects and assure them that CLS delivered on the promises

1 i i 2 l l 3 t 4 l l 5 l l

it made at the seminars and elsewhere. GOLDFARB would call **ONGARO** and/or MARSHALL and provide a phone number for the prospect so they could call him. Several of the prospects actually visited RMBO's clinics and met with them in person. **ONGARO** and/or MARSHALL would then typically confirm these visits and contacts with GOLDFARB and/or his assistant Jay Taylor and share with him their assessment of the prospects readiness to close so GOLDFARB could follow up with the prospects.

Initially, **ONGARO** and MARSHALL volunteered to talk to the prospects because it afforded them a chance to network and share ideas with others starting up a CORF. Within a couple of months, this process became burdensome and very time consuming because GOLDFARB referred more and more prospects to RMBO. GOLDFARB offered to pay **ONGARO** and MARSHALL for the time spent with the prospects, and they accepted. In June 2001, CLS paid RMBO \$7,500. This arrangement continued through January 2003 with RMBO receiving monthly payments, some as large as \$60,000. In total, CLS paid RMBO approximately \$700,000 for its efforts to market CLS which **ONGARO** and MARSHALL plowed back into RMBO to cover its monthly expenses.

Once RMBO's facilities were certified, it soon became apparent to **ONGARO** and MARSHALL that there were insufficient patient referrals and activity to meet expenses. **ONGARO** and MARSAHALL's concerns about the lack of patient activity were communicated to GOLDFARB, ROSS, WOODCOCK and GUENTHER, but mostly GOLDFARB, in various e-mails and letters beginning as early as November 2001 and continuing through 2003 and confirmed by the CMS billing records. Notwithstanding the payments from CLS, RMBO lost money in 2001 through 2003.

In order to keep the funds from CLS flowing, **ONGARO** intentionally misrepresented the success of his operations to prospect-victims. For example, **ONGARO** intentionally omitted to tell any of the prospects that RMBO was not meeting patient count projections, that RMBO was not meeting profitability projections, that RMBO was losing money, that he was being paid a substantial sum by CLS to tout it, and that he used money received from CLS to keep RMBO

afloat. ONGARO knew that such information would discourage prospects from signing a contract with CLS.

As aforementioned, the defendant- principals of CLS knew RMBO was losing money yet paid **ONGARO** and MARSHALL over \$700,000 to sell CLS to prospects.

COUNT 1

In or about May 2002, during a conversation with Carl Betcher, a potential CORF owner, ONGARO intentionally failed to disclose that RMBO was not reaching patient count projections or profitability projections promised by CLS, intending to convey the false impression that RMBO was profitable and successful. ONGARO intentionally failed to disclose that RMBO was losing money and that he and his partner were being paid a substantial sum to tout CLS. ONGARO knowingly made these false misrepresentations with the intention of deceiving Carl Betcher in order to induce him to sign a Licensing Service Agreement with CLS and pay CLS a fee so that CLS would continue to pay him.

On or about May 22, 2002, Carl Betcher received from CLS a letter with a Licensing Service Agreement and Support Service Agreement enclosed along with a request for payment via-fed ex. On or about this day, returned the signed contracts to CLS and a check payable to it for \$165,000.

ONGARO could reasonably foresee that CLS would use the mail in the ordinary course of its business.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

I understand that I will have to swear under oath to the accuracy of this statement, and if I should be called upon to testify about this matter in the future, any intentional material inconsistencies in my testimony may subject me to additional penalties of perjury or false swearing which may be enforced by the United States under this agreement.

DEFENDANT'S APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE

I have read each of the provisions of the entire plea agreement with the assistance of counsel and understand its provisions.

I have discussed the case and my constitutional and other rights with my attorney. I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I will be giving up my rights to plead not guilty, to trial by jury, to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses, to present evidence in my defense, to remain silent and refuse to be a witness against myself by asserting my privilege against self-incrimination -- all with the assistance of counsel -- and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement.

I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charges to which I am entering my guilty plea. I have further been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the possible sentence and that my ultimate sentence will be determined after consideration of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines. I understand that the Guideline Range referred to herein or discussed with my attorney is not binding on the court and is merely an estimate.

My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurances or promises other than the promises contained in this agreement. I agree to the provisions of this agreement as a voluntary act on my part and I agree to be bound according to its provisions.

I fully understand that, if I am granted probation or placed on supervised release by the court, the terms and conditions of such probation/supervised release are subject to modification at any time. I further understand that, if I violate any of the conditions of my probation/supervised release, my probation/supervised release may be revoked and upon such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, I may be required to serve a term of imprisonment or my sentence may otherwise be altered.

I agree that this written plea agreement contains all the terms and conditions of my plea and that promises made by anyone (including my attorney), and specifically any predictions as to the guideline range applicable, that are not contained within this <u>written</u> plea agreement are without force and effect and are null and void.

I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.

l	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	l
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	

28

I am fully capable of understanding the terms and conditions of this plea agreement. I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other intoxicant or depressant, which would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement.

2/2/09 Date

BRIAN ONGARO Defendant

DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S APPROVAL

I have discussed this case and the plea agreement with my client, in detail and have advised the defendant of all matters within the scope of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the constitutional and other rights of an accused, the factual basis for and the nature of the offense to which the guilty plea will be entered, possible defenses, and the consequences of the guilty plea including the maximum statutory sentence possible. I have further discussed the concept of the advisory sentencing guidelines with the defendant. No assurances, promises, or representations have been given to me or to the defendant by the United States or by any of its representatives which are not contained in this written agreement. I concur in the entry of the plea as indicated above and on the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement as in the best interests of my client. I agree to make a bona fide effort to ensure that the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11.

2/17/09 Date

ACHARY CAIN and/or EDWARD NOVAK
Attorney for Defendant

14

UNITED STATES' APPROVAL I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United States that the terms and conditions set forth are appropriate and are in the best interests of justice. DIANE J. HUMETEWA United States Attorney District of Arizona Assistant U.S. Attorney **COURT'S ACCEPTANCE** United States District Judge