

Diana S. Avelle, Psy.D.

Clinical Forensic Psychologist

EDUCATION

THE CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
Doctorate in Clinical Forensic Psychology (Psy.D.)

Los Angeles, CA
July 2018

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
Bachelor of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Bachelor of Arts in Human Development

Long Beach, CA
December 2011

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licenses: Psychologist (California #PSY31727), 2020-Present

Certifications: Child Custody Evaluator (California), 2020-Present

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project 180

Mental Health Diversion Evaluator

December 2024-Present

- Review collateral information (i.e. discovery provided by the client's defense attorney, mental health treatment history) and conduct clinical interviews.
- Formulate diagnosis, comprehensive treatment plan, and recommendations for potential diversion.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of behavioral health treatment resources and the LA County system of care.
- Establish and maintain relationships with community treatment providers and resources.
- Submit thorough, high-quality diversion or 730 reports in a timely manner.
- Collaborate with public and private community health, mental health, and social service agencies as needed for linkage for care coordination.

Gateways Hospital (L.A. County Conditional Release Program [CONREP])

Program Director, Forensic Community Treatment Program (FCTP) July 2022-November 2024

- Oversaw clinical decision making, with a focus on assessing and mitigating risk of dangerousness.
- Facilitated treatment team meetings, clinical supervision, and client annual staffings, as well as any other team meetings that arose.

- Maintained an understanding of the client's treatment and supervision needs and guided the treatment team incorporating these factors.
- Oversaw treatment team meetings and contributed pertinent information; responsible for establishing consensus and direction for treatment and supervision matters.
- Wrote, reviewed, and edited court reports as required.
- Collaborated with the Clinical Director and other Program Directors within CONREP; kept the Community Program Director apprised of all pertinent matters as they arose.
- Provided verbal and written testimony in court and similar settings.
- Provided administrative, clinical, and fiscal oversight to the program.
- Developed, maintained, and evaluated policies and procedures; assured adherence to standards consistent with program policy and professional standards of practice.
- Ensured compliance with all Department of State Hospital and Penal Code requirements (e.g., timely submission of court reports).
- Provided on-call coverage as required.

Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma/Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute (IVAT/FVSAI)

San Diego, CA

Contracted Psychologist

February 2023-Present

Director of Forensic Training

August 2020-February 2023

Staff Psychologist

April 2020-August 2020

- Serve as forensic evaluator for children and adults involved in civil, criminal, and family courts usually with family violence or trauma related issues. Referral questions include but are not limited to psychological damages as a result of childhood or adult sexual assault, competency to stand trial, psychologically relevant mitigation factors in criminal cases, and child custody or parenting evaluations.
- Provide mitigation reports and/or expert testimony related to various trauma-related issues.
- Create and execute forensic training for doctorate-level practicum trainees.
- Provide forensic supervision to doctorate-level practicum students.
- Provide training to clinical and forensic staff members at a variety of agencies.
- Perform case management duties which include, but are not limited to, being point of contact for attorneys, and managing case load and appointments for licensed clinicians.
- Manage billing invoices for all clinical, forensic, and training accounts.

Forensic Post-Doctoral Fellow

October 2018-April 2020

- Manage forensic consulting projects involving Civil, Criminal, and Child Custody cases usually with family violence or trauma related issues (including reviewing and summarizing records and conducting literature research).
- Conduct forensic psychological evaluations on children and adults to address a variety of referral questions.
- Administer, score, and interpret a variety of psychodiagnostic assessment batteries and draft comprehensive psychological assessment reports.
- Provide training to clinical and forensic staff members at a variety of agencies.
- Serve as peer editor for *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*.
- Perform case management duties which include, but are not limited to, being point of contact for attorneys, and managing case load and appointments for licensed clinicians.

- Manage billing invoices for all clinical, forensic, and training accounts.

Forensic Pre-Doctoral Intern

July 2017-July 2018

- Manage forensic consulting projects involving Civil, Criminal, and Child Custody cases usually with family violence or trauma related issues (including reviewing and summarizing records and conducting literature research).
- Conduct forensic psychological evaluations on children and adults to address a variety of referral questions.
- Administer, score, and interpret a variety of psychodiagnostic assessment batteries and draft comprehensive psychological assessment reports.
- Provide consultation within the community regarding issues of family violence victims and offenders, psychological trauma, and children exposed to violence.
- Provide individual evidence based therapeutic interventions to child, adolescent, and adult clients in short and long-term settings, including intimate partner violence programs.
- Provide training to clinical and forensic staff members at a variety of agencies.
- Serve as peer editor for *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*.

**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Counseling Center, Irvine**

August 2016-July 2017

Therapy/Assessment Practicum Student

- Administered, scored, and interpreted various assessments and produced comprehensive psychological evaluations for clients of all ages with a wide range of referral questions and psychopathology.
- Provided individual and couples therapy using evidence-based techniques, including CBT.
- Developed and implemented treatment plans.
- Attended individual and group supervision facilitated by licensed psychologists.

University of California, Irvine Medical Center

September 2015-August 2016

Therapy/Assessment Practicum Student in Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program

- Administered, scored, and interpreted various assessments and produced comprehensive psychological evaluations for adolescents with a wide range of psychopathology.
- Facilitated group therapy with adolescents in psychoeducational, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and process groups.
- Provided individual therapy sessions using evidence-based techniques, including CBT and ERP techniques.
- Attended multidisciplinary patient rounds conducted jointly by a licensed psychologist and board-certified psychiatrist.

PUBLICATIONS

Avalle, D.S., Smith, B.J., Wiedeman, K.E.O., & Garnica, C.B. (2022). How Efficacious is

Building Family Bridges? What the Legal and Mental Health Fields should know about Family Bridges and “Parental Alienation.” *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody and Child Development*

GRANTS

- Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Distance Learning Program: “Caring for the Caretakers: Organizational Wellness for Law Enforcement” \$89,685
10/2020-06/2021
 - Co-authored the proposal for approved grant (PI: National University/Susan Zukowski).
 - Oversaw implementation of grant serving as grant co-director
 - Co-created curriculum for asynchronous and synchronous material
 - Facilitated synchronous sessions with students
- POST Innovation Grant Program on Officer Wellness: “More Than Surviving: From Traumatic Stress to Wellness” \$200,000
4/2019-03/2021
 - Co-authored the proposal for approved grant (PI: Morgan Shaw, Psy.D.).
 - Created training manual as part of train the trainer model.
 - Provided direct training to officers throughout the state of California on the impacts of trauma and resilience factors.
 - Provided training to select officers throughout the state of California on how to provide the training to officers within their respective agencies

SELECT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, STATE, & REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Child Custody Evaluations, The Basics, Presented to Minnesota Department of Human Services Training Fellowship
May 2024
- Three 30-hour trainings on Conducting Child Custody Evaluations with Allegations of Intimate Partner Violence and/or Child Abuse, Presented for mental health, social service, and correctional facility professionals within The Ministry of the Interior, United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, UAE
October-November 2021
- Applying Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Research to Clinical Practice, Presented to mental health professionals throughout California
September 17, 2020
- Coping with COVID, Presented for United States Air Force
September 2020
- Adult and Adolescent Suicide Intervention, Presented for domestic violence case managers at YWCA of San Diego County
February 2019
- Women’s Intersectionality-Justice and the Prison System, Presented for mental health professionals at the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT)’s 23rd Annual International Summit on Violence Abuse and Trauma Across the Lifespan
September 2018
- Stalking, Presented for staff training at Access (A Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program)
June 2018
- Direct Client Services, Presented for domestic violence advocates via the YWCA of San Diego County
June 2018

- Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence in Adolescence. Presented to adolescent participants in “transcenDANCE” Youth Arts Project April 2018
- Psychological First Aid. Presented for staff training at Access (A Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program) March 2018
- Trauma Informed Care. Presented for students of San Diego State University’s Social Work Program January 2018
- Self-Care, Countertransference, and Vicarious Trauma. Presented for staff training at Access (A Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program) December 2017
- Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan. Presented for the Community Resource Center 40-hour Domestic Violence Training at Seacoast Community Church, Encinitas CA. October, 2017
- Healthy Relationships. Presented for transitional age youth (TAY) clients at Access. (A Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program) September 2017
- Stalking. Presented for members of the Los Angeles Chapter of California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO). April 2017
- Angel Step Inn Domestic Violence Shelter State Certified 40-Hour Training: Adolescents and Intimate Partner Violence March, September, 2016

SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Forensic Mental Health Association: The Future of Mental Health Diversion- What Stakeholders Need to Know Right Now October 2024
- Forensic Mental Health Association: Performing Legally Sound Forensic Evaluations: A Discussion of California Rules & Caselaw March 2024
- Forensic Mental Health Association: LPS Mental Health Conservatorships March 2024
- Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Victims: Continued Abuses During and After Litigation March 2024
- Department of State Hospitals: DSH CONREP HCR 20 v3 Foundational Web-Based Training January 2024
- Department of State Hospitals: Competency to Stand Trial: Evaluation and Treatment in an Outpatient Setting March 2023
- Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Version 3 (SARA-43) Training June 2021
- The Misuse of Alienation in Domestic Violence Cases in Family Court: Helping Court-Related Professionals to Sort Through Conflicting Allegations March 2021
- IVAT International Summit: Recognizing Trafficking Victims of DV & Sexual Assault with Refugee Communities September 2, 2020
- IVAT International Summit: Identifying Trafficking Tactics and Serving Needs of Survivors September 2, 2020
- IVAT International Summit: Tools for Advocates & Service Providers Working with Trafficking Survivors September 1, 2020
- IVAT International Summit: Black Girlhood Interrupted: Understanding Pornography’s Impact on Commercial Sexual Exploitation August 31, 2020
- IVAT International Summit: Teens, Sex and the Law August 31, 2020

- IVAT International Summit: Multidisciplinary Investigation of Child Abuse Reports When Child Custody is in Dispute, April 17, 2020
- IVAT International Summit: Best Practices in Forensic Interviewing, April 15, 2020
- American Academy of Neuropsychology: Forensic Grand Rounds: Differentiating Actual and Feigned Dementia June 23, 2018
- American Academy of Neuropsychology: Use of the MMPI-2-RF and PAI validity scales in forensic psychological and neuropsychological assessments June 23, 2018
- American Academy of Neuropsychology: Forensic and Clinical Assessment of Prolonged Symptoms After Reported mTBI in Adults June 21, 2018
- IVAT International Summit: MEGA' (Multiplex Empirically Guided Inventory of Ecological Aggregates) Specialized Risk Assessment Training, Assessing Sexually Abusive Youth. September 22, 2017
- Assessing & Managing Suicide Risk: Core Competencies for Mental Health Professionals October 14, 2016
- Angel Step Inn Domestic Violence Shelter State Certified 40-Hour Training September-October 2009

TEACHING & COURSE DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Anaheim, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Clinical Forensic Psychology Department

August 2022-March 2023

- Courses taught: Practicum I, Practicum II, Forensic Assessment
- Design curriculum, lectures and lesson plans for doctoral level courses including practicum and forensic assessment.
- Deliver all lectures and integrate innovative teaching techniques including video, audio, and internet-based media, demonstrations, critical thinking activities, and real-world applications.
- Interface with students on hybrid platform to facilitate discussion and learning online and in person.
- Support students who need additional academic assistance and facilitate exploration of possible career paths

Pepperdine University, GSEP

Online

Adjunct Faculty, Psychology Department

February 2019-December 2022

- Courses taught: Psychopharmacology, Psychopathology, Social Psychology
- Design curriculum, lectures and lesson plans for masters level courses including psychopharmacology, social psychology, and psychopathology.
- Deliver all lectures and integrate innovative teaching techniques including video, audio, and internet-based media, demonstrations, critical thinking activities, and real-world applications.
- Support students who need additional academic assistance and facilitate exploration of possible career paths.

Guest Lecturer

- Stalking. Presented to students in Introduction to Forensic Psychology course at Point Loma Nazarene University May 2018
- False Confessions and Coercive Interrogation Tactics. Presented to students in Introduction to Forensic Psychology course at Point Loma Nazarene University May 2018
- Created course on “Women in Prison” currently being offered in Chicano Studies Department at California State University, Long Beach. Course currently instructed by Maythee Rojas, Ph.D.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT TCSP Los Angeles, CA *Faculty Assistant to Director of Clinical Training and Core Faculty*

October 2016-June 2018

- Assist Director of Clinical Training in communicating with students in order to track progress at Practicum sites and ensuring all documentation is correct and up to date.
- Mentoring forensic students in preparing for comprehensive exams and assisting with professional development related issues.
- Facilitating Practicum classes in absence of Direct of Clinical Training.
- Assisted in grading student online discussion posts, and reports.

DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER

Los Angeles, CA

Case Manager

April 2013-January 2014

- Provided individualized case management and developed service plans for residents based on individual needs with the goal of maintaining housing stability.
- Authored monthly reports to Housing Manager to report occurrences and needs of the residents.
- Designed and facilitated Fitness and Intimate Partner Violence groups to maintain and improve mental and physical health of residents.

Resident Manager

- Provided crisis intervention, management, and resolution of 48 residents and facility emergencies on a 24/7 basis to ensure physical and psychological safety of all residents.
- Made agendas and facilitated community meetings to address and resolve residents’ concerns.
- Interfaced with Case Managers to inform them of daily occurrences of their clients and to help provide follow-up and advocacy on their behalf.

ANGEL STEP INN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER *Program Aide*

Confidential Location
April 2012-May 2015

- Answered 24-hour crisis hotline to assess callers for eligibility into the program, and conducted on-site interview, assessment, and orientation of newly admitted clients.
- Provided one-on-one emotional support for clients during immediate crisis to provide clients and household with homeostasis.
- Trained employees on proper documentation.
- Gathered and input statistical data for program auditors for various monthly and quarterly reports to ensure continuous funding.
- Transported and accompanied clients to medical, and social service appointments, and court appearances for emotional and psychological support.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE

ANGEL STEP INN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER, Confidential Location

Volunteer

September 2011-April 2012

- Completed 40-Hour Domestic Violence Advocate Training
- Answer 24-Hour Hotline
- Support and accompany clients to DCFS, housing, court and other appointments.
- Assist in the Children's Program by reading to groups, tutoring, offering homework assistance, making crafts, and developing and executing various age-appropriate activities.

PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- APA Division 41- American Psychology-Law Society, March 2021-Present
- Forensic Mental Health Association, March 2023-July 2024
- American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, March 2018-March 2019
- APA Division 41-American Psychology-Law Society, Student Member, August 2016-August 2017
- Los Angeles County Psychological Association, Student Member, September 2014-August 2015
- Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership & Honors Organization, 2011-Present

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Capable of typing 86 words per minute

HONORS & AWARDS

- Dean's Honor List: Fall 2008
- President's Honor's List: Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011

NOT YET RETAINED