



VITAE
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LICENSURE STATUS

MONTANA: LICENSE NUMBER 400
COLORADO: LICENSE NUMBER 2989
ALASKA: LICENSE NUMBER 191665
WYOMING: LICENSE NUMBER 841

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS/AFFILIATION

American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
General Member and
Forensic Special Interests Group
Brain Injury Special Interests Group
National Academy of Neuropsychology
Montana Psychological Association
National Registry of Health Care Providers
International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services
American Psychology-Law Society
Legal Information Institute-Cornell Law School
State of Montana Business Standards Division of Board of Psychology, Sexual Offender Evaluator
Endorsement
Clinical Member, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:

Capital City Consultants

Helena, Montana

Dates: April 2010 – Present

Title: Vice President/CEO

Duties: I am Cofounder of a private practice that provides a wide array of comprehensive mental health and forensic services to various referral sources throughout Montana, Colorado, Alaska, Wyoming, and the greater Northwestern Region. Among other services, Forensic Evaluations for adult and adolescent populations are provided for referring parties such as courts, attorneys, medical agencies and treatment providers. Evaluations provided range from Psychosexual Risk Assessments, Competency (Fitness to Proceed), Mental State at the time of the crime (Mental Disease and Defect), Violent Predator Assessments, Stalking Assessment, Threat Assessments, Death Penalty Mitigation and Clemency, Parental Assessments (DN), Custody evaluations, Disability and Disparate Treatment, Neuropsychological, Guardianship, Miranda Rights/Search and Seizure, and Police Officer Psychological evaluations and Fitness for Duty

Evaluations. As a company, we also provide consultation/evaluation services regarding sex offense specific evaluations, involuntary commitment, reality impairment, Eye Witness Testimony Issues, Civil Issues regarding Mental Damages, Traumatic Brain Injury, Child Sexual Abuse/Abuse allegations, Forensic Interviewing of Children, Battered Wife Syndrome, Suicide Prevention, Bullying/School Threat, and Developmental Disability issues, and Conduct, Trauma and Social/Emotional assessments for young children (1-7). Overall, City Consultants provides a wide array of psychological services, and a comprehensive list of those services can be provided upon request.

Shodair Children's Hospital

Helena, Montana

Title: Licensed Psychologist-Medical Genetics Department, Newborn Screening and Follow-Up Clinics:
May 2010-Present

Duties: Provide an array of services to a diverse population in the genetics department, newborn screening and follow-up clinics, and various referral sources throughout the state of Montana entailing comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations, consultation, diagnostic clarification, treatment recommendations, outreach, psychoeducation, advocacy, and service delivery. Additionally act as consultant for various professionals on the acute and residential units and outpatient clinic of the psychiatric facility.

Participation in assuring the quality of patient care remains high through participation in staff meetings and feedback sessions with family and treatment teams. Provide information and participate in peer review processes. Provides services within the framework of hospital quality assurance programs. Provides education for staff, patients, and the community on a variety of topics and areas of need. Assist with general program development, implementation, and oversight including community outreach and programming. Also participate in research opportunities such as to help advance patient evaluation, diagnostics, and aftercare.

Title: Director of Psychology-Psychiatric Department: May 2010-December 2015:

Duties: Provided direct oversight and supervision to the psychology and speech and language department. Provided quality psychological services in a range of treatment in the inpatient and residential settings. Provided psychological, neuropsychological, psychoeducational evaluations, risk assessments (violence/psychosexual). Additionally, psychoeducational training and consultation include recommendations for diagnosis, treatment, and service delivery placement for children and adolescents.

Participated in assuring that the quality of patient care remains high through participation in staff meetings and feedback sessions with family and treatment teams. Provides information and participates in peer review process. Provides services within the framework of hospital quality assurance programs. Provides education for staff, patients, and the community on a variety of topics and areas of need. Assisted with general program development, implementation, and oversight including community outreach and programming.

PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Steel City Consultants/Private Practice

Pueblo, Colorado

Dates: August 2005 – December 2018

Title: I was the cofounder, with transition to professional consultant to a private practice that provided comprehensive mental health services throughout Colorado. Psychological and forensic services included but were not limited to: Sex offense specific evaluations for adult and adolescent populations for referring parties such as the courts, attorneys, and treatment providers. Evaluations provided ranged from Psychosexual Risk Assessments, Violent Predator Assessments, PPG, Abel, Affinity, Parental Risk Assessments, Custody evaluations, Sanity/Mental State, Fitness to Proceed, and comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations. We also provided consultation services for the other members of the practice regarding reality impairment and developmental disability issues and conduct trauma and social/ emotional assessments for young children (1-7). Individual, family, and group

therapy, for clients across the cultural, economic, developmental, and diagnostic spectrum were also provided. Steel City Consultants provided a wide array of psychological services, and a comprehensive list of those services can be provided upon request.

Colorado Mental Health Institute-Pueblo: Institute for Forensic Psychiatry

Pueblo, Colorado

Dates: January 2007 – April 2010

Duties: Complete Restoration Reports and Competency Evaluations to expedite progression of Observation and Incompetent to Proceed legal statuses. Identify and interpret psychological assessments appropriate to the question of competency or restoration and to assist in Sanity/Mental Status Examinations. Assess competency and feigning among multi-diagnostic and difficult-to-treat individuals who are anticipating significant legal consequences, including juveniles. Develop and deliver to court, via expert testimony, professional opinion regarding diagnosis, personality characteristics and legal issues. Assist in providing competency restoration and assessment training as well as data collection pertaining to Incompetent to Proceed patients. Participate in quality assurance reviews. Was deemed an expert witness in multiple judicial districts, particularly pertaining to youth.

El Pueblo Adolescent Treatment Program

Pueblo, Colorado

Dates: May 2005-February 2007

Duties: Work within a residential treatment center including consultation and coordination with all departments (clinical, medical, education, milieu, human resources). Provide crisis intervention, individual, group, and family therapy and case management services to at risk youth with diverse cultural, economic, and diagnostic backgrounds. Formulate and monitor treatment and behavioral plans. Participate in utilization reviews, foster care reviews, individualized education plans, program development, quality assurance and milieu programming. Facilitate meetings and provide training for clinical and milieu staff. Network with community agencies such as Probation, Parole, Department of Human Services, District Attorney and Department of Youth Corrections. Provide cognitive and psychological/personality testing to assist with differential diagnosis. Provide treatment and evaluation for sexually offending youth. Assisted in program development and overseeing/implementing services for the dual diagnostic program for the developmentally delayed. Supervise internship and practicum students.

St. Mary Corwin

Pueblo, Colorado

Dates: September 2003 – April 2006

Duties: Psychiatric Liaison for the Emergency Department and medical units. Conducted psychological assessments, referrals to outpatient resources or inpatient hospitalization, crisis intervention, support during trauma cases, group therapy, and brief individual and family counseling. Worked closely with the Pueblo Police Department and the Department of Human Services as well as other referral agencies to aid in quality patient care and follow-up services.

Creative Innovations, Inc.

Phoenix, Arizona

Dates: August 2000 – August 2002

Duties: Provided home based, individual, couples, family and substance abuse counseling to juvenile delinquents aged 8-18. Conducted intake assessments, psychological evaluations, crisis intervention, life skills training, vocational rehabilitation, career planning, and parenting skills. Provided case management and treatment services including consulting with schools and social services. Designed and implemented treatment plans, coordinated services, maintained appropriate records, and participated in court proceedings for pre-adjudicated and adjudicated children and adolescents. Participated in outreach services and program development.

Southwest Behavioral Health Centers

Scottsdale, Arizona

Dates: July 1998- August 2000

Duties: Conducted individual, group, family, and substance abuse counseling to chronically mentally ill women aged 18-80 in a residential treatment facility. Provided crisis intervention, life skills, and pre-vocational training. Also provided case management and treatment services. Designed and implemented treatment plans and screened potential residents. Coordinated services and created and maintained appropriate records. Facilitated outreach programs, evaluation research, and program administration.

Lovaas Program Therapist

Residential Counseling Service

Rockford, Illinois

Dates: January 1998 – June 1998

Duties: Implemented behavior modification techniques to teach life skills, communication, and social skills to neurodivergent children. Assisted in designing treatment plans and coordination of services.

POST DOCTORAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

St. Mary Corwin

Pueblo, Colorado

Dates: September 2003-April 2005

Duties: Worked with a multidisciplinary treatment team in a hospital setting. Conducted clinical assessments, referral and treatment recommendations, and crisis intervention for medical and psychiatric patients. The position often required working as liaison between the two populations and the multiple team members. Provided consultation and evaluative services for psychological, neuropsychological, and cognitive testing. Provide education, assessment, treatment recommendations, and referral sources as well as facilitate support groups for diabetic patients and their families. Other services include individual, family, and group therapy, case management, and program development for the inpatient behavioral health unit.

Devereux Cleo Wallace- Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dates: October 2003-June 2004

Duties: Worked within an adolescent residential treatment center. Provided individual, family and group therapy for culturally and economically diverse patients across the developmental spectrum with a range of diagnostic impressions. Assisted in program development and implementing services for the dual diagnostic program for the developmentally delayed. Provided crisis intervention, life skills training, vocational rehabilitation, intensive sexual offender and survivor of traumatic experiences, and substance abuse counseling. Acted as a consultant to assist in appropriate school and classroom placement for adolescents with emotional, developmental, and behavioral difficulties. Attended foster care reviews and assisted with Individualized Education Plan meetings. Coordinated outpatient services and discharge planning. Served as an advocate for adolescents in the legal system (worked with probation officers and attended court hearings). Was afforded the opportunity to participate in program development and quality assurance reviews. In addition, supervised practicum students' individual and family cases, performed on-call duties, pre-certification, and re-certification for insurance benefits (utilization reviews), headed treatment plan reviews, behavioral support plans, staff training, and milieu programming, and assisted in triaging patients.

GRADUATE and PRE-DOCTORAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

Pre-Doctoral Internship Program in Clinical Psychology

University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute –APA accredited

Salt Lake City, UT

Dates: August 2002- August 2003

Duties: Worked within a multidisciplinary setting within the child, adolescent, and adult inpatient psychiatric units and child and adolescent day treatment programs. Additionally worked with a multidisciplinary team on the medical and geriatric psychiatry units providing comprehensive

neuropsychological and diagnostic assessments, consultation, and treatment recommendations pertaining to diverse medical, neurological, and mental health conditions.

Provided individual, family and group therapy for culturally and economically diverse patients across the developmental spectrum with a range of diagnostic impressions. Provided crisis intervention, life skills training, vocational rehabilitation, and substance abuse counseling. Conducted psychological, psychoeducational, and neuropsychological assessments. Acted as consultant to assist in appropriate school and classroom placement for children and adolescents with emotional, developmental, and behavioral difficulties. Attended foster care reviews and assisted with Individualized Education Plan meetings. Coordinated outpatient services. Was afforded the opportunity to participate in program development and attend various committees including the Utilization Review committee and Ethics committee. In addition, supervised practicum students' individual and family cases, performed on-call duties, and assisted in triaging patients. Provided case management and outpatient therapy to individuals and families.

Graduate Clinical Experience

Arizona State Hospital

Phoenix, Arizona

Dates: September 2000 – August 2001

Duties: Provided individual, group, family, sexual abuse/trauma and substance abuse counseling to seriously mentally ill children, adolescents, and adults with behavioral and affective difficulties in an inpatient setting. The primary population consisted of children and adolescents aged 4-18 from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds. Areas addressed consisted of Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Autism Spectrum disorders, Attention/Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant/Conduct Disorders, Mood Disorders, Psychotic Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, and Trauma/Post Traumatic Stress Disorders. In addition, individual therapy was provided for children and adolescent sexual perpetrators. Worked with a multidisciplinary team in the formulation and implementation of treatment plans, case management, and crisis intervention. Administered and interpreted integrative diagnostic psychological, neuropsychological, and psycho educational evaluations and risk assessments. Assessed and educated juvenile delinquents court ordered for restoration to competency. Conducted discharge planning and facilitated research and program development. Formulated and conducted adolescent sexuality and abandonment and loss groups.

Glendale Elementary School District

Glendale, Arizona

Dates: November 1999- May 2000

Duties: Worked with a multidisciplinary team in the formulation of individualized education and treatment plans for culturally and economically diverse students aged 5-12. Specifically, discussed strengths and weaknesses of individual children and methods to increase academic achievement and decrease disruptive behaviors within the classroom setting. Administered and interpreted integrative diagnostic psychoeducational evaluations. Facilitated a social skills group for Behavior Modification and Self-Contained Classes. Discussed relevant issues regarding individual student's social/emotional status, cognitive abilities, and therapy needs. Assessed for sexual and physical abuse. Participated in an outreach program to assist families in need. Provided individual therapy and family therapy.

Adobe Mountain Juvenile Corrections Center

Phoenix, Arizona

Dates: June 1999- November 1999

Duties: Worked with juvenile offenders aged 7-18 in a medium security facility providing individual and family therapy, substance abuse counseling, and assessment of psychological issues and educational needs. Worked with a multidisciplinary team in the formulation of individualized education and treatment plans for the juveniles. Conducted comprehensive psychological evaluations and risk assessments. Participated in staff meetings to determine the social/emotional status of the juveniles and set tentative discharge dates and aftercare planning. Assisted in formulating alternative housing and assessing probation issues

regarding juveniles pending release. Co-facilitated groups for adolescent sexual perpetrators and trauma/abuse victims.

Arizona School of Professional Psychology

Phoenix, Arizona

Dates: June 1998 – August 2003

Duties: Teaching assistant for various clinical courses including psychological assessment. Provide instruction as well as grading assignments and tests.

Janet Wattles Mental Health Center

Rockford, Illinois

Dates: January 1998- June 1998

Duties: Provided individual and group therapy to adult mentally ill clients in an outpatient facility. Facilitated several outpatient groups including an intensive day treatment program and Dialectical Behavior Therapy Groups for clients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. Supervised outings and assisted with case management within the community.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

Colorado Mental Health Institute

Pueblo, Colorado

2008 -2009

Duties: Co-facilitated the development of the Practice Guidelines for Forensic Psychiatric Evaluation of Competency to Stand Trial. Also, co-facilitated the development and implementation of quality assurance and programmatic changes within the Court Services Department and oversight of new employees entering the department.

Shodair Children's Hospital

Helena, Montana

2010 – Present

Duties: Co-facilitated the restructuring and ongoing development of the Newborn Screening and Metabolic Follow-Up Clinics. Provided guidance for the utility and implementation of neuropsychological evaluation for the Genetics and Metabolic departments. Gather data regarding best practices in the treatment of youth with serious mental illness and their families. Assist in implementing best practices by facilitating changes in programming and treatment interventions and providing education to staff members and the community. Assist in community outreach and education to aid in continuity of care and facilitate wrap around services.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Co-Chair of the Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association Ethics Committee

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Presented and Lectured on the Following:

The Advantage of Utilizing the Expertise of a Forensic Psychologist/Neuropsychologist in Pre-Litigation, Civil and Criminal Cases, April 2021

Epileptic Encephalopathy and Autism Spectrum Disorder, January 2021

Neuropsychology in Genetics, August 2019

Neuropsychology and Genetics, July 2018

Functional Capacity Assessments: Best Practices (guardianship, conservatorship, testamentary and investment capacity), August 2016

Influence of Environment and Adverse Childhood Experience in Neurobehavioral Outcomes, August 2016

Neuropsychological Impairment and Emotionally Disturbed Children, October 2014

Guest Speaker for Child Development class, Carroll College: Genetics and Environmental Factors in Child Development, Genetic Testing, and Genetic/Metabolic Disorder. Spring 2012, fall 2012 and Spring 2013.

Genetic and Metabolic Diseases/Neurotoxins In Utero: Etiology, evaluation, and Interventions, September 2012

The Death Penalty, Forensic Assessment, and Neuroscience
Missoula, MT University of Montana Law School and Office of the Public Defender Joint Conference
August 2012 Duties: As part of a Federal Grant a comprehensive review of case law, history, and the role of psychologists in capital cases was presented.
A Review and Reconceptualization of Social Aggression: Adaptive and Maladaptive Correlates and risk variables, April 2012
The Utility of Neuropsychological Evaluations in Criminal Cases, October 2011
Juvenile Risk Assessment, Violence and Sexual Recidivism, 2011
Social and Genetic Aspects of Turner, Williams-Beuren, and Fragile X Syndromes, April 2011
Inutero Exposure to neurotoxins, Summer 2010,
Assessing Competency to Proceed and Malingering, September 2009
Evaluating Juvenile Adjudicative Competence, July 2009
Evaluation of Competency to Proceed, April 2009
Sanity/Mental Health Condition/Culpable Mental State, January 2009
Difficult Case Conference, Involuntary Medication and Psychiatric Hospitalization, June 2008
Difficult Case Conference, Court Testimony/Admissibility of Evidence, April 2008
Suicide In-Service, 2008
Forensic Psychiatric Evaluation of Defendants Raising the Insanity Defense, 2007
Restorative Justice, July 2006
Attachment and Childhood Disorders, 2006
Child Development and Behavior, 2005
Treatment and assessment issues across the developmental spectrum
(Medical/Psychiatric), 5/2004
Case Conceptualization and Formulation of Treatment Plans and Interventions, April 2001

Publication: Abdallah F. Elias, Norman J. Haughey, Kathleen Mackey, Tessa Pitman, Alan W. Thomas, Venkata R. Bandaru, Christa D. Smelko, Sara Wakefield, Samuel P. Yang. "Dysregulation of Central Nervous System Sphingolipid Metabolism as a Unifying Mechanism for Neuro-cognitive Manifestations of Gaucher Disease and HIV Infection". Poster session presented at: Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics 2012 Nov 6-10; San Francisco, CA.

EDUCATION

Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona-APA accredited facility

(Full APA Accreditation)

August 2000- August 2003

Degree: Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

Minor: Forensic Psychology

Arizona School of Professional Psychology, Phoenix, Arizona-APA accredited facility

(Full APA Accreditation)

June 1998-August 2000

Degree: Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

Minor: Forensic Psychology

Rockford College, Rockford Illinois

August 1996- May 1998

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Psychology

HONORS

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Rockford College

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Arizona School of Professional Psychology for Masters of Arts Degree

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Argosy University Phoenix for Doctoral Degree

Psy-Chi-Psychology National Honor Society

Deans List-Rockford College

Deans List-Arizona School of Professional Psychology

Deans List-Argosy University Phoenix
Leadership Development Institute for the State of Colorado

Past Leadership Positions

Co-Chair of MSOTA Ethics Committee

RESEARCH

Shodair Children's Hospital:

Dates: January 2011

Biomarin PKU 016 study

Duties: Preparation for being a potential site to conduct psychological assessments throughout a clinical trial of Kuvan, assessing for neurocognitive improvements with initiation of the medication for individuals diagnosed with Phenylketonuria.

Abdallah F. Elias, Norman J. Haughey, Kathleen Mackey, Tessa Pitman, Alan W. Thomas, Venkata R. Bandaru, Christa D. Smelko, Sara Wakefield, Samuel P. Yang. "Dysregulation of Central Nervous System Sphingolipid Metabolism as a Unifying Mechanism for Neuro-cognitive Manifestations of Gaucher Disease and HIV Infection". Poster session presented at: Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics 2012 Nov 6-10; San Francisco, CA.

Rockford College:

Rockford, Illinois

Dates: January 1998- May 1998

Duties: Assisted in conducting research regarding the mind/body connection with physical ailments such as asthma. Recruited participants and collected and analyzed data.

Doctoral Dissertation:

Juvenile Adjudicative Competency: A Comprehensive Review of the Literature

Ongoing Education and CEU's and References available upon request.

Respectfully,



Dr. Christa Smelko, PsyD