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Education

PhD in Psychology
United States International University
(currently known as Alliant International University)
San Diego, California
1992

MS in Counseling; Marriage & Family Therapy
California State University, Fullerton
Fullerton, California
1989

MA in Christian Education
Biola University, Talbot School of Theology
La Mirada, California
1982

BA in Business Administration
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle, Washington
1979

Florida Institute of Technology
ABA Professional Development Program
Basic Certificate, January 2010;
Advanced Certificate, July 2010

PESI, Inc. Continuing Education
Cognitive Behavior Therapy Certificate Course
July 2016

Saddleback Church
Church Counseling Certificate
August 2018

PESI, Inc. Continuing Education
Intensive Hypnosis Certificate Workshop
October 2018

Other Educational Experiences

*Essentials of CBT: The Beck Approach / CBT for
Depression; Beck Institute – Online;
June – August 2017*

*Clinical Training Program – Autism Diagnostic Observation
Schedule – 2; and ADOS-2 as Part of a
Comprehensive Autism Assessment; Chapman
University; September 25 – 28, 2013*

*Dialectical Behavior Therapy / Advanced Dialectical
Behavior Therapy; PESI Continuing Education,
Anaheim, CA; November 16 & 17, 2015*

*Workshop; Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS);
Western Psychological Services; March 2004*

*Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy Training &
Consultation; County of Orange Health Care
Agency; May 1 & 2, 2015*

*Intensive Weekend Training program;
Gestalt Therapy Institute of Los Angeles;
1993 – 1997*

*Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Personality Disorders
J&K Seminars, LLC; May 2014*

*Coursework in Neuropsychological Assessment taken without
degree objective;
United States International University, 1997*

*Dale Carnegie Course: Skills for Success
Dale Carnegie Training; January – March, 2015*

*Workshops I & II in Neuropsychological Assessment of
Children; Reitan Neuropsychological Laboratory;
November 1996*

*Clinical Supervision: Beyond the Basics
Alliant International University; April, 2014*

Participation in various other continuing educational experiences in support of maintaining the psychologist license in California

Experience in the helping professions

Journeys Counseling Ministry, Costa Mesa & Mission Viejo, CA.

Licensed Psychologist, August 2019 to present.

- Provide outpatient psychotherapy and psychological, educational and neuropsychological assessment services.

The Regional Center of Orange County, Santa Ana, CA.

Staff Psychologist, June 2003 to present.

- Review documentation, assessment reports and other technical data to aid in determining eligibility for applicants through intake and consumers aging out of Early Start.
- Participate in Transdisciplinary Assessments (TDA's) along with an RCOG Physician and Service Coordinator.
- Perform diagnostic assessments, and/or home and school observations to obtain information needed for determining applicant eligibility.
- Conduct neuropsychological / psychological assessments for persons served to support applications for citizenship, eligibility for other agencies and other reasons not related to the provision of healthcare services.
- Participate as an expert witness during administrative hearings for issues concerning eligibility and service provision.
- Conduct new hire training on the Psychologist's role in the Health Resources Group, and in eligibility determination for Lanterman services.
- Consult with service coordinators and management regarding assessment and treatment issues with persons served.
- Other duties as assigned

Meier Clinics, Inc.

Clinic Director, Laguna Hills Outpatient Clinic. October 2005 to July 2019.

Costa Mesa Outpatient Clinic. September 2000 to June 2001.

- Manage the business operations of an outpatient psychology clinic.
- Hire and supervise clinical staff.
- Represent the clinic to the corporate offices in Wheaton, IL, reporting directly to the president.

Staff Psychologist; Clinical Supervisor, Laguna Hills, Costa Mesa, Orange, and San Juan Capistrano, CA. June 1998 to July 2019.

- Provide outpatient psychotherapy and psychological, educational and neuropsychological assessment services.
- Clinical supervision of post-graduate psychological assistants and marriage and family therapy interns.

Clinical Director; New Liberty Program;
September 1999 – October 2000

- Directed the clinical portion of an intensive two-week outpatient program for male sex addiction.

Psychologist in Private Practice; Fullerton and Laguna Hills, CA.

March 1995 to June 1998.

- Psychological/neuropsychological and educational assessment services to children and adults/couples, organizational consultation, and parent training.
- Outpatient psychotherapy, hospital privileges maintained at Capistrano By The Sea Hospital, San Juan Capistrano, CA

BehavioralCare of America, Inc./ Integrated Behavioral Health, Irvine, CA.

Case Manager

July 1998 to November 1999 and November 2000 to August 2001.

- A p/t position involving the evaluation of disability claims for major insurance companies.

Psychogeriatric Consulting Services; Affiliated Psychiatric Medical Group, Inc.; El Monte, CA
June, 1995 - February, 1996; November, 1997 - June, 1998.

- Provide psychological services to a geriatric population in SNF and retirement/B&C facilities.

Experience in the helping professions (*continued*)

San Bernardino County, Department of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs;

Clinical Therapist; Psychologist: Chino, CA

November 1993 to June 1995.

- Provide outpatient psychological services to a low income, multiethnic population, dually diagnosed with substance - related and other mental disorders.

Shepperson Psychological Associates, Inc., Fullerton, CA

Staff Therapist

July 1993 to March 1995.

- Provide outpatient psychotherapy and psychological and educational assessment. Services provided as a registered psychological assistant to Vance L. Shepperson, PhD, ABPP, supervision also provided by Bethyl J. Shepperson, PsyD.

Shepperson Psychological Associates, Inc., Fullerton, CA

Pre-doctoral Intern

February 1992 to June 1993.

- An organized clinical/counseling psychology internship program. Provided general clinical/counseling services including: individual, conjoint/family and group psychotherapy, psychological assessment, organizational consultation and public speaking at support groups as a representative of the practice.

Temple Baptist Church, Fullerton, CA

Assistant Pastor of Counseling

November, 1987 to November 1990.

- A part-time staff position providing counseling services to church members and the community as a Licensed Minister of the Gospel.

Orange County Center for Health, Anaheim, CA

Counselor - Practicum Trainee

November 1987 - November 1988.

- A practicum site for my master's degree at California State University, Fullerton. Supervision provided both on-site and at the university.

Grace Baptist Church, Salem, OR

Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Youth

September 1982 - April 1984.

- A full-time pastoral staff position. Responsible for the Christian education and youth programs, training of volunteer leaders and youth, visitation, counseling, and other pastoral duties.

Bloomfield Community Free Methodist Church, Lakewood, CA

Youth Pastor

September 1981 - August 1982.

- A part-time ministry while in seminary. Organized and led the youth program, trained youth and adult leaders.

Other Work Experience

Rockwell International (now part of the Boeing Co.), Anaheim, CA

Sr Quality Assurance Analyst / Production Cost Analyst:

November 1984 - January 1992

- Full-time positions analyzing quality assurance and manufacturing data related to cost centers in a defense electronics manufacturing facility. Presentation of production cost information to management, special projects, and involvement in Total Quality Management teams.

Other Work Experience (*continued*)

The Boeing Company, Everett, WA

Industrial Engineering Estimator

August 1979 - September 1980

- A full-time position analyzing direct cost data / man hour costs in a final assembly plant, for the 767 program. Regular presentations of cost information made to management. Participation in special projects.

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Faculty; Concordia University, Irvine - Department of Psychology. Taught one section of Developmental Psychology - Childhood (undergraduate) a semester; Fall, 1999 and Spring, 2000

Adjunct Faculty; Azusa Pacific University - Department of Graduate Psychology; Orange, CA. Taught one section of Advanced Developmental Psychology to students in the MA in Clinical Psychology program, Fall, 1998

Adjunct Instructor in Counseling; Biblical International Graduate School; Fullerton, CA. Taught two sections of Counseling techniques and one section of Marriage & Family Counseling to students preparing for the pastoral ministry. Winter and Spring quarters, 1994; Fall quarter, 1995.

Publications

Pontius, K. (2007). "Destructive behavior: Understanding what's behind harmful activities ". In (Publisher) Group's Emergency Response Handbook for Youth Ministry. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing.

Pontius, K. (2002). "Starved self-esteem - Helping students with eating disorders". In K. B. Trujillo (Ed.) The Comprehensive Guide to Youth Ministry Counseling. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing.

Pontius, K. (2002). "I can't believe it happened here! - Helping students face community tragedy". In K. B. Trujillo (Ed.) The Comprehensive Guide to Youth Ministry Counseling. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing.

Pontius, K. (2002). "Courage for tomorrow - Facing disease, illness, or handicap". In K. B. Trujillo (Ed.) The Comprehensive Guide to Youth Ministry Counseling. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing.

Pontius, K. (1992). A Descriptive Study of Motivational and Personality Characteristics in Evangelical Pastors. (Doctoral dissertation, United States International University) San Diego, CA: USIU.

Presentations

"Approaching People with Developmental Disabilities", a presentation given to employees of John Wayne Airport along with Peter Himber, MD & Sara Bollens, PhD; June 26, 2019

"High-Functioning Autism", a didactic presentation given to second year psychiatry residents at the University of California, Irvine; August 22, 2018

"Autism Spectrum Disorder", a presentation given to social workers with the County of Orange, Department of Social Services; April 7, 2016

"Autism & the Regional Center of Orange County", a presentation given to mental health professionals at Western Youth Services, Mission Viejo, CA; October 2015

"Autism & Eligibility for the Regional Center of Orange County", a presentation given to the OC Asperger's Support Group; Newport Beach, CA; October 2013 / Saddleback ASD Support Group; Lake Forest, CA; April 2014

Presentations (continued)

"Identifying Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the Classroom", a presentation given to private school teachers at the Association of Christian Schools International Convention; Anaheim, CA; November 2009

"What is Autism", presentation given as a guest lecture to nursing and graduate psychology students at California Baptist University once a semester, Fall 2008 to Spring 2012

"ADHD, Disruptive Behavior Disorders, Emotional Disorders, Mental Retardation, & Autism"; presentation given to volunteers and staff of Joni and Friends Ministry; Mission Viejo, CA; April 2008.

"Facing Adolescence: Dealing Effectively with Problem Behavior in Teens with ASDs", given at the Winter Conference of the Autism Society of America, Greater Long Beach/South Bay/Whittier Chapter; January, 2008.

"Autism and Eligibility for the Regional Center of Orange County", given at the Asperger Syndrome / High Functioning Autism Parent Support Group at Saddleback Church; May, 2006

"Effectively Coping as a Family", initially given at the Spring Conference of the Autism Society of America, Greater Long Beach/South Bay/Whittier Chapter; May, 2004 This presentation was repeated for a parent support group in Lake Forest, CA and for the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

"Help! My Child is Struggling, What Do I Do?", given as part of the Citizen's Action Committee of the South Orange County S.E.L.P.A. lecture series on April 18, 2002; Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

"The Effects of Autism on Family Life", given initially at Sib Shop for the Autism Society of the Inland Empire, May, 2000. This presentation was repeated for parent support groups in Lake Forest, CA and for the Greater Long Beach Autism Society in Long Beach and Whittier and for the Huntington Beach School District.

Other presentations have been given at various parent support groups, schools and churches on topics surrounding developmental disabilities-autism, marriage & family, childhood and teen issues.

Other Activities

Examiner, Standardization Project for the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) & Wechsler Memory Scale - Fourth Edition (WMS-IV); The Psychological Corporation / Harcourt Assessments; 2007

Subject matter expert for the development of the California Jurisprudence Licensing Exam, California Board of Psychology; February/March, 2003

Oral Examination Commissioner, California Board of Psychology; January 1999 to June 2001

Facilitator, ASD Parent Support Group, April, 1998 to June 2018; Adults with Asperger's Support Group, January 2006 – November 2012, Saddleback Valley Community Church; Lake Forest, CA

Assistant Scoutmaster/Chaplain; Troop 690, Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America; June 2001 to January 2005

Credentials, Honors, and Organizations

California Licensed Psychologist - # PSY14186 (initially issued 3/2/1995)

Licensed to the Gospel Ministry, Grace Baptist Church, Salem, OR (12/1982)

Listed, National Register of Health Service Psychologists, #46032

Listed, Cambridge Who's Who among Executives, Professionals, and Entrepreneurs 2010 - 2011

Kappa Tau Epsilon scholastic honor society; Biola University

Member, Autism Society of America

Member, National Eagle Scout Association (2002 - 2007)