

Carol Chambers PsyD, QME

PO Box 996

Penn Valley

CA 95946

Tel: 530 635 1996

Fax: 530 331 0169

drcarolchambers@gmail.com

Curriculum Vitae

Profile

Psychologist licensed in California, providing psychotherapy, in addition to psychological assessments and expert testimony in criminal and civil cases. Expert witness consulting is offered in the areas of civil and criminal capacities, personal injury, the causation and apportionment of psychological harm, PTSD, causation and degree of psychological injury and disability, mental state at time of offense, NGRI (1026 PC), IST (1368 PC), paraphilias, malingering, allegations of harassment and discrimination, workplace issues, false confession.

Education and Training

The Wright Institute - APA-accredited

Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Clinical Psychology

2013

Master of Arts (MA), Clinical Psychology

2010

University College London

London, UK

Bachelor of Arts (BA Honors), Philosophy

1986

American Academy of Forensic Psychology

2016 – 2022

Evidence Based Evaluations of Criminal Responsibility,
Assessment and Management of Violence Risk, Improving
Testimony in Depositions and Trials, Assessing Civil Capacities,
Assessment of Malingering.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ongoing training) 2019 – 2025

Evaluation of violent offenders with mental health disorders,
pursuant to PC 2962, Cultural Considerations for Mental Health
Providers.

California Department of State Hospitals (ongoing training)

2019 – 2025

Violence Risk Assessment, Cultural Issues in Forensic Mental
Health Assessment, Assessing Psychosis: Substance Induced v.

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Severe Mental Disorder, Expert Opinion in Challenging Offenders with Mental Health Disorders, Malingering, Diagnosing Paraphilic Disorders and Assessing Risk of Sex Offenders, Assessment of Offenders with Mental Disorders for Post-Prison Civil Commitment, Assessing Inmate Behavior Within the Context of Prison Culture, Forensic Reasoning in MDO Evaluations: Critical Thinking, Bias, and Relevant Evidence.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Certified: Compensation and Pension Evaluations for US veterans 2017

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Certified: Peace Officer Pre-Employment Screening (POST) 2017

The Effort, Sacramento, CA

Certified: 'ASIST' Crisis Counselor in Suicide Prevention 2008

Licenses

Licensed Psychologist, California (PSY27159) 2015

Qualified Medical Evaluator, California 2018

Professional Experience

Forensic Psychology Practice

2015 – present

Northern California

Psychological Assessment Specialist and Expert Witness

I have performed psychological assessments for Veterans Affairs (VA), Social Security Administration, Department of Rehabilitation, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and the Superior Court of California. I am a designated psychological expert on California Superior Court panels. I perform evaluations of violent offenders with mental health disorders for CDCR, pursuant to PC §2962. I serve as a qualified medical evaluator for the Division of Workers' Compensation. I serve as an expert witness in both civil and criminal cases. I assist and consult with legal teams and provide litigation support. A variety of psychological testing instruments are utilized, along with a clinical interview, according to the needs of the referral question.

- ❖ Personal injury
- ❖ PTSD and trauma assessment
- ❖ Qualified Medical Evaluations (QME) pertaining to Workers' Compensation claims
- ❖ Offenders with Mental Health Disorder (OMHD) evaluations pursuant to PC §2962
- ❖ Civil and criminal mental competencies (e.g. to proceed with trial, waive Miranda rights, enter into a contract, make a will)
- ❖ Mental state at the time of offense

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- ❖ Conservatorship evaluations
- ❖ Pre-employment psychological screening for peace officers and correctional officers
- ❖ Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) evaluations
- ❖ Causation and apportionment of permanent psychological disability
- ❖ Cognitive functioning (IQ, developmental and learning disabilities, level of comprehension for trial process and other legal capacities)
- ❖ Psychological assessments of adults and children claiming Social Security disability benefits
- ❖ Psychological assessment of clients of the Department of Rehabilitation
- ❖ Malingering assessment
- ❖ Treatment recommendations
- ❖ Effects of brain scan (and other expert) images on jurors
- ❖ False confession

Private Psychotherapy Practice

2015 - present

Nevada City, CA

Psychotherapist

Treatment modalities include evidence-based therapies, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy and dialectical behavior therapy, as well as depth-oriented approaches such as Jungian and psychoanalytic.

- ❖ Develop treatment plans
- ❖ Conduct weekly psychotherapy for individuals and couples
- ❖ Provide referrals as needed
- ❖ Collaborate and consult with doctors and psychiatrists as needed
- ❖ Attend weekly clinical consult group

Nevada County Behavioral Health

2014 – 2015

Grass Valley, CA

Behavioral Health Therapist

Nevada County Behavioral Health is a community mental health clinic that provides integrated psychiatric treatments, behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment to meet the needs of Nevada County residents. The agency provides outpatient and crisis services to adults, as well as jail-based psychiatric, assessment and psychotherapy services for individuals who qualify for the AB-109 program.

The population served is primarily low socio-economic status with severe mental health disorders and/or involvement with the correctional system. The individuals served have disorders such as schizophrenia, trauma-related disorders, mood disorders, cognitive disorders, learning and developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorders, personality disorders, dual diagnosis, and co-occurring medical conditions.

Treatment modalities include primarily evidence-based brief therapies: cognitive-behavioral therapy, solution-focused therapy, motivational interviewing, dialectical behavior therapy and mindfulness-based therapies.

Adult Outpatient Team:

- ❖ Conducted individual psychotherapy, both at agency and in jail setting
- ❖ Conducted psychological evaluations as needed
- ❖ Conducted Mental Health Court Evaluations
- ❖ Conducted Drug Court Evaluations
- ❖ Conducted intakes, provided diagnoses, and developed treatment plans for new adult patients
- ❖ Conducted annual assessments and reviews
- ❖ Conducted crisis evaluations
- ❖ Consulted and collaborated with multi-disciplinary treatment team (psychiatrists, primary care physicians, nurses, alcohol and drug counselors, as well as Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services)
- ❖ Provided case management and referrals to community resources
- ❖ Attended weekly supervision and presented cases at treatment program meetings

Gale Lipsyte Ph.D.

2013 – 2015

San Francisco, CA

Psychological Assistant/Clinician

This private practice is comprised partially of clients transferred from the James Goodrich Whitney Clinic, plus new clients from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The population served was diverse in terms of socioeconomic level. Predominantly, clients presented with mood and personality disorders. Other disorders included trauma related disorders, eating disorders, as well as co-occurring medical conditions.

Treatment modalities included evidence-based therapies such as cognitive-behavioral therapy and dialectical behavior therapy, as well as depth-oriented approaches such as Jungian and psychoanalytic.

- ❖ Developed treatment plans
- ❖ Conducted weekly psychotherapy for individuals and couples
- ❖ Provided referrals as needed
- ❖ Collaborated and consulted with doctors and psychiatrists as needed
- ❖ Attended weekly individual supervision

James Goodrich Whitney Clinic, San Francisco

2011 – 2013

San Francisco, CA

Pre-Doctoral Intern, Clinician

The James Goodrich Whitney Clinic, run by the C.J. Jung Institute of San Francisco, is a CAPIC accredited internship program. The clinic offers sliding scale psychotherapy to adults of all ages who are unable to afford standard fees but are interested in longer-term depth psychotherapy informed by Jungian theory.

The population served was comprised of individuals and couples from the Bay Area with varying levels of socio-economic status. Typical disorders included trauma related disorders, mood

disorders, eating disorders, substance abuse and personality disorders, as well as co-occurring medical conditions.

Treatment modalities included depth-oriented approaches wherever clinically indicated.

- ❖ Conducted intakes, provided diagnoses, and developed treatment plans for new adult patients
- ❖ Developed treatment plans
- ❖ Conducted weekly psychotherapy for individuals and couples
- ❖ Provided referrals as needed
- ❖ Collaborated and consulted with doctors and psychiatrists as needed
- ❖ Attended weekly case conference and individual supervision

State of California, Department of Rehabilitation

2010 –2011

Richmond, CA

Doctoral therapist trainee, third year practicum

The State of California Department of Rehabilitation is a state administered and state funded program that provides vocational rehabilitation and assessment services to individual with disabilities. A vocational rehabilitation team works closely with each job seeker to establish the best combination of services and resources necessary to prepare for, find and retain employment.

The population served was ethnically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse. Typical disorders included stroke, traumatic brain injury, developmental disorders, intellectual disability, learning disabilities, psychotic disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, as well as co-occurring medical issues.

After receiving a referral question from a vocational counselor regarding a DOR client, a clinical interview was performed. Subsequently, an assessment plan was created, requisite tests administered, and a written report with recommendations completed.

Clinically, treatment modalities include cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and psychodynamic approaches.

- ❖ Provided comprehensive psychological assessments (achievement; cognitive; personality) to incoming DOR clients in response to requests from DOR vocational counselors
- ❖ The range of test instruments administered included: WAIS IV, WRAT4, WRAT5, BDI, PAI, MMPI-2, RBANS, Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychological Battery, Bender Gestalt, WASI, CAI, MCMI-III, CAARS, Vineland II, Rorschach Inkblot Test, Clock and Bicycle Drawing Tests.
- ❖ Collaborated with vocational counselors to create a viable rehabilitation plan for a diverse variety of DOR clients
- ❖ Conducted weekly individual therapy sessions
- ❖ Provided referrals as needed

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinic, Berkeley, CA

2009 – 2010

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Doctoral therapist trainee, second year practicum

The Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinic is a community mental health clinic providing low-fee psychological services to adults. The clinic promotes cognitive-behavioral approaches and provides both short-term and long-term psychotherapy for individuals and couples.

The population served was comprised of adults from various ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Prevailing disorders included depression, anxiety, panic disorder, agoraphobia, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and personality disorders.

Treatment modalities focused on evidence-based treatments and consisted of cognitive behavioral therapy, schema therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and acceptance and commitment therapy.

- ❖ Conducted initial assessments on intake and provided diagnoses
- ❖ Developed treatment plans
- ❖ Conducted weekly individual and group psychotherapy sessions
- ❖ Collaborated with psychiatrists and physicians as needed
- ❖ Engaged in outreach to the community
- ❖ Received training in crisis intervention, suicide assessment, case formulation, CBT and ACT interventions, couples therapy, anger management, as well as the treatment of bipolar disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression, sleep disturbances, and anxiety.

Youth and Family Services Jail Outreach Program

2008 – 2009

Solano County, CA

Doctoral therapist trainee, first year practicum

Individual Supervisor: Mike Castell, Ph.D.

Youth and Family Services Jail Outreach Program provided individual psychotherapy and group substance abuse counseling to inmates of Solano County Jail, both during incarceration and after release.

The population of incarcerated male and female adults was ethnically and culturally diverse, predominantly from low socio-economic levels. Prevailing disorders included depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, posttraumatic stress disorder, psychopathy, and personality disorders.

Treatment modalities included cognitive behavioral therapy, schema therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, mindfulness-oriented approaches, and psychodynamic therapy.

- ❖ Conducted individual weekly psychotherapy sessions with male and female jail inmates
- ❖ Created and ran a nonviolent communication group for violent offenders
- ❖ Created and ran a meditation group for female inmates on 23 hour/day lockdown
- ❖ Consulted and collaborated with jail psychologists, jail psychiatrists, substance abuse counselors, social workers, and YFS staff
- ❖ Trained in suicide assessment, crisis intervention, mandatory reporting

Research Experience

Doctoral Dissertation: *The Effect of Brain Scan Images on Mock Jurors in Criminal Trials*
The Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA 2011 – 2013
Dissertation Chair: Terry Kupers, M.D.

This quantitative study examined the effect of brain scan images as part of expert testimony on the decision making of mock jurors. The study built upon prior research on the seductive effects of brain scan images and broader research on cognition. The study comprised two experiments, testing the effects of the images on the decision making of mock jurors, embedded into exculpatory and inculpatory testimony, respectively.

Presentations

A Case of Capgras Syndrome presented to CDCR psychologists evaluating offenders with mental health disorder pursuant to PC 2962, February 2025.

Delusional Disorder, presented to CDCR psychologists evaluating offenders with mental health disorder pursuant to PC 2962, December 2022.

Navigating Neurocognitive Disorders for the Mental Health Practitioner, presented jointly with Linda Tretin, PhD., at the 4th Annual Sacramento Valley Psychological Association, October 2019.

Cultural Considerations in Forensic Psychological Assessment, presented jointly with Baljit Atwal, PhD., at the 35th Annual Symposium in Forensic Psychology, April 2019.

Volunteer Experience

Suicide Prevention Crisis Line, The Effort, Sacramento, CA 2008
Suicide Prevention Counselor

The Effort provided a 24-hour suicide and crisis hotline and was based on a crisis intervention model.

The population served was comprised of ethnically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse individuals ranging in age and suffering from a variety of symptoms and difficulties, including depression, anxiety, gender identity disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and personality disorders.

- ❖ Provided crisis intervention and assessed suicidal and homicidal intent
- ❖ Conducted risk assessments
- ❖ Initiated welfare checks when appropriate
- ❖ Trained new crisis counselors