

Mario A. Souza, Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic)
Board Certified in Forensic Psychology
Licensed Psychologist PSY30724
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EDUCATION

Pepperdine University: Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Los Angeles, CA

Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology

May 2017

- Accredited by the American Psychological Association
- Dissertation: *Exploring the Relationship Between Perceived Social Support and Readiness to Change in Therapy with Trauma Survivors*-Dissertation Chair: Dr. Susan R Hall, JD, Ph.D.

Pepperdine University: Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Los Angeles, CA

Master of Arts, Psychology

December 2012

Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Psychology/Minor in Sociology, Emphasis on Deviance and Control

May 2011

LICENSURE

California Licensed Psychologist #PSY30724

CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified in Forensic Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology 05/2023-Present

HCR-20 V3 Certified Trainer 11/2021-Present

State Authorized Risk Assessment Tools for Sex Offenders (SARATSO) Certified Scorer-Static-99R 11/2019-Present

State Authorized Risk Assessment Tools for Sex Offenders (SARATSO) Certified Scorer-Stable 2007 05/2022-Present

State of California Certified Spanish Services Provider 10/2018-Present

MEMBERSHIP

Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) 05/2023-Present

American Psychology-Law Society (APA Division 41) 09/2016-Present

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in Spanish.
- Perform clinical interviews, psychotherapy and evaluations in Spanish.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Patton State Hospital

09/2019-Present

Senior Psychologist (Specialist)-Forensic Evaluation Department (FED)

Setting: Maximum security forensic hospital

- Senior psychologist in the Forensic Evaluation department. Primary tasks involve the completion of court reports, consulting on complex forensic cases, and completing various psychological evaluations requested by treatment teams or the courts.
- Assessments conducted
 - Offender with a Mental Health Disorder (OMD) extensions
 - NGI acquittee commitment extensions
 - Competency evaluations
 - Malingering evaluations
 - Violence risk assessments
 - Sex Offender risk assessments
- Testified as an expert witness in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Kern, Alameda, Placer, and San Joaquin counties.
- Competency, malingering, and risk assessment supervisor for DSH-Patton's Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Private Practice

01/2018-Present

Forensic Consultant & Evaluator

- Assist attorney in identifying relevant litigation issues
- Provide training and seminars on relevant psycholegal issues to District Attorney and Public Defender offices
- Conduct comprehensive psychological assessments related to cognitive/intellectual functioning and personality/diagnostic assessment
- Expertise in completing reports addressing psycholegal questions in criminal law such as competency to stand trial, insanity, violence risk, sex offender risk, mitigation, and mental health diversion
- Retained as an expert in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside counties

Patton State Hospital

09/2017-08/2018

Staff Psychologist (Hospital-wide risk assessment/Unit Psychologist-Spanish unit/Sex Offender Unit)

Setting: Maximum security forensic hospital

- Time split between two primary duties: hospital wide risk assessment and unit psychologist.
- Risk assessment
 - Conduct violence and sexual risk assessments with particular focus on referrals with short-deadlines and/or potential for court testimony.
 - Provided clinical feedback and treatment recommendations to treatment teams to inform treatment/assist in decisions regarding discharge readiness.
- Unit Duties (Sex Offender Unit/Spanish-Speaking Unit)
 - Primary duties include administration of admission psychological assessments, adjudicative competence evaluations, malingering evaluations, Mentally Disordered Offender (MDO) evaluations, NGI acquittee commitment extensions, and individual therapy.
 - Participated and conducted weekly treatment conferences while working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team including psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, and psychiatric technicians.

Patton State Hospital

09/2017-08/2018

Forensic Postdoctoral Fellow

Setting: Maximum security forensic hospital

- Primary duties include administration of admission psychological assessments, adjudicative competence evaluations, malingering evaluations, violence risk assessments, sex offender risk assessments, and Mentally Disordered Offender (MDO) assessments.
- Supervised interns and practicum students on admission psychological assessments and adjudicative competence evaluations.
- Participated in weekly Case Law and Advanced Forensics seminars.
- Conducted research relevant to psychopathy, assessment, and violence risk.

Bellevue Hospital

07/2016-07/2017

NYU-Bellevue Forensic Psychology Intern-APA Accredited

1st Rotation: Inpatient Forensic Psychiatry

07/2016-11/2016

Setting: Inpatient Prison Ward

- Assigned to a multidisciplinary treatment team on a unit that provided acute psychiatric care to male prisoners from all five boroughs of New York City. Patients are prisoners who suffered acute psychiatric decompensation and require stabilization.
- Extensive experience in in-depth psychiatric assessment, determination of the validity of symptoms and differential diagnosis.
- Extensive experiencing in contributing within a multidisciplinary team.

2nd Rotation: Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP)

11/2016-02/2017

Setting: Psychiatric Emergency Room

- CPEP is a service division within Bellevue's Psychiatry Department in which comprehensive psychiatric services are provided including triage, psychiatric evaluation and extended observation in the CPEP emergency room.
- Served as a primary clinician on a multidisciplinary team responsible for evaluating the need for current hospitalization, validity of presented symptoms, imminent and future risk, and appropriateness for extended inpatient hospitalization.
- Participated in conducting psychiatric evaluations with the Mobile Crisis Unit sent to address crises in the community.

3rd Rotation: Forensic Assessment

02/2017-06/2017

Setting: Inpatient Prison Ward/Court Clinic

- Experience was divided between the Forensic Inpatient Psychiatry Service and the Bronx Court clinic.
- On the Forensic Inpatient Psychiatry Service, psychological assessments answered referral questions such as differential diagnosis, malingering, and assessing levels of cognitive functioning.
- At the Bronx Court Clinic, completed court-ordered evaluations that served several purposes such as diagnosis, placement of offenders in jail diversion programs, domestic violence issues, anger management, and gaining insight into adolescent offenders waived into adult criminal court for violent crimes.

Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic at Bellevue Hospital Center

07/2016-07/2017

- Conducted intake interviews and provided weekly individual therapy utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to adults with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, cognitive disorders and substance use disorders.
- Co-facilitated a mindfulness-based anxiety reduction group for adult outpatients.

Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center

07/2016-07/2017

Forensic Psychology Intern

Setting: Maximum security forensic hospital

- Conducted comprehensive clinical interviews, administered, scored and interpreted comprehensive assessment reports to answer referral questions such as competency, malingering, dangerousness, intellectual functioning and diagnostic clarification.
- Co-facilitated a forensic issues group for individuals found insane at the time of the crime. The group focused on helping these individuals cope with the stressors of long-term hospitalization, develop insight into their crimes and diagnosis, and assist in the transition to civil hospitals.
- Co-facilitated a competency restoration group for offenders who were found incompetent to stand trial.
- Provided peer supervision to practicum students who co-facilitated a competency restoration group, and provided supervision on assessment administration, interpretation and report writing.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Long Beach Healthcare System

08/2015-06/2016

*1st Rotation: Neuropsychology Assessment Clerk
(08/2015-02/2016)*

Setting: Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center

- Conducted comprehensive interviews and neuropsychological assessments within the neuropsychology clinic with veterans experiencing mood, personality, substance use and neurocognitive disorders.
- Administered, scored, interpreted and wrote comprehensive neuropsychological assessments reports to form diagnostic conceptualizations and to assess for potential cognitive deficits.

*2nd Rotation: Extern, Combat PTSD Treatment
06/2016*

02/2016-

Setting: Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center

- Conducted comprehensive clinical interviews to determine the presence of PTSD in order for veterans to meet prerequisites for supportive services.
- Provided individual treatment for veterans presenting with a variety of clinical diagnosis resulting from combat experience utilizing evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Interpersonal psychotherapy and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.
- Co-Facilitated Acceptance and Commitment Therapy groups for individuals with trauma-based diagnosis resulting from combat experience.

Pepperdine Psychological and Education Clinic

07/2015-05/2016

Doctoral Psychology Extern

Setting: Community Counseling Center

- Conducted intake interviews and provided weekly individual therapy utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to adults with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, cognitive disorders and substance use disorders.

Metropolitan State Hospital

09/2014-08/2015

Assessment Clerk

Setting: Forensic Psychiatric State Hospital

- Conducted psychodiagnostic, cognitive and forensic assessments with patients under the following commitment types: not guilty by reason of insanity, incompetent to stand trial, mentally disordered offender and various civil commitments.
- Provided consultation to interdisciplinary staff on assessment results, treatment recommendations and any other questions raised in the assessment referral.
- Co-facilitated a symptoms management group for individuals with severe mental disorders that provided education to group members about the symptomatology of their diagnosis and the coping skills that can be used to better manage their symptoms.
- Co-facilitated a CBT-based anger management group for patients with a history of inpatient violence.

Union Rescue Mission

09/2013 – 08/2015

Doctoral Psychology Extern

Setting: *Residential Substance Abuse Program on Skid Row*

- Conducted individual therapy with culturally diverse clients on a weekly basis who were experiencing homelessness and who experienced comorbid psychiatric diagnosis.
- Clinical work at the URM was multidisciplinary and frequently involved collaboration with client's chaplains at the URM, medication referrals as needed, facilitation of medication adherence/compliance, and coordination of medical and legal services as necessary.
- Created and lead a relapse-prevention group for substance abuse.

Aegis Medical Narcotic Treatment Program

06/2013-09/2013

Case Manager/Counselor

Setting: *Outpatient Drug Program*

- Provided weekly individual counseling sessions (with a caseload of 30+ patients) utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Techniques and relapse prevention models.
- Facilitated 2-3 weekly groups focusing on substance relapse prevention and cognitive restructuring using cognitive-behavioral interventions.
- Provided weekly consultation during case conferences to multi-disciplinary team
- Created individualized treatment plans for each client that included social, medical, legal, and

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Veterans Affairs (VA) Long Beach Healthcare System

08/2015-05/2016

Student Research Assistant- "Screening for Cognitive Decline in a Veteran Population with the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) and the Benson Figure"

Principle Investigators: Kimberly Baerresen, Ph.D., Duke Han, Ph.D., Vanessa Zizack, Ph.D.

- Project sought to examine the MoCA's ability to accurately diagnose cognitive decline and if adding a visual memory measure to the MoCA (Benson Figure) will increase its accuracy.
- Accepted to the 2016 International Neuropsychological Society (INS) conference.

Pepperdine Applied Research Center

03/2014-05/2017

Lab Supervisor

Principle Investigators: Susan Hall, Ph.D.

- Managed research database of client information, outcome measures and videotaped sessions throughout the three Pepperdine community counseling clinics.
- Recruited, trained, and supervised master's level research assistants.
- Assisted in the development of several doctoral dissertations related to psychotherapy effectiveness.

USC/LAC Department of Behavior & Psychology

05/2012-06/2013

Graduate Research Assistant

Principle Investigators: John Briere, Ph.D., Randy Semple, Ph.D.

- Conducted research on the genetic and environmental factors that may be related to the development of PTSD.
- Recruited potential research subjects from the emergency room, managed participant appointments, input study data, maintained participant/study files, and conducted various assessments/structured interview instruments for the diagnosis of PTSD.

TRAINING/PRESENTATIONS

HCR-20-V3 Department of State Hospitals-Trainer

04/2021-Current

- Chosen through a selection process that included departmental nominations, work-product submission, extensive HCR-20-V3 training with the developers, and mock training presentations with the developers.
- In the first group of psychologists in the United States verified by the developers of the HCR-20-V3 to provide certified trainings on the HCR-20-V3.
- Provide state-wide consultation on violence risk assessment and management.
- Provide hospital-wide training on the appropriate administration, utilization, and interpretation of the HCR-20-V3.

Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MATSA)/MASOC

Annual Joint Conference

April 2022

Presenter- "Considerations for the Clinical Supervision of Clinicians Providing Services to Sexual Offenders"

- Presented on competency based clinical supervision within the context of providing supervision to clinicians working with sexual offenders.
- Discussed components of competency-based supervision, supervisor humility, and diversity issues relevant to supervision in this context.

University of New Mexico School of Medicine-Law and Mental Health Lecture Series

October 2021

Co-Presenter with Carol Falender, Ph.D.- "Competency Based Supervision in Forensic Psychology"

- Co-presented on competency-based supervision of trainees with a focus on supervision of trainees engaged in forensic practice.

CONREP Annual Training (Forensic Services Division)

March 2020

Presenter- "Violence Risk, Structured Professional Judgement, and the HCR-20 V3"

- Provided a two-day training on violence risk assessment to CONREP evaluators and Department of State Hospitals (DSH) consulting psychologists.

- Attendees were informed on relevant case law, the current use of violence risk assessment in the field, and issues regarding effective communication of violence risk findings.
- Provided training on the development, administration, and report writing utilizing the HCR-20-V3.
- Training was APA approved for continuing education credits.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Loma Linda Healthcare System February 2019
Presenter- "Risk Assessment, Structured Professional Judgment (SPJ), and the HCR-20-V3"

- Presented literature on the SPJ approach to risk assessment and provided information regarding the utility of actuarial assessments to pre-doctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows.
- Provided training on the development, use, and report writing utilizing the HCR-20-V3.

Crisis Intervention Training-Hospital Police January 2018
Presenter- "Antisocial Personality and Psychopathy"

- Presented literature on the prevalence, diagnostic criteria, and behavioral manifestations of Antisocial Personality Disorder and Psychopathy to hospital police.
- Facilitated discussion on the treatment and behavioral management implications of working with this population, especially during moments of behavioral instability where hospital police are called to intervene.

Multicultural Research and Training Conference-Pepperdine University October 2014
Presenter- "Bilingual Training and Coursework in Spanish: Requirement for Ethical Treatment of the Latino Community"

- Presented literature on the current need for Bilingual training in Spanish in doctoral programs.
- Presented on challenges experienced when attempting to develop a curriculum and establish an elective course for bilingual training at Pepperdine University.

SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Patton State Hospital 08/2019-Present
Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Assessment Supervisor

- Act as assessment supervisor for two forensic fellows.
- Provide weekly supervision on several types of evaluations, including competency to stand trial, malingering, and violence risk.

Patton State Hospital 08/2018-08/2019
Assessment Coordinator-Internship

- Acted as assessment coordinator and supervisor for the forensic psychology interns of the Patton State Hospital APA Accredited Psychology Internship Program (Forensic Track).
- Provided weekly supervision on several types of evaluations, including competency to stand trial, malingering, and violence risk.

Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center 07/2016-06/2017
Extern Supervisor

- In vivo supervised the facilitation of competency restoration groups led by externs.
- Provided supervision on the administration, interpretation, and writing of psychodiagnostics evaluations.

Pepperdine University: Graduate School of Education and Psychology 08/2015-06/2016

Peer Supervisor

- Selected by the Director of Clinical Training to provide peer supervision to first-year doctoral students training at the Union Rescue Mission-a residential substance use rehabilitation program housing homeless individuals with severe and chronic mental illness.
- Assisted supervisees in developing case conceptualization, diagnostic, and treatment planning skills.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on intake evaluations, session recordings, and progress notes.