



Forensic Services: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology

Program background and application information for the 2024-2025 term



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Introduction

Forensic Services, a division of the Direct Care and Treatment Administration of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, offers a postdoctoral forensic psychology fellowship program for individuals interested in gaining expertise in the area of forensic evaluation. In addition to providing statewide forensic evaluation services, many Forensic Services programs treat individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial, found not guilty by reason of mental illness or deficiency, or civilly committed as mentally ill and dangerous. Forensic Services serves a clinically and demographically diverse patient population with a wide range of diagnoses that cover most of the major categories of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder-Fifth Edition-Text Revision* (DSM-5-TR). The most common primary diagnoses include psychotic-spectrum and mood disorders, and many patients have primary or secondary diagnoses of substance use disorders, cognitive disorders, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders, including Antisocial Personality Disorder. Some patients have committed sexual offenses and have corresponding diagnoses of paraphilic disorders. Forensic Services consists of several programs and fellows may evaluate individuals from any of these programs, as well as criminal defendants in the community and in correctional facilities. Forensic evaluators, as well as fellows, serve the system as part of a consultation model, and thus they are independent from any of the treatment programs on campus. Thus, though evaluators and fellows work with a multitude of programs and populations, they do not serve as members of the treatment team and are not assigned to any specific program.

Minnesota Department of Human Services – Direct Care and Treatment

Part of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), the Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) Administration is a highly specialized behavioral health care system that serves people with mental illness, chemical dependency, and developmental and intellectual disabilities.

DCT serves about 12,000 patients and clients each year. Because their conditions are so complex and their behaviors can be challenging, other health care providers cannot – or will not – serve the patients and clients that come to DCT. Some health care providers do not have the capacity. Others do not have the expertise.

DCT operates psychiatric hospitals and other inpatient mental health treatment facilities; inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities; dental clinics; group homes and vocational sites; and the nation's largest treatment program for civilly committed sex offenders. In all, DCT delivers services at about 200 sites statewide.

From a personnel standpoint, DCT is the largest division of DHS. More than 5,000 full- and part-time employees care for our patients and clients.

Forensic Services

One of five major service lines in DCT, Forensic Services provides specialized evaluation and treatment to individuals statewide who are involved with the legal system. Forensic Services has approximately 900 employees.

Following are the most common Forensic Services programs in which forensic psychology fellows may conduct evaluations:

Forensic Network

The Forensic Network is a group of forensic psychologists and psychiatrists based on the Forensic Services campus in St. Peter, MN. The Forensic Network conducts statewide examinations regarding competency to proceed to trial, criminal responsibility, civil commitment, post-conviction/pre-disposition sex offender evaluations, and violence and sexual violence risk assessments. The forensic psychology fellowship program is based within the Forensic Network.

Forensic Mental Health Program

The Forensic Mental Health Program (FMHP) is located on the Forensic Services campus. FMHP is a Joint Commission-accredited psychiatric treatment facility that provides long-term, multi-disciplinary treatment to forensic populations, including individuals who have been civilly committed as MI&D. Treatment is also provided to individuals who have been found not competent to stand trial as well as those transferred to FMHP from other regional treatment centers and state-operated Community Behavioral Health Hospitals on an emergency basis. A wide variety of diagnoses exist among patients at FMHP, including acute and chronic psychotic disorders, mood disorders, developmental disabilities, personality disorders, substance use disorders, and paraphilic disorders. A variety of treatment modalities are employed to address patients' comprehensive mental health issues. FMHP includes multiple units and buildings, both on the campus of the St. Peter Treatment Center (SPTC) and in the surrounding community of St. Peter. Additionally, risk assessments and competency assessments may be completed on patients who have been discharged to the community from SPTC. The FMHP has several focused units:

Non-Secure Unit (Formerly Transition Services)

The FMHP Non-Secure Unit (now termed Prairie View) is located on the Forensic Services campus and provides a supervised residential setting for up to 78 patients committed as MI&D who have progressed through treatment and have been approved for a reduction in custody. Patients are also admitted from other DCT facilities, by voluntary return from provisional discharge, or by revocation of provisional discharge. FMHP Non-Secure is a Joint Commission-accredited unit and provides psychosocial rehabilitation, skill enhancement, and collaboration with community resources for patients' successful reintegration with the community. On-going crisis consultation and intervention is also provided to support clients in community settings.

Special Needs Services

Special Needs Services (SNS) is a program housed within FMHP that is dedicated to providing residential sex offender treatment to persons with developmental disabilities or other cognitive impairments who present a risk of engaging in future sexually assaultive behavior. All patients in SNS have been civilly committed under a variety of commitment types (e.g., Developmentally Disabled, Mentally Ill, MI&D). SNS primarily offers group therapy that is paired with a structured and therapeutic milieu to assist learning of

key treatment concepts and life skills. The Old Me/New Me model is used to guide patients in understanding their offending patterns and in adopting more adaptive strategies to meet their needs. Creative approaches to therapy are consistently implemented to demonstrate concepts according to the needs of the SNS patients. A multidisciplinary team approach is valued at SNS and all treatment team members are actively involved in the provision of treatment.

Restoration

A recent change has occurred in Minnesota regarding competency restoration. Previously, no State law required any government entity to provide competency restoration services. Instead, incompetent defendants may or may not be civilly committed (usually temporarily) and restoration would occur secondary to the commitment. Recently, a competency restoration statute was passed by the Minnesota Legislature, though it is unclear how this will be implemented. Most likely, the examiner group and fellows will be conducting at least some of the competency evaluations for defendant's committed to restoration.

Good Lives Program

The Good Lives Program is a service that is dedicated to providing treatment for individuals residing at within the FMHP with severe and persistent mental illness who have demonstrated a pattern of sexually problematic behavior. The specialized services offered within the Good Lives Program include comprehensive evaluation of specific areas of need; recommendations for individualized treatment plans; provision of group and individual therapy, and psychoeducation groups; consultative services; and relapse prevention planning. The goal of the program is to assist patients in managing key risk factors for sexual re-offense in order to transition to the least restrictive living environment.

Forensic Nursing Home

The Forensic Nursing Home is a 48-bed facility for the treatment of patients requiring nursing home level of care from the FMHP, the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP), or who are on medical release from the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at Forensic Services

Program Philosophy and Vision

Advanced postdoctoral forensic training is essential for individuals who wish to pursue a career in forensic psychology. The forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Forensic Services offers a unique opportunity to develop the high level of specialized expertise required by a forensic expert. We seek to prepare professional psychologists to be highly competent and ethical forensic examiners capable of excellence in professional practice. Further, the fellowship program aims to prepare fellows for forensic board certification. To meet that end, the fellowship is an academic environment with a focus on forensic literature and assessment methods. We provide a multitude of training opportunities through didactic exercises, case law study, case conferences, literature

reviews, and close supervision of all aspects of the completion of a variety of forensic cases. The fellowship program also collaborates with the University of Minnesota Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship for additional training opportunities.

Our training program strongly values interdisciplinary training and reflects the multidisciplinary nature of Forensic Services. We believe the diverse perspectives and teamwork of individuals representing different professional disciplines contribute to the training of postdoctoral fellows. The selected fellows will consult and collaborate with psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, behavioral analysts, unit directors, security counselors, and administrators during the fellowship year.

Program Goals and Training

The primary goal of the training program is to prepare fellows to be highly competent forensic examiners capable of independent practice. As such, the training at Forensic Services will be professionally challenging. The selected fellows will observe and participate in all aspects of the forensic evaluation process, including interviewing defendants/patients; making collateral contacts; administering and interpreting psychological and specialized forensic instruments; and writing clear and concise reports that address the referral question(s). Fellows may also be called upon to testify throughout the fellowship year. Fellows are expected to spend approximately 65% of their time in the process of conducting forensic evaluations, while approximately 35% of the work week is allotted for other training activities. The supervision requirements of the fellowship fulfill the requirements for psychology licensure in the state of Minnesota. Further, the fellowship program at Forensic Services has been formally determined to meet the criteria for the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) five-year experience waiver.

Orientation and Training Plan

Before fellows begin at Forensic Services, they attend new employee orientation. This training provides essential information to orient the fellows to a secure work facility environment and will be particularly helpful for individuals who are unaccustomed to working in such a setting. Following new employee orientation, fellows receive a fellowship training plan. The plan is based on the program's value of training highly competent forensic examiners and is individualized to incorporate each fellow's personal skills, training experiences, and goals for the training year.

Didactic Training

Didactic training is provided throughout the fellowship year. Fellows attend regularly-scheduled, in-house didactic presentations addressing basic and advanced forensic topics and professional ethics, as well as training opportunities held at the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the forensic psychiatry fellowship. Didactic training is presented by Forensic Services staff, University of Minnesota faculty, and professionals in the community and from other forensic facilities.

Forensic Didactic Seminar

The forensic didactic seminar addresses a wide range of basic and advanced topics related to forensic practice, forensic research, and professional ethics. The didactic seminar is held one to two times weekly throughout the course of the fellowship. In addition, fellows are expected to prepare and present on an advanced forensic topic of their choice during the course of the year.

Forensic Case Conference

Fellows will encounter a variety of complex and interesting forensic cases during the fellowship year and importance is placed on professional consultation to discuss difficult forensic issues. A weekly case conference is held throughout the training year during which psychology and psychiatry fellows present a case for discussion amongst other fellows, forensic examiners, and forensic psychiatry fellowship faculty. Discussion will primarily focus on difficult case issues, associated case law, forensic nuances, and diagnostic anomalies.

Research and Scholarship Seminar

In this seminar, fellows will develop skills to review forensic mental health literature, enhance their report and publication writing skills, explore the theoretical and practical foundations of mental health law, and contribute to the literature in forensic psychology. Fellows are encouraged to execute research projects or scholarly activities for publication or presentation at regional/national conferences. An ongoing collaboration with the Journal for the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (JAAPL) has been established and a case review publication is often available for willing fellows.

Formal Case Presentation

Each fellow will choose a forensic case to present in order to demonstrate proficiency in conceptualizing and completing a forensic evaluation. This is a formal presentation that should promote an in-depth discussion of an interesting or challenging case along with relevant research/legal/professional topics. Attendees, who may include forensic examiners and other invited guests, are encouraged to ask questions of the fellows that facilitate critical thinking of the case

Case Law Seminars

Since mental health case law is the foundation of forensic practice, fellows will receive extensive training in case law via two separate case law seminars. A weekly landmark case law seminar will be held remotely and/or at the University of Minnesota, which will address landmark federal mental health cases. In addition, a weekly supplemental and state-level case law seminar will allow fellows to gain familiarity with Minnesota case law and other notable mental health law cases. These seminars will also assist fellows in preparation for forensic board certification. Fellows are expected to read each case in preparation for the seminars and, along with other forensic staff members; the Forensic Psychology and Psychiatry Training Directors; and a Hennepin County judge with

expertise in the associated case law, take an active role in discussing the various cases. Fellows must also pass a case law examination at the end of the seminar series to complete the fellowship program.

Forensic Evaluations and Reports

Although didactic learning is an essential part of the fellowship, the majority of the training will be derived from conducting forensic mental health evaluations with defendants/patients under the expertise of a clinical supervisor. Training experiences will progress in a graduated fashion depending on each fellow's knowledge of and expertise in forensic psychology. For example, a fellow may initially observe other forensic psychologists as they conduct evaluations. Subsequently, the supervisor will observe the fellow's forensic interviews and offer constructive feedback. As fellows develop a higher level of skill, they may transition to less supervision.

Fellows will conduct numerous evaluations during the course of the training year. Monthly expectations range from two to five reports per month, depending on rotation, the complexity of cases, and the development and training needs of the fellow. These evaluations primarily consist of competency to proceed, criminal responsibility, civil commitment as MI&D, and violence and sexual violence risk assessments. The fellows may also conduct other types of evaluations as requested and assigned, depending on interest, need, and individual skill level. All evaluations include a review of available records and an interview with the defendant/patient. Collateral interviews and psychological testing are conducted on a case-by-case basis. Fellows can expect to gain experience with the administration, scoring, and interpretation of various psychological assessment instruments, especially instruments geared toward forensic practice.

Fellows will integrate behavioral observations, interview results, collateral information, and test interpretations into clear and concise written reports. There is a strong focus on acquiring the necessary skills to communicate professionally and effectively with courts or other referral sources. A significant amount of time in supervision is focused on the process of writing forensic reports and fine-tuning written and verbal communication skills.

Fellows will conduct evaluations in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, both remote and in-person, throughout the training year and many cases will require travel to various locations. Aside from evaluations on the FMHP campus, other state psychiatric facilities and outpatient settings will be visited, including county jails, county courthouses, and prisons.

Expert Testimony and Mock Trial

Competent expert testimony is a primary training goal for this fellowship. Training in this area is provided in several formats, including formal didactic training, observation of various types of testimony provided by Forensic Services staff, and a mock trial exercise with attorneys and a district court judge to allow fellows to refine their testimony skills and receive feedback from experts in the legal community. In addition, fellows typically provide testimony for forensic cases completed during the course of their training year. Other opportunities may be provided as they become available.

Supervision

Major Rotation

The training year is split into three four-month rotations. Fellows complete the same range of evaluations throughout the year but will be assigned to a different supervisor during each rotation to gain exposure and proficiency with a variety of different approaches to forensic evaluation. Supervisors are licensed psychologists who are trained in forensic psychology and are credentialed as forensic psychologists and supervisors with Forensic Services. Each fellow receives a minimum of two hours of weekly supervision. At least one hour of supervision occurs on an individual basis with the fellow's primary supervisor. A second hour of supervision occurs through additional supervision provided by the fellow's primary supervisor or by adjunct supervisors or the training director. Supervision on select cases may also be provided by a board-certified forensic psychiatrist. Each supervisor maintains responsibility for the cases assigned to each fellow while facilitating the growth of the fellow's professional skills. Through work with multiple supervisors, fellows will gain an appreciation of differing perspectives and professional styles.

In addition to regularly scheduled supervision sessions, fellows receive supervision on an ongoing basis throughout each week (e.g., discussion of differential diagnosis, clinical impressions, and preliminary forensic opinions after conducting a forensic evaluation). Similarly, fellows often meet with their supervisors to receive feedback about a written report. Given the intensive nature of forensic evaluation, fellows are expected to receive more supervision than the minimum amount required for licensure.

Elective Minor Rotation

For fellows interested in exposure to juvenile forensic assessment, an elective minor rotation is offered. While this elective rotation typically corresponds with the second and third major rotations, depending on fellow interest and experience with juvenile forensic evaluations, the minor rotation may start earlier. Juvenile cases referred for evaluation are assigned to the minor rotation supervisor, who then supervises fellows completing evaluations (typically competency and criminal responsibility) for the juvenile court system. The general guideline is to complete juvenile reports as they are referred and based on caseload/availability with the major rotation.

Evaluation

In addition to regular verbal feedback throughout the fellowship year, the postdoctoral fellows receive written performance evaluations at the end of each rotation. Supervisors discuss these evaluations, which will be maintained by the Training Director in each fellow's file. Fellows are encouraged to offer feedback about the strengths and growth areas of the fellowship program and their supervisors on a regular basis. Fellows will also provide written feedback about supervisors at the end of each rotation and about the program at the conclusion of the fellowship year. Fellows who have objections related to feedback provided by the primary supervisor, Training Director, or other training staff, may raise concerns informally or by filing a formal grievance.

Salary and Benefits

Fellows for the 2023-2024 training year will receive the following compensation and benefits: a salary of approximately \$109,000 to \$114,000 (amount may vary slightly); health, dental, disability, and life insurance; four vacation hours and four sick leave hours accrued each two-week pay period; eleven paid holidays and one floating holiday per fiscal year; retirement benefits; and liability coverage for onsite professional activities. The terms and conditions of employment are covered by the labor agreement between the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE). This fellowship is a one-year, full-time position (i.e., 40 hours per week). In recent years fellows have worked an average of 40-45 hours per week. Moving expenses may be requested but are not guaranteed. These are based on state finances and approval from the Medical Director and Executive Director of Forensic Services.

Fellows are provided an office and access to various forensic textbooks and resources located within Forensic Services. Fellows will also have a laptop computer with word processing software and access to printers, email, central computing resources (e.g., patient files), law and psychology databases, and the internet. Dictation/word processing support staff are available to the postdoctoral fellows for assistance with the preparation of court reports if needed or desired. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the fellowship has moved to remote practice. However, there is ongoing discussion with fellows about the desire for more in-person versus remote training. This will also be based on the ebb and flow of the pandemic and work/training requirements.

Limited funding and/or authorized leave time for training activities is possible but is not guaranteed. Fellows have been approved for out-of-state trainings in recent years, including APA, ABFP trainings, or APLS. Out-of-state trainings are supported for the coming fellowship year but are ultimately dependent on budgetary constraints.

See MAPE Labor Agreement ([MAPE Contract 2023-2025.pdf \(mn.gov\)](#)).

Training Staff

Natasha Auer, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Auer earned her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in 2019. She completed her pre-doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship with Forensic Services in St. Peter, MN, where she received specialized training in forensic evaluation including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, violence and sexual violence risk assessment, and civil commitment. Upon completion of the fellowship, Dr. Auer accepted a Forensic Psychologist position with Forensic Services in 2020. She has previously completed clinical training, or worked as a clinical therapist, for the MN Department of Corrections; Minnesota Sex Offender Program; University of Minnesota Counseling Center; Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca, Minnesota; and an outpatient sexual offender treatment program in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jodi Blaszyk, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

After nearly twenty years in law enforcement, Dr. Blaszyk left the Criminal Investigative Division in Anoka County, Minnesota. She went on to earn a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University in Keene, New

Hampshire in 2010, and completed her doctoral internship at Riverview Psychiatric Center in Augusta, Maine. While at Riverview, her interest in step-down security settings and forensic evaluation deepened. Subsequently, she trained in forensic evaluation at the State of Maine Forensic Service in Augusta. Thereafter, she worked in the maximum-security setting at North Texas State Hospital (NTSH) in Vernon, Texas. At NTSH, she was instrumental in opening the state's first intermediate security program and went on to work in staff training, program development, clinical supervision, and clinical-forensic evaluation. In 2015, she became the Psychological Services Director at the NTSH campuses in Vernon and Wichita Falls, Texas. In 2018, she joined Fulton State Hospital (FSH) in Fulton, Missouri as a senior psychologist and supervisor. She conducted sexually violent predator and competency to stand trial evaluations and supervised pre-doctoral interns in FSH's APA-accredited internship program. Her professional interests include, clinical interviewing, risk and diagnostic assessment, and clinical supervision. She remains licensed in Texas and Missouri.

Colt J. Blunt, Psy.D., L.P. (Director of Forensic Evaluation)

Dr. Blunt earned his doctoral degree in clinical psychology with a forensic concentration through the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology in 2008. He has received training within the Minnesota Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services. Additionally, he completed an internship in investigation with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. During his pre-doctoral internship with Forensic Services, Dr. Blunt completed rotations within MSOP and the FMHP. He completed his doctoral dissertation on the relationship between childhood sexual abuse and antisocial behavior. Following graduation, Dr. Blunt accepted a position completing psychological and risk assessments of civilly committed sexual offenders for MSOP, though he later joined Forensic Services as a Forensic Examiner performing forensic assessments with civilly committed psychiatric patients and criminal defendants. He is also an active member of multiple committees and boards within Forensic Services. Dr. Blunt served as Director of Postdoctoral Fellowship Training from 2018 until 2020, and previously served in that role on an interim basis on two occasions. He subsequently worked as a consultant to the Medical Director, where he additionally assisted in oversight and triaging of community patients regarding risk issues. He served as interim Director of Forensic Evaluation beginning in 2021 and accepted the position on a permanent basis later that year. Dr. Blunt's professional interests include psychological assessments, forensic assessments, assessment of sexual offenders, malingering assessment, training and supervision, and the integration of psychology and law enforcement.

Stephanie L. Bruss, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Bruss graduated with her Psy.D. from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology in 2013. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center, providing competency evaluations and competency restoration treatment. She did her post-doctoral fellowship with Polk County Juvenile Court in Des Moines, IA where she did a variety of clinical and forensic evaluations for Juvenile Court Services. She worked as a forensic psychologist with Hennepin County Psychological Services for two years before she began working with DCT-Forensic Services. While she enjoys doing a variety of types of forensic evaluations, she most enjoys juvenile evaluations.

Jacob X. Chavez, Psy.D., L.P., ABPP (Forensic Psychologist, Director of Postdoctoral Fellowship Training)

Dr. Chavez completed his doctoral degree in clinical psychology, with an emphasis in forensic psychology, at Forest Institute in Springfield, MO. He completed his doctoral internship at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (USMCFP), also in Springfield. At the conclusion of internship, he attended the forensic post-doctoral fellowship at Forensic Services in St. Peter, MN. Following his post-doctoral training, Dr. Chavez accepted a position as a Forensic Unit Psychologist at USMCFP. While at USMCFP, he maintained a treatment caseload of both civilly committed inmates and patients, as well as an evaluation caseload of pretrial defendants being assessed for competency to proceed and criminal responsibility. He further conducted myriad violence risk assessments within the Bureau of Prisons. As a component of his evaluation caseload, he was tasked with coordinating competency restoration services for pretrial defendants he evaluated. This included involvement in due process hearings and writing reports requesting court-ordered involuntary medication administration pursuant to *Sell v. U.S.* (2003). In early 2019, Dr. Chavez accepted a position at Forensic Services in MN as a Forensic Examiner and later as the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Director. He is board certified in forensic psychology through ABPP. During his career, he has conducted evaluations for competency to proceed, criminal responsibility, violence risk assessment, and repeat sexual offender evaluations. His criminal evaluative work has been with both adults and juveniles. He has testified in various federal and state jurisdictions throughout the United States and its territories. Dr. Chavez's professional interests include general and forensic psychological assessment, conceptualization of forensic constructs, malingering assessment, violence risk evaluations, neuropsychological screening in forensic contexts, threat assessment, forensic research, and training and supervision.

Sheryl L. Delain-Adderley, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Delain-Adderley earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology, with a specialization in assessment, from Kent State University in 2006. She obtained specialized training in forensic psychology during her studies within the Court Psychodiagnostic Clinic in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Delain-Adderley completed a pre-doctoral internship at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota. Subsequently, she worked for the Wisconsin Resource Center, engaging in the evaluation and treatment of committed sexually violent predators and the assessment of mentally ill Department of Corrections inmates. Accepting a postdoctoral fellowship at Forensic Services, Dr. Delain-Adderley received training in civil and criminal forensic evaluations and risk assessment. Upon completing the fellowship, she accepted a forensic psychologist position with Forensic Services. Dr. Delain-Adderley was involved in the MMPI-2 research program at Kent State University and has significant forensic research experience and interests in the area of personality assessment and cognitive malingering. Her professional interests include psychological assessment, mental health law, forensic research, and correctional psychology/sentencing alternatives.

Elizabeth Egbert, Psy.D, L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Egbert completed her graduate training at the University of St. Thomas, where she earned her master's degree in counseling psychology in 2017, and she earned her doctoral degree in counseling psychology in 2021. She focused her studies on working with individuals who found themselves at the juncture of mental health and the

law. She worked with such individuals in settings such as a residential sex offender treatment program, the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center, and a private practice specializing in completing social security/disability evaluations. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Forensic Mental Health Program (formerly the Minnesota Security Hospital) in St. Peter, Minnesota, working with patients committed to the state as Mentally Ill and Dangerous to the public. She provided individual therapy, group therapy, and assessed patients who were housed within both the secure perimeter of the hospital, and in the non-secure transition units. Following the completion of her internship, she completed her forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Forensic Services in 2022. Her education provided Dr. Egbert with advanced training in conducting myriad forensic psychological assessments including psychosexual evaluations, competency to proceed evaluations, criminal responsibility evaluations, civil commitment evaluations, and violence and sexual violence risk assessments. Dr. Egbert also received specialized training in conducting forensic assessment with juveniles. Dr. Egbert is currently working as a forensic psychologist both for the Minnesota Department of Human Services and at her private practice. In addition to completing forensic evaluations, she is involved in training and supervising postdoctoral fellows in the ABPP 5-year forensic waiver fellowship program at Forensic Services. Although her training and work encompasses many areas of forensic psychology, Dr. Egbert is particularly passionate about working with individuals who have committed sexual offenses, the use of forensic and non-forensic psychological assessment measures in forensic evaluations, and program outcome research.

Chinmoy Gulrajani, MD, DFAPA (Forensic Psychiatrist and Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Director)

Dr. Gulrajani is an adjunct associate professor with the department of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and medical specialist in forensic psychiatry with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Dr. Gulrajani is the training director for Forensic Psychiatry. As part of this role, he is responsible for administration of the fellowship program in Forensic Psychiatry and is the course director for clinical and research courses offered in Forensic Psychiatry for medical students and residents. Dr. Gulrajani is past president of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society and holds office in several regional and national organizations. He is on the editorial board for the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, among other journals, and is widely published nationally and internationally.

Christina D. Haldaman, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Haldaman received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. She subsequently received a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling Psychology from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. She received a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Psychology and a Doctor of Psychology Degree in Clinical Psychology from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Forensic Services in St. Peter, where she received training in clinical psychology as well as psychological and forensic assessment. Following internship, Dr. Haldaman was accepted to the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship program at Forensic Services. As a fellow, she received additional specialized training in forensic evaluation, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, civil commitment, and violence and sexual violence risk assessment. Upon completion of the fellowship, Dr. Haldaman accepted a forensic psychologist position at Forensic Services. Professional interests include juvenile sexual offender treatment and risk

assessment, adjudicative competency of juveniles, and settled insanity. She is the primary supervisor for the elective minor rotation.

Gregory A. Hanson, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Hanson earned his doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology in 1987 from the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He did his clinical training at LA County-USC Medical Center; The Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Los Angeles; the University of California Irvine Medical Center, and the North Orange County Child Guidance Center in Fullerton, CA. During his career, Dr. Hanson was a staff psychologist at the St. John's Hospital Child Study Center in Santa Monica, California; as an examiner for a West Los Angeles medical group doing worker's compensation and civil litigation cases; and for over 27 years, doing court-ordered pre-sentence and post-sentence psychological evaluations for a county corrections agency in the Twin City metro area. He has been with the state of Minnesota for over two decades. He also has a private practice in forensic psychology. His areas of interest include violence risk assessment and the mental illness defense.

Jennifer L. Harrison, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Harrison earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Forensics from the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP) at Alliant International University – Fresno in 2016. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Fulton State Hospital in Fulton, Missouri where she received specialized training in pretrial criminal forensic evaluations and evidence-based treatment for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Following internship, she completed the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship with Forensic Services, and then accepted a forensic psychologist position at Forensic Services following completion of her fellowship in November 2017. Dr. Harrison trains clinical staff on an annual basis at Forensic Services and Fulton State Hospital in Michael's Game, an evidence-based cognitive therapy that is described as a card game for the treatment of delusional ideas. She also conducts ongoing research investigating the use of Michael's Game as it relates to competency restoration. In addition, she serves as adjunct faculty for CSPP at Alliant International University, as a primary reviewer with expertise in mental health and forensic psychology for a private IRB, and as an Ad Hoc Reviewer for forensically-related peer-reviewed journals. Her professional interests include competency to stand trial, Michael's Game, severe and persistent mental illness, meta-analytic research techniques, and teaching.

Soniya Hirachan, MBBS, MD (Executive Director of Forensic Services and Forensic Medical Director)

Dr. Hirachan completed her Psychiatry Residency training at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. She completed her Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and joined DHS as a staff psychiatrist at one of the treatment programs in Forensic Services in 2014. She assumed the role of the Forensic Medical Director in 2017. Most recently Dr. Hirachan has progressed to fulfilling dual roles, one as the Forensic Medical Director and the other as the CEO of the facility. She is passionate about those with severe persistent mental illness and advocates to reducing barriers for such patients to lead meaningful lives in the most integrated settings.

Rebecca M. Kastner, Ph.D., L.P., ABPP (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Kastner earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Psychology and Law from the University of Alabama in 2015. During her graduate training, her research interests focused on the assessment and social-cognitive correlates of psychopathy. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Fulton State Hospital in Fulton, Missouri, with an emphasis in forensic evaluations, competency restoration, and treatment of civilly committed sexually violent persons. She completed the postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology at Forensic Services with additional training in competence, criminal responsibility, risk, civil commitment, and repeat sex offender evaluations. Dr. Kastner continued with Forensic Services as a forensic psychologist beginning in September 2016. She is a licensed psychologist in Minnesota and board certified in forensic psychology. She remains active in the forensic fellowship training program and is the workgroup lead for developing a department database as the basis for program evaluation and quality assurance projects.

Jason L. Lewis, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Lewis earned a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in forensic assessment from the University of Kentucky in 2000. While in graduate school, he completed a 12-month practicum in forensic assessment at the Federal Medical Center – Lexington. He then completed his pre-doctoral internship at the Federal Medical Center – Rochester. Following his internship, Dr. Lewis worked as a staff psychologist at the Federal Correctional Institution – Phoenix. He subsequently accepted a position as a forensic psychologist in the Restoration to Competency Program through Maricopa County Correctional Health Services. Dr. Lewis accepted the position as the clinical director of the Competency Restoration Program (CRP) in 2006. As the program's first clinical director, he was responsible for all aspects of program development and supervision as well as conducting all of the competency evaluations. After a brief stint conducting disability evaluations in the private sector, Dr. Lewis returned to Forensic Services in 2012 when he accepted his current position as a forensic examiner.

Martin D. Lloyd, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Lloyd earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 2008. While in graduate school, he received training at the Hennepin County District Court and the Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Lino Lakes. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Missouri. He completed his doctoral dissertation on statistical methods for optimizing incremental validity in the prediction of sexual recidivism. After graduating, he received specialized training in forensic assessment through the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Patton State Hospital in southern California. After completing fellowship, he stayed on at Patton State Hospital for two years as a staff psychologist, conducting competency restoration treatment as well as competency evaluations before returning to Minnesota to accept a position as a forensic examiner at Forensic Services. He additionally teaches undergraduate courses in psychology at Gustavus Adolphus College. His professional interests include the assessment of both violent and sexual recidivism, competency assessment, malingering assessment, psychopathy, and teaching.

Kristin Matson, Ph.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Matson obtained her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Dakota in 2016. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, where she co-lead sex offender treatment groups at a medium security prison, conducted psychological assessments for individuals on probation/parole, and participated in sexually violent persons evaluations. Dr. Matson also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in forensic evaluation at the Center for Behavioral Medicine (CBM) in Kansas City, Missouri. At CBM, Dr. Matson conducted competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and sexually violent predator evaluations. Dr. Matson returned home to Minnesota in 2017 and worked at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program as a forensic psychologist, completing risk assessment evaluations for individuals civilly committed as sexually dangerous persons/sexually psychopathic personalities. Dr. Matson has been with forensic services since June 2018. Her professional interests include competency and responsibility evaluations, malingering/feigning assessment, and sexual violence risk assessments.

Meagan Mckenna, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Mckenna completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology, with an emphasis in forensic psychology, from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego, CA. She completed her APA internship at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, North Carolina, where she focused on conducting court-ordered evaluations for federal pretrial detainees and individuals under civil commitment. In that setting, Dr. Mckenna additionally provided individual and group psychotherapy to maximum security inmates and those committed as sexually dangerous persons. Dr. Mckenna completed a Forensic Postdoctoral Fellowship at Forensic Services in St. Peter, MN, where she was tasked with conducting competency, criminal responsibility, violence risk, civil commitment, and repeat sex offender evaluations. She has testified as an expert in various Minnesota Courts and has published with the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. Most recently, she has accepted a position with Forensic Services as a Forensic Examiner and is a licensed psychologist in the State of MN. Additionally, Dr. Mckenna has been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of CA since 2015, in which she specialized in working with youth with sexual behavior problems, conducting clinical supervision, and providing individual, couple, and family therapy to a variety of populations. Dr. Mckenna has over a decade of experience working with individuals with severe mental illnesses and has conducted treatment and evaluations in myriad settings, including inpatient psychiatric hospitals, partial hospitalization programs, residential facilities, in-home services, outpatient programs, and state and federal prisons and psychiatric facilities. Her professional interests include consultation and training on the Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS), teaching, providing supervision, and research in the areas of forensic assessment, malingering, and false confessions.

Taylor Olson Norgaard, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Olson earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in forensic psychology from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in 2013. She is a licensed psychologist in Minnesota. She received specialized training in criminal forensic assessments, specifically addressing competency to proceed and risk for violence/sexual violence, within a maximum-security forensic facility for those adjudicated incompetent to proceed or found not guilty by reason of insanity at the Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center during her pre-

doctoral internship and post-doctoral residency. Dr. Olson joined the Forensic Evaluation Department as a forensic psychologist in October 2015 following a one-year employment as an assessment psychologist for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP). Her professional interests include competency evaluations, evaluating feigning, and sexual violence risk assessments.

Brie Pileggi, Psy.D., L.P., ABPP (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Pileggi-Valleen completed her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Minnesota. She completed her internship at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Medical Center – Devens, MA. Her training includes forensic evaluation, psychological assessment, sex offender treatment, chemical dependency treatment, individual and group therapy in both English and Spanish, and work with severely and persistently mentally ill offenders. Dr. Pileggi-Valleen has experience working in a county jail, in state and federal prisons, at an intensive outpatient dual diagnosis clinic, at an outpatient clinic for sex offender evaluation and treatment, and in private forensic practice. She also has experience educating other professionals on mental illness in the context of crisis intervention, completing psychological assessments to standardize Pearson measures, reviewing research for an outside IRB, providing professional consultation to attorneys and companies, completing Social Security disability evaluations, and supervising students and fellows. Dr. Pileggi-Valleen's professional interests include psychopathy, malingering, threat assessment, police and public safety, CIT, professional boundary violations, PTSD among correctional officers, psychological assessment, supervision, and work with native Spanish-speakers.

Sebastian Rilen, Psy.D., L.P., ABPP (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Rilen completed his doctoral degree in clinical psychology in 2011. He was initially licensed in California. He began specializing in juvenile offenders through his work at a juvenile hall, a forensic group private practice, and as a board member for the California Coalition on Sexual Offending. Dr. Rilen became licensed in Minnesota in 2014. He worked for the Judicial Branch for nearly eight years, conducting competency, criminal responsibility, sexual offense, certification, family court, and civil commitment evaluations for Psychological Services. Dr. Rilen completed board certification in October 2021. He joined Forensic Services in early 2022. He has continued to specialize in competency, criminal responsibility, malingering, and juvenile work. Dr. Rilen does additional consulting around gender issues (gender variance, transgender offenders, gender affirming forensic evaluation), as well as technological innovation in forensic practice (telehealth best practices and remote exams).

Diandra E. Sigurdsson, Psy.D., L.P. (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Sigurdsson earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University in 2018. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at South Florida State Hospital in Pembroke Pines, Florida. There she worked with both civil and forensic populations providing individual and group therapy, competency restoration programming, and conducting risk assessments and competency evaluations. Upon finishing internship, she received specialized training in forensic assessment with the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at East Central Regional Hospital through Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. After completing fellowship, she relocated to Minnesota and has been a member of Forensic Services since October 2019.

KyleeAnn S. Stevens, MD (Executive Medical Director, Direct Care and Treatment)

Executive Medical Director. Dr. KyleeAnn Stevens attended the University of North Dakota where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She then attended the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and was granted her medical degree in 2003. She completed her psychiatric residency at Georgetown University Hospital, serving as Chief Resident in her final year. She went on to complete a fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry at Georgetown in 2008. Dr. Stevens practiced psychiatry at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington D.C.'s only public psychiatric hospital, before becoming the Director of Forensic Services at St. Elizabeth's in 2011. Dr. Stevens enjoyed teaching psychology trainees, medical students, residents, and fellows, and maintained faculty appointments at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Georgetown Medical School. She joined DHS as the Forensic Medical Director in November of 2014 and joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota. She subsequently assumed the role of Executive Medical Director of DCT. She is board certified in Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry.

Kimberly E. Turner, Ph.D., L.P., ABPP (Forensic Psychologist)

Dr. Turner earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Georgia, her master's degree in clinical psychology from Georgia Southern University, and her doctoral degree in Clinical Forensic Psychology from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. During graduate school, she was a volunteer for a defense attorney working with Texas Defenders Services on death penalty mitigation. She completed an internship as well as a post-doctoral fellowship at Federal Medical Center, Rochester, Minnesota, where she focused both on clinical and forensic practices. Following her fellowship, Dr. Turner worked as a Special Management Unit Psychologist at the United States Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where she gained experience with the Bureau of Prisons' most severely psychopathic and behaviorally-disordered inmates. Dr. Turner then worked at the Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca, Minnesota, working with incarcerated female inmates before accepting a position as a forensic psychologist with Forensic Services. Professional interests include forensic assessment (specifically competency and criminal responsibility), psychopathy, malingering, mental health law, and forensic issues specific to female offenders.

Application Procedure

Required Qualifications

The forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Forensic Services is open to applicants who will have successfully completed an APA or CPA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology and an APA or CPA-accredited internship by September 2024. Applicants must complete all doctoral requirements before commencement of the fellowship. Prior forensic and/or correctional experience is preferred.

Application Process

Complete applications are due by January 2, 2024, and must include:

- A letter detailing the applicant's:

- Interest in pursuing specialized training in forensic assessment;
 - Training and how it has prepared and shaped his/her/their interest in specialized training in forensic assessment;
 - Training and experience working with patients with severe and persistent mental illness and personality disorders;
 - Professional and career goals;
 - Dissertation status and anticipated completion date;
 - Anticipated graduation date; and,
 - how the applicant learned of the Forensic Services fellowship program.
- Curriculum vita;
 - Three letters of recommendation; and
 - Official graduate transcripts (master's, if applicable, and doctorate).

Application materials should be submitted in electronic format (strongly preferred), though will be accepted via standard mail if necessary. Electronic submissions should be in pdf format, including signed letters of recommendation. Official graduate transcripts and letters of recommendation must be sent directly from the source (electronically or by mail) or in sealed envelopes that are signed across the seal if submitted by the applicant.

Fellowship Interviews

Fellowship interviews will occur during the week of January 29, 2024. **Interviews will be conducted remotely at this time.** Invited applicants will need an email address and access to a computer with a working microphone and video capabilities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to test their computer's capabilities prior to the scheduled interview time. Interviews will consist of a meeting with the Training Director (TD), followed by a panel interview, and end with a final discussion with the TD. There is a writing sample being used as a component of the interview for those invited applicants. At the conclusion of the panel interview and discussion with the TD, a document will be sent to the applicant providing basic information about a case and the associated Minnesota legal statute. You will be asked to provide a diagnosis, justification for the diagnosis, and speak to your opinion regarding the psycho-legal issue. Given the nature of this exercise, having access to a DSM-V-TR will be important. If one is not available, accessing diagnostic information online is an acceptable replacement. The brief report is then emailed to the TD.

Applicants invited to interview will additionally be asked to provide a psychological assessment/evaluation work sample, preferably forensic or correctional in nature. Case discussion will occur during the applicant's panel interview, and thus being familiar with the case at interview time will be to the applicant's advantage.

Fellowship Offers

Forensic Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Although maintaining diversity is a strong consideration in the fellowship selection process, invitations for fellowship are primarily determined by objective ratings including data from the application materials and interview.

The fellowship program is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD, also referred to as a Common Hold Date) process for forensic fellowships. This year, the UAD for forensic fellowships is February 26, 2024, at 10 a.m. (EST). Although our fellowship may make an offer prior to the UAD, we will not require applicants to accept an offer prior to February 26, 2024.

Candidates who are offered a fellowship have one of three options:

- **Reject the offer.** Candidate will then be removed from the program's candidate list so another applicant can be offered the position.
- **Accept the offer.** This constitutes a verbal contract. The candidate is expected to immediately notify all other programs to which the candidate has applied. This allows other programs to remove the applicant or candidate from consideration at those sites.
- **Hold the offer.** Can be used if the candidate is awaiting notification from other programs they prefer to attend. The offer can only be held until the UAD at 10 a.m.

Holding an Offer

If a candidate holds an offer but then receives another offer prior to the UAD, the candidate has 24 hours to decide which offer to hold (but no later than the UAD at 10 a.m.). Candidates may hold only one offer at a time and must notify the least desired program(s) they will not be accepting the offer (with the caveat the candidate has 24 hours to decide, and everything occurs before the UAD at 10 a.m.).

Candidates who receive an offer may inquire from other programs about their status. Similarly, programs may let candidates know their status (e.g., how high up they are on the waitlist). Candidates who have received an offer prior to the UAD must decide whether to accept or reject the offer by 10 a.m. on the UAD.

On the UAD, some candidates may receive an offer. A candidate must acknowledge an offer on the UAD within one hour and may hold that offer for no more than two hours. That means if an offer is extended on the UAD, the candidate must accept or reject the offer within two hours.

Candidates who have not accepted an offer by the UAD are expected to provide contact information to facilitate communication on the UAD at 10 a.m.

Our program will immediately notify all remaining candidates once the postdoctoral positions have been filled. This can occur on or before the UAD.

Submitting an Application

Electronic submissions (strongly preferred method) should be directed to:

Joan Hoffman

joan.hoffman@state.mn.us

Hard copy application materials should be forwarded to:

Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship

ATTN: Joan Hoffman

Pederson Building

Direct Care and Treatment-Forensic Services

100 Freeman Drive

St. Peter, MN 56082

Fax: (651) 431-7672

For More Information

All other fellowship inquiries should be directed to Jacob Chavez, Psy.D., L.P. ABPP. Reach Dr. Chavez by email at jacob.chavez@state.mn.us or by phone at 507-340-9357.

About the City of St. Peter and the Twin Cities Metro Area

St. Peter

Located in the Minnesota River Valley, St. Peter is a growing, family-oriented, community of approximately 11,000 people. It is located in south central Minnesota, about 60 miles southwest of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and 12 miles north of Mankato. St. Peter was founded in 1853 and it is one of the oldest cities in the state. Over 40 sites in town are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Gustavus Adolphus College, a four-year liberal arts college with international recognition, is located in St. Peter. Several organizations, including the Minnesota School Boards Association and the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc., also call St. Peter home.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

When most people think of Minneapolis and St. Paul, snow and cold weather immediately come to mind. But those who have visited or lived in the metro area know there's much more to the Twin Cities than their northern locale. Separated by the Mississippi River, Minneapolis and St. Paul comprise a vibrant metropolitan area of more than 3.6 million people. Together, these cities serve as the entertainment and cultural center of the upper Midwest. They are known for their vast array of theaters, orchestras, art museums, and ethnic restaurants. Professional sports, riverboats, and a variety of nightspots add to the appeal. Both cities offer contemporary skylines, historic architecture, and numerous lakes and parks.

St. Paul serves as the state's capital. Although growing, it is smaller and quieter than Minneapolis. It also retains a more historic look and is recognized for its wealth of architectural mastery. For example, Summit Avenue showcases the country's largest stretch of Victorian homes, reaching from the Cathedral of Saint Paul near downtown to Mississippi River Boulevard five miles west.

The population of Minneapolis is young and vibrant; nearly 60 percent is age 34 or younger. Although a strong Scandinavian influence remains recognizable, the Twin Cities are becoming increasingly diverse. Twenty percent of Minneapolis residents are African American, and 10 percent are Hispanic. A large population of Hmong and Somali also call this area home.