



PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER  
for Expert Evaluations, Inc.

---

## Curriculum Vita

### **Megan M. Van Ella, Psy.D.**

3307 Northlake Blvd, Suite 101

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33403

email: [drvanella@forensicpsychologicalcenter.com](mailto:drvanella@forensicpsychologicalcenter.com)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/meganvanella/>

Florida license number: PY9256

### ***Education***

- Sept. 2007 – Aug. 2012      **The Adler School of Professional Psychology**  
Chicago, Illinois  
APA accredited Psy.D. Program  
*Doctor of Clinical Psychology*  
3.9/4.0 GPA
- June 2010                      **The Adler School of Professional Psychology**  
Chicago, Illinois  
*Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology*
- Dec. 2002                      **Southern Methodist University**  
Dallas, Texas  
*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*  
Cum Laude, Departmental Distinction

### ***Work Experience***

- April 2015 – Present      ***Licensed Psychologist***  
**Psychological Center for Expert Evaluations, Inc.**  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

3307 Northlake Blvd., Suite 101, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33403

P: 561-429-2140, F: 561-318-5896

[DrVanElla@ForensicPsychologicalCenter.com](mailto:DrVanElla@ForensicPsychologicalCenter.com)

July 2013 – August 2014

***Postdoctoral Fellow***

**Salina & Associates - Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine / Cook County Sheriff's Women's Justice Program**  
Chicago, Illinois

*Supervisor – Nancy Soro, Ph.D.*

Provide a variety of clinical services to adult females currently involved in the criminal justice system, including: trauma informed individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, 12-step counseling, psychological assessment, and participate in bi-monthly treatment team meetings within the co-occurring specialty court. Serve as a direct supervisor to Psy.D. students currently participating in therapy practicum.

Nov. 2012 – July 2013

***Contract Psychologist***

**Kane County Diagnostic Center Department of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court Services (*part-time position*)**

Batavia, Illinois

*Supervisor – Alexandra Tsang, Psy.D.*

Conducted full court-ordered adult and juvenile sex offender evaluations using a variety of assessment instruments such as the Shipley Institute of Living Scale, the Personality Assessment Inventory, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (*MMPI-2*), the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, the Abel Assessment for Sexual Interest, the Rotter Incomplete Sentences Blank, and a variety of recidivism risk measures such as the STATIC-99, Stable-2000, ERASOR, and JSOAP.

***Practicum Experience***

Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2012

***Pre-doctoral Internship***

**Kane County Diagnostic Center Department of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court Services**

Batavia, Illinois

*Supervisors – Marc Browning, Psy.D.; Alex Tsang, Psy.D.*

Conducted full court-ordered pretrial and post-conviction diagnostic evaluations with adults and juveniles using a variety of psychometric instruments. Assessments consisted of risk assessments, sex offender evaluations, drug and alcohol assessments, domestic violence evaluations and pre-employment screenings for sheriff deputies and correctional officers. Provided court-ordered individual therapy. Co-lead court-mandated Anger

Management Group for male and female adolescents and assisted youth jail psychologist by assessing suicide risk of residents on suicide precaution status.

July 2010 – July 2011

***Advanced Practicum Extern***

**Interaction Dynamics**

Chicago, Illinois

*Supervisor – Robert (Uri) Heller, Ph.D.*

Provided individual therapy to culturally and diagnostically diverse adolescents and adults in an outpatient setting. Administered and interpreted various instruments of intelligence, achievement, and personality. Conducted fitness for duty evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, and parenting assessments.

July 2009 – July 2010

***Therapy Practicum Extern***

**Haymarket Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center**

Chicago, Illinois

*Supervisor – Nadia Pershad, Psy.D.*

Conducted individual and group therapy in an inpatient mental health facility serving a racially and culturally diverse adult population with severe or chronic mental illness and chemical dependency. Individual client caseload ranged from six to eight individuals diagnosed with substance dependence and severe mental illness. The majority of clients were court mandated for substance dependence treatment. Presented and discussed individual cases at weekly multidisciplinary treatment team meetings. Successfully developed and implemented original curriculum for a weekly psychoeducational group focused on guilt and shame for an average of twenty court mandated adult females. Facilitated weekly psychoeducational group focused on coping and stress management skills for an average of seventeen substance dependent court mandated adult males.

Sept. 2008 – June 2009

***Diagnostic Practicum Extern***

**United States Navy: Great Lakes Naval Hospital**

Great Lakes, Illinois

*Supervisor – Karla A. Rennhofer, Ph.D., ABPP, B.C.E.T.S.*

Interviewed, assessed, and diagnosed Navy recruits and active duty Navy personnel. Measures of cognitive functioning, intellectual functioning, academic achievement, and personality functioning were implemented, scored, and interpreted. Integrative psychological reports were written, analyzed, and discussed.

Recruits and active duty personnel from various countries presented with a broad spectrum of psychological disorders.

Jan. 2008 – Aug. 2008

***Community Service Extern***

**American Red Cross of Greater Chicago**

Chicago, Illinois

*Supervisor – Susie Turnbull*

Crisis responder on the disaster action team. Provided disaster-affected individuals and their families with immediate emergency assistance. Assisted clients in recovery planning and provided information and referrals to link families with longer-term assistance. Acquired crisis management skills.

***Research Experience***

May 2010 – May 2012

***Doctoral Dissertation***

**The Adler School of Professional Psychology**

Chicago, Illinois

*Chair - Janna A. Henning, J.D., Psy.D., C.T., B.C.E.T.S.*

McMillan, M. (2012). *Secondary traumatic stress, burnout, and compassion satisfaction among psychology doctoral interns.*

Doctoral dissertation.

December 2008

***Doctoral Capstone Research Project***

**The Adler School of Professional Psychology**

Chicago, Illinois

Successfully defended capstone research project on vicarious traumatization.

McMillan, M. (2008). *Vicarious traumatization among mental health workers.* Unpublished manuscript.

***Presentations***

August 2008

***Poster Presentation***

**The Adler School of Professional Psychology**

Chicago, Illinois

McMillan, M. (2008, August). *American Red Cross of Greater Chicago: Disaster response services.* Poster session presented at The Adler School of Professional Psychology, Chicago, Illinois.

## ***Teaching Experience***

January 2014 – Present

***Guest Academic Lecturer – Treating Disorders of Extreme Stress***

**The Adler School of Professional Psychology**  
Chicago, Illinois

August 2010 – Dec. 2010

***Teaching Assistant – Cognitive and Intellectual Assessment***  
**The Adler School of Professional Psychology**

Chicago, Illinois

Assisted in developing core curricula of Cognitive and Intellectual Assessment course with Robert (Uri) Heller, Ph.D.  
Assisted the instructor with the development and revision of course materials.

May 2008 – August 2008

***Parenting Classes***

**Haymarket Center**

Chicago, Illinois

Facilitated parenting classes for inpatient chemically dependent mothers. Classes involved discussions of alternative ways of understanding children's behavior, addressing effects of punishment and encouraging cooperation rather than imposing control. Learning tools and techniques for effectively teaching children self-discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and problem solving skills were addressed. The classes provided a place for group members to share frustrations, success stories, and parenting tips.

## ***Honors and Awards***

- Summa Cum Laude, The Adler School (2012)
- Psi Chi Member, Honorary Society in Psychology
- The Golden Key National Honors Society Member
- Deans List, Southern Methodist University (2000-2002)
- Departmental Distinction Psychology, Southern Methodist University (2000 – 2002)

## ***Professional Memberships***

American Psychological Association

*Specialized Training*

April 2015

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy