

CENTER FOR EVALUATION AND COUNSELING, INC.

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Margaret Pittaluga, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

Executive Director

Approval:

Michael Fiore, Ph. D.

Clinical Director

News Release

The following has been authorized for immediate release to the public. Any requests for additional information should be made to the Press Officer

Event:	American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children-Nat'l Conference
Date:	June 18-22, 2019
Location:	Salt Lake City, Utah
Service Provided by	Stephanie Kurilla, MA, LPC
	Melissa Ciottone, MA

The Center for Evaluation and Counseling, Inc. (CEC) is proud to announce that Forensic Team Leader Stephanie Kurilla, MA, LPC and the Director of Program Development, Melissa Ciottone, MA have been selected to be presenters at the 2019 American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) Conference. The conference is being held in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 18th -22nd 2019. The collaborative presentation will be on Forensic Team Assessments which CEC has long been recognized as experts.

Stephanie Kurilla is a Licensed Professional Counselor and holds two Master's Degrees from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology and Forensic Mental Health Counseling. Ms. Kurilla has been employed by CEC, in Parsippany, New Jersey since 2008. Ms. Kurilla is a Forensic Team Leader at CEC where she conducts forensic evaluations and provides treatment for children and families who are involved in the Child Protective Services system. Ms. Kurilla also supervises a team of clinicians who also provide forensic evaluations. Ms. Kurilla has been qualified as an expert in the areas of child abuse and neglect, risk assessments, and child sexual abuse by the New Jersey Family Court in various counties. She has been involved in the *Blueprint for Integration of Evidence-Based/Evidence Informed Practices into New Jersey's Child Welfare System* as well as the *Evidence-based Assessment Training Project*. Most recently, Ms. Kurilla has been trained in EMDR. Prior to her employment at CEC, Ms. Kurilla was employed for four years by the Department of Child Protection and Permanency as an intake and permanency worker. Ms. Kurilla has dedicated her time to working with victims of child abuse, neglect, and trauma. She currently serves on the local Multi-Disciplinary Team which is made up of multiple professions working together to

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support abused/neglected children through the civil and criminal systems. Ms. Kurilla also is employed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology at the New Jersey City University, where she teaches various courses such as Abnormal Psychology, Theories of Personality, and Contemporary Issues.

Melissa A. Ciottone, MA graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Forensic Psychology. Ms. Ciottone has extensive education, training, and experience in the areas of child abuse and neglect, trauma, severe and persistent mental illness, co-occurring disorders, and forensic assessments. Ms. Ciottone has been employed by CEC since 1999. She conducts forensic assessments and provides treatment for children and families who are involved in the Child Protective Services' system. Ms. Ciottone is also the Director of Program Development at the CEC office in Parsippany, New Jersey, where she provides supervision to a team of clinicians, provides therapy for children and families, and provides court-ordered visitation for families. Ms. Ciottone has also been qualified as an expert in the areas of child abuse and neglect, risk assessments, parental fitness, and child sexual abuse by the New Jersey Family Court in various counties. She currently serves as a stand-in member of the local Multi-Disciplinary Team, which is made up of various professionals working together to support abused/neglected children through the civil and criminal systems. Ms. Ciottone also serves as a stand-in member of the local Multi-Disciplinary Team Advisory Board to improve decision making and productivity among various agencies in the county. Ms. Ciottone is trained in the Nurtured Heart Approach and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Currently, Ms. Ciottone is enrolled in the Psy.D. program at the College of Saint Elizabeth where she intends to obtain her degree in Counseling Psychology and continue working with our most vulnerable population.

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