

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 Public Relations

Event:	American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children-Nat'l Conference
Date:	June 13-16, 2018
Location:	New Orleans, Louisiana
Instructors:	Michael J. Fiore, PhD
	Stephanie Kurilla, MA, LPC
	Melissa Ciottone, MA
	Christopher Friedrich, MA, LPC

Center for Evaluation and Counseling, Inc. (CEC) is proud to announce that Clinical Director - Michael J. Fiore, PhD, Forensic/Clinical Coordinator - Melissa Ciottone, MA, Forensic Team Leader - Stephanie Kurilla, MA, LPC, and Senior Clinician - Christopher Friedrich, MA, LPC have been selected to be Presenters at the 2018 American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 25th Annual Colloquium. The conference is being held in New Orleans in June 13th -16th 2018.

Executive Director, Margaret Pittaluga *stated*, *“The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children is a national organization committed to educating professionals in state of the art practices related to child abuse and neglect. To have members of our staff selected as Presenters at the 25th Colloquium in New Orleans and recognized as subject experts on a national level is a high complement to our staff and organization.”*

The presentation is called “Forensic Team Assessments of Children and Families.” It will focus on the team approach to forensic interviews/assessments utilizing a standard protocol which allows for an in-depth look into the family and risk issues with several different viewpoints and observations. Additionally, the presenters will discuss trauma and how it effects the brain, discuss assessing trauma in children, increase interviewing techniques by assessing the entire family, identify the benefits of a team approach in assessing child welfare cases, and identify the forensic team assessment protocol.

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Morris County Office: 1719 NJ-10 East-Suite 129, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 829-6960

Michael J. Fiore, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years of experience providing and supervising clinical and forensic services to a child abuse and neglect population. Dr. Fiore completed two master's degrees (Psychology and Mental Health Services) as well as a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at the Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research. Dr. Fiore's post-doctoral studies were in the area of Family Therapy at the New Jersey Center for Family Studies. Dr. Fiore has completed advanced training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. He was on the faculty for the New Jersey Child Abuse Training Institute and is a founding member of N.J. APSAC. Dr. Fiore is a co-author of the NJ Governor's Task Force Best Practices Manual Chapter on Forensic Assessments. He is also the author of "Jonathon's Journal," a novel which deals with the therapeutic recovery of an adult survivor of child sexual abuse. Dr. Fiore is the co-founder of Center for Evaluation and Counseling, Inc. He has developed innovative approaches to service provision in child abuse, including Forensic Team Assessments and Therapeutic Supervised Visitation. He is highly respected as a teacher, clinical supervisor, forensic evaluator, psychotherapist, and expert witness.

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. As the Forensic/Clinical Coordinator, 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 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 on 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. She works at the Morris County Office for CEC.

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 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. In addition, 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. Ms. Kurilla has been involved in the Blueprint for Integration of Evidence-Based/Evidence Informed Practices into New Jersey's Child Welfare System as well as Evidence-based Assessment Training Project. Most recently, Ms. Kurilla was selected to be a part of the APSAC Center for Child Policy, Expert Committee. 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 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.

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Christopher Friedrich is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of New Jersey. He graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Forensic Psychology and a Master of Arts degree in Forensic Mental Health Counseling. He has been employed by CEC since 2006. Mr. Friedrich has extensive education, training, and experience in the areas of child abuse and neglect, trauma, co-occurring disorders, and forensic assessments. He 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. He has worked in the mental health field providing individual psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults. He approaches therapy from a strength-based and goal-oriented perspective. Mr. Friedrich has been trained and certified in the Strengths and Needs Assessment through the Children's System of Care in New Jersey. In addition, he has participated in the Nurtured Heart training. Mr. Friedrich works out of the Sussex County Office for CEC.

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