



Missouri Department of Mental Health  
Division of Behavioral Health

**Center for Behavioral Medicine  
Department of Forensic Services**

Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Program  
2024 – 2025 Brochure



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## **Organizational Structures**

### Center for Behavioral Medicine

The Center for Behavioral Medicine (CBM) operates three adult inpatient psychiatric units, an outpatient forensic services department, and multiple group homes. The three inpatient units together hold 65 beds and house defendants who have been committed to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) as Incompetent to Stand Trial. CBM is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Hospital Organizations. All patients are under the care of a multidisciplinary treatment team, which includes professionals from psychiatry, psychology, social work, nursing, pharmacy, and recreation. CBM was previously known as Western Missouri Mental Health Center, and is still occasionally referred to as such by some local professionals.

Forensic residents receive full State of Missouri employee benefits. These benefits include fifteen (15) days paid annual leave, fifteen (15) days sick leave, thirteen (13) paid holidays, medical and life insurance plans, and retirement.

### Forensic Services

Forensic Services is an outpatient department that provides court-referred mental evaluations of defendants awaiting criminal proceedings. Most defendants are brought to the facility by local law enforcement agencies from county jails or detention centers, although some defendants are released on bond and secure their own transportation to the facility. Evaluations are utilizing teleconferencing services. Defendants are evaluated by a Certified Forensic Examiner (CFE) and then return to the detention facility or community. In some instances, the examiners conduct the evaluation at a jail/detention center due to concerns about transporting the defendant. CFEs also provide competency restoration evaluations for the inpatient units.

Missouri Department of Mental Health's  
Division of Behavioral Health

The Center for Behavioral Medicine (CBM) is one of several inpatient facilities operated by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Along with Northwest Missouri Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center, located one hour north of Kansas City in St. Joseph, CBM serves the Western Region of Missouri. DMH facilities in the Eastern Region include St. Louis Forensic Treatment Center and Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center. Fulton State Hospital serves as the single maximum-security inpatient facility for the state. Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center serves as the primary site for Missouri's Sex Offender Rehabilitation & Treatment Services.

Hospital Hill, Kansas City

The Center for Behavioral Medicine shares the Hospital Hill location with Truman Medical Center (TMC), Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH), and University of Missouri Kansas City's School of Medicine (UMKC). TMC operates two short-term psychiatric units within the CBM building. TMC and CMH each offer pre-doctoral training for psychologists. UMKC's School of Medicine requires all students complete a psychiatric rotation on inpatient units through CBM and TMC.

## Selection of the Forensic Postdoctoral Resident

Applicants shall have earned a doctoral degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an APA-approved program by September 1 of the training year, and have experience and/or strong interest in working with criminal forensic populations. Applicants must have completed a one-year-long doctoral internship. The stipend for the 2024-2025 training year is currently \$52,501.90. The deadline for application materials is Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:00 am CST. CBM participates in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) for forensic residencies (currently TBD for 2024, this brochure will be updated when the UAD is decided). Selected candidates will be notified before the UAD; however, we will not require applicants to accept an offer prior to 12:00 pm CST on the UAD. If unfilled positions remain after the UAD, applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. Send all application materials in PDF format to The Selection Committee at [cbmpostdoc@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:cbmpostdoc@dmh.mo.gov).

As application materials are received at CBM, applicants will be invited for interviews during the months of January and February 2023. Interviews will be conducted via videoconferencing services.

Applications will be reviewed until the positions are filled, and should include the following:

- (1) Statement of training interests and goals;
- (2) Curriculum vitae;
- (3) Two redacted psychological reports, preferably related to a forensic issue;
- (4) Three letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant's clinical experiences (sent directly by the authors);
- (5) Letter from the director of the applicant's training program verifying date of completion/anticipated completion of doctorate (sent directly by the author); and
- (6) Official Doctoral program transcripts.

## Responsibilities of the Forensic Residency

### Post-Degree Supervision Plan

Most state licensing boards require that you have a supervision plan filed with a state board of psychologists at the outset of your residency year. This plan details the experiences of the supervisor and the expected workload of the psychology resident broken down by type of activity. This document should be completed as early into the residency year as is feasible. Forensic residents are encouraged to complete this form with two of the forensic examiners listed as supervisors. The forms for Missouri licensure can be found at the State Committee of Psychologists website (<https://pr.mo.gov/psychologists-application-forms.asp>).

### Clinical Requirements

Outpatient Forensic Evaluations. The Forensic Services Unit is responsible for completing several hundred evaluations per year, each referred by the court. Missouri law offers examiners sixty (60) days to complete most of these evaluations, although it is typical for reports to be submitted well before the courts' deadlines. Forensic postdoctoral residents perform evaluations under the supervision of the Unit's Certified Forensic Examiners (CFEs). Evaluations are scheduled on a rolling basis as the court orders are received. After the CFEs are assigned each case, the forensic residents review the available cases with the CFEs and select/accept cases. There are three types of outpatient evaluations to be completed:

*Competency to Stand Trial:* When the Court has requested a competency evaluation, Missouri statute (RSMo. 552.020) requires that evaluations include a determination of whether the defendant is presently experiencing a mental disease or defect, and whether that mental disease or defect prevents the defendant from understanding the facts of the case or working with his or her attorney. This is the most common referral question received.

*Mental State at the Time of the Offense:* A minority of court orders also request the evaluator examine the defendant’s mental state at the time of his or her offense as it relates to the legal defense “Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect” (RSMo. 552.030). Defense attorneys are frequently consulted as to whether they want this referral question addressed.

*Sexually Violent Predator Status:* CBM psychologists conduct an evaluation and provide an opinion as to whether an inmate qualifies as a Sexually Violent Predator (i.e., due to a mental abnormality, they are more likely than not to reoffend sexually in the future). Evaluations include, at minimum, an extensive review of records, an actuarial measure (Static-99R and/or Static 2002R), and an interview with the offender. However, offenders sometimes decline to interview, resulting in the evaluation being based entirely on records and actuarial assessment. Testimony in these cases is almost certain.

*Restoration Evaluations:* Defendants hospitalized on the Incompetent to Stand Trial Units require reevaluation within six months of their commitment date, with an updated report being submitted to the referring court. Dr. Alexis Humenik typically completes the majority of the inpatient evaluations, and Dr. Kathleen Smith completes outpatient evaluations in coordination with the Forensic Mobile Team. Restoration evaluations are essentially competency evaluations; however, an overview of hospitalization/treatment details are included, while information redundant with the initial evaluation (i.e., psychosocial history) is only addressed briefly.

Testimony. In the event an evaluation conducted by the Resident requires court testimony, the Resident will provide the primary expert testimony. Testimony experiences cannot be guaranteed; however, Residents are welcome to participate in the mock trial didactic provided for interns, which involves being cross-examined on a case from attorneys with the Public Defender’s Office.

Inpatient Clinical Services. The Resident’s primary responsibility will be conducting psycho-legal evaluations; however, residents will also provide

treatment and consultation services for inpatient forensic patients. This will include one treatment group of the resident's choosing related to competency restoration and/or one individual patient who may need competency education or supportive therapy. In times of insufficient psychology department staffing, residents may be required to perform more clinical services as needed.

### Professional Development Requirements

Supervision of Psychology Interns. Psychology interns rotate through Forensic Services during the training year. Interns with limited forensic experience initially observe evaluations and are expected to administer their own examinations as soon as they are ready. Forensic residents supervise some of these examinations under the oversight of a CFE. In past years, some interns have requested to meet with forensic residents at the end of their rotation for a feedback session (in addition to any feedback session interns may have with their primary supervisor).

### Training Presentations.

*Intern Didactics:* The internship program at CBM includes a series of didactic seminars presented by the primary psychology faculty, other psychologists/mental health professionals from the local area, and the forensic residents. Forensic residents are expected to develop at least one hour-long seminar on a topic or topics in which they have expertise, typically considered "Special Topics in Forensics." The presentations may include required readings, PowerPoint/handouts, or structured activities. Forensic residents will also provide intern didactics related to Licensure and the EPPP near the end of the training year.

*Medical Student Seminars:* Forensic residents and interns take turns leading three seminars for UMKC medical students. The topics (cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, and personality disorders) and generally take place in August. The CBT and DBT seminars are scheduled for one hour each, and the personality disorders seminar is two hours long.

*Ground Rounds:* Residents will present at the hospital-wide Grand Rounds, typically in May. The presentation is an hour long and can be



on any topic relevant to the hospital (e.g., some residents have repurposed their dissertation projects or other past research presentations).

*Journal Club.* The Forensics department meets on a monthly basis to review and discuss peer-reviewed journal articles relevant to the professional duties of psychologists. Forensic residents are expected to lead these meetings throughout the training year. This includes selecting an appropriate article, developing discussion questions, and presenting the article to the group.

Committee Membership. Forensic residents are also traditionally included as part of CBM's Ethics, Rights, and Grievance Committee. This committee meets once monthly (4th Thursday @ 2:00pm) to discuss the patients' written grievances as well as making some decisions about how to respond to inappropriate behavior by patients or employees.

Research. No formal opportunities for conducting research are available; however, forensic residents are welcome to conduct independent research within the department.

Additional Opportunities. Depending of the Resident's interest and availability of opportunities, Residents are welcome to accompany/shadow staff psychologists during private practice evaluations outside of CBM work.

## **Supervision of Forensic Residents**

Forensic residents are expected to develop clinical interviewing, diagnostic, testing, and forensic writing skills over the course of the year. Depending on the resident's prior experiences, the supervising CFEs will work with the resident at the start of the training year to determine an appropriate level of autonomy during evaluations. It is typical for more than one evaluator (or resident) to meet with a defendant at the same time; this allows the supervisor to monitor the resident's strengths, weaknesses, and areas of growth. It is also common for residents to engage with supervisors in ad hoc supervisory/consultative discussions during the process of an evaluation or during the report-writing phase. At least one CFE (and likely multiple CFEs) will review, proof, edit, and discuss a resident's evaluation reports with him/her prior to signing the report and submitting to the court. As part of becoming familiar with the unique expectations of forensic reports, forensic residents are also expected to review, proof, edit, and discuss each other's reports (and CFEs' reports when requested). On average, a resident can expect to spend one and one half to two hours of supervision per evaluation. Therefore, a resident completing five or six evaluations in a month receives approximately two hours of individual supervision each week with their supervisors.

Forensic residents have additional opportunities to discuss cases in a group setting with CFEs and other trainees during department lunches. These meetings also regularly involve discussion of current events in the area of forensic psychology, departmental goals and activities, and examiner reactions to defendants. Topics may also include individual reactions to defendants/patients, areas of professional development/licensure, or residents' goals for the post-doctoral residency year.

## **Licensure in Missouri**

Forensic residents are eligible in Missouri to apply for a provisional license as a psychologist, which is a necessary step toward taking the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) during the residency year. This is not a requirement, and residents who have already completed the EPPP would not need to apply for provisional licensure. This process is separate from, and requires submission of, the Post-Degree Supervision Plan, which is mandatory for all forensic residents seeking licensure in Missouri.

## **Board Certification in Forensic Psychology**

Our training program has been certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) for their five-year experience waiver for board certification in forensic psychology.

## **Forensic Services Personnel**

### Certified Forensic Examiners

Christopher Robertson, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Dr. Robertson is responsible for the coordination of outpatient forensic evaluations at CBM.

Matthew Fowler, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: University of St. Thomas
- Dr. Fowler conducts forensic evaluations and is the primary intern supervisor for trainees in forensic services.

Jason Lawrence, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: Sam Houston State University
- Dr. Lawrence conducts forensic evaluations and has further interests in multicultural issues and statistics/research. He is the designated postdoctoral resident training director.

Alexis Humenik, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: Baylor University
- Dr. Humenik conducts forensic evaluations and coordinates inpatient competency restoration evaluations at CBM.

Kathleen Smith, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: Idaho State University
- Dr. Smith conducts forensic evaluations and has further interest in sexual violence risk assessment. She coordinates outpatient restoration services with the Forensic Mobile Team.

Tiffany Harrop, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Harrop conducts forensic evaluations and serves as the Assistant Training Director for the doctoral internship program. She also provides competency restoration treatment for CBM inpatient units.

## 2023-2024 Postdoctoral Resident

Brooke Stettler, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: Montclair State University

### Support Staff

Kathryn Bonnett

- Administrative Support Assistant, Forensic Services

Rita Gau

- Administrative Support Assistant, Forensic Services

### **Clinical Psychology Faculty**

Rhiannon Adams, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Washington D.C. campus
- Dr. Adams is responsible for coordination of competency treatment services. She provides supervision and oversight of competency education programming.
- Residents will work closely with Dr. Adams in provision of competency education.

Jonathan Torres, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: Nova Southeastern University
- Dr. Torres is the Director of CBM's Psychology Training program, which includes practicum, internship, and postdoctoral positions.
- Dr. Torres is a unit psychologist. Residents will work with Dr. Torres on any assigned therapy cases on 3D or 2B.

### **Administrative Personnel**

Shawn D. Anderson, Ph.D.

- Graduate Institution: University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Director of Psychology; Psychology Internship Director
- Dr. Anderson is also a CFE who administers and supervises some outpatient cases.

Jeanette Simmons, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: California School of Professional Psychology
- Deputy Director of the Division of Behavioral Health for the State of Missouri
- Dr. Simmons is also a CFE who administers and supervises some outpatient cases.

Timothy J. Wilson, Psy.D.

- Graduate Institution: The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute
- Director of Forensic Services, Division of Behavioral Health
- Dr. Wilson is also a CFE who administers and supervises some outpatient cases.
- Dr. Wilson also supervises DMH's Annual SVP Evaluators.

Bethany Van Lant, LCSW

- Forensic Coordinator for the Western Region of Missouri
- Bethany oversees all admissions to and discharges from hospitals within our region.