

# KANE COUNTY DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

A golden gavel is positioned diagonally across the center of the image, resting on a golden block. In the background, a golden scale of justice is visible, symbolizing law and justice. The background is a gradient of gold and dark blue.

Dr. Alexandra Tsang, Director  
Leading Change: Illinois Innovations Session  
August 2, 2024





# MISSION STATEMENT

**The Diagnostic Center is the Psychology Department for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit. It provides psychological services to juvenile delinquents and adult court offenders. These services include diagnostic evaluations, crisis intervention, and individual, group and family psychotherapy. It provides the Court with expert testimony, consultation and training for Correctional and Probation staff as well as attorneys. The Diagnostic Center assists the Merit Commission by conducting pre-employment evaluations for Sheriff's Deputy, Correction Officer and Court Security Applicants as well as 911 dispatch.**

**The Diagnostic Center continues to provide consultation to the Juvenile Justice Center and is on call for crises after hours. The Diagnostic Center provides a year-round internship program for graduate level students and a 10 month diagnostic practicum program for clinical-forensic psychology graduate students. The Diagnostic Center is mandated by Illinois Law.**

# MANDATES

## OFFICE/DEPARTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS- FY2010 BUDGET

Office/Department Name Diagnostic Center 001-430-438

Please list all of the services/functions performed by your office/department and answer the following questions regarding mandates.

Service/Function	Is this a mandated service/ Function? (Y/N)	If mandated, who mandates the service/function? (ie, Federal, State, County, or other)	If mandated, please provide reference to the exact mandate. (ie, State Statute, County Ordinance, etc)	If mandated, please explain the mandate in detail.	If mandated, are there specific consequences if the mandated service/function is not performed? If so, please explain consequences.	If mandated, is the mandate required to be done in a specific period of time? If so, please indicate the time period.	If mandated, does the County receive any <i>specific</i> revenue to fund the mandate or is this an "unfunded mandate"? If revenue is received please indicate the specific revenue and dollar amount.
Perform court ordered fitness evaluations	Y	State	725 ILCS 5/104-13	Clinical Psychologist must perform this evaluation	No trial or plea can be entered until this assessment is completed	30 days from time of court order	Unfunded
Diagnostic Center is mandated as the Court's "psychiatric department"	Y	State	705 ilcs 405/6-4, sec 2	Chief judge appoints director of psychiatric department to render clinical services authorized or ordered by Court	Failure to follow Court order; rule to show cause	By court order	Unfunded
Provide fit with assistance to defendants	Y	State	725 ilcs 5/104-22	Appointment of qualified experts to assist defendant who because of a disability is unable to participate in court proceedings	No trial or plea	By court schedule	Unfunded
Provide individual, family, couples and group therapy services for probationers	Y	State	730 ilcs 110/15; 705 ilcs 405/5-24	Authorizes establishment of programs to reduce the rate for adult and juvenile offenders committed to Illinois Department of Corrections; as condition of probation defendant to	Failure to follow conditions of probation which may include incarceration as a sanction	No	Unfunded



				undergo psychological treatment by clinical psychologist			
Conduct psychological evaluations for presentence cases	Y	State	730 ilcs 5/5-3-2	Present report detailing defendant's mental history and condition	No sentencing hearing	Usually 30 days	Unfunded
Conduct sex offender evaluations	Y	State	20 ilcs 4026	Authorizes creation of standards for sex offender evaluations	No offer of probation unless an evaluation is conducted	No	Unfunded
Juvenile psychological and sex offender evaluations	Y	State	705 ilcs 405/5-21	Social investigation shall include report of minor's mental history and a sex offender evaluation if warranted	No sentencing unless this is completed	Usually 30 days	Unfunded
Conduct sanity evaluations	Y	State		Clinical psychologist must perform this evaluation			Unfunded
Conduct domestic violence risk assessments	Y	State	725 ilcs 5/110-5(F)		Defendants do not get released from jail	Within 5 days	Defendant charged \$100
Conduct custody evaluations	Y	State	750 ilcs 5/604b	Clinical psychologists may conduct this evaluation	Divorce decree not issued	Usually 3 months	Unfunded
Provide psychological screening for Adult Court services and Merit Commission	Y	State		Clinical psychologist must perform these evaluations			Unfunded, however, Sherrif's Dept. and Merit Commission contribute to cost of testing material
Train 3 interns and 4 diagnostic externs	N	N/A			Evaluations and therapy services uncompleted, defendants stay in jail longer, court cases	Varies	Unfunded







# GENERAL ORDER 14-04

- Director position is appointed by the Chief Judge pursuant to 705 ILCS 405/6-4



# KCDC Staff



**Dr. Alexandra  
Tsang  
Director**



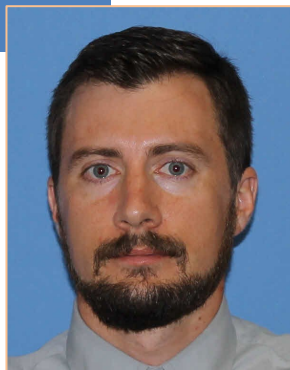
**Dr. Jenna D'Agostini**



**Dr. Elisa Lancaster**



**Dr. Ellis O'Connor**



**Dr. Michael Oliverio**



**Dr. Bridget Springmire**



**Dr. Jaime Thomas**



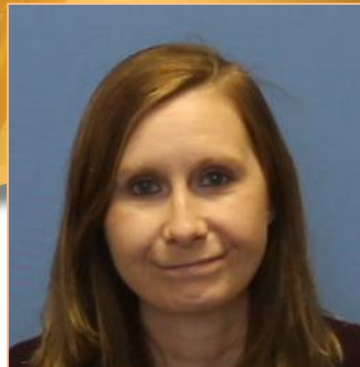
**Dr. Ashley VanOpstall**

Support Staff  
and  
Post-Doc and  
Interns



**Stephanie Galley**

Administrative Assistant



**Jill Webster**

Secretary



**Nicollette Mebust**

Doctoral Intern



Sworn officers of  
the court

# WHAT WE DO



## PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

38 types of diagnostic  
assessments



## TREATMENT

Therapy includes individual  
treatment, EMDR, trauma  
therapy

# WHAT WE DO



## CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Suicide assessments, de-escalation, crisis debriefings



## EXPERT TESTIMONY

Testify as expert witnesses

# WHAT WE DO



## SPECIALTY COURTS

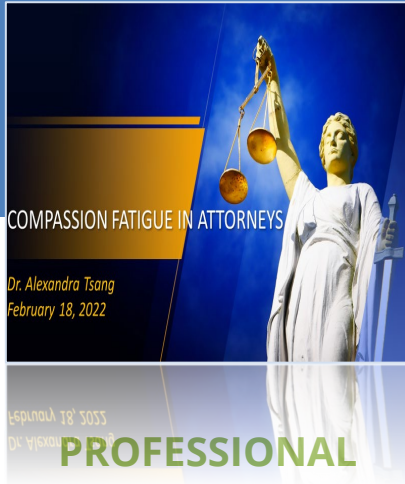
Treatment Alternative Court  
Drug Rehabilitation Court



## COUNTY\_WIDE TASK FORCES

Mental health task force,  
Juvenile Justice  
Juvenile Resource Team  
Family violence council

# WHAT WE DO



## PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

Present to attorneys, law enforcement and probation on a wide variety of topics



## PARENTING PROGRAM

By statute, all divorcing parents of minor children have to take a 4-hour mandated class on the effects of divorce on children



# WHAT WE DO

*Dr. Alexandra Tsang, Kane County Diagnostic Center (KCDC) Director*

Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) Mental Health Task Force Judicial Champion

American Psychological Association (APA)

Association of Chicagoland Externship and Practicum Training Sites (ACEPT)

Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC)

Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA)

Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board

Crisis Intervention Trainer (CIT)

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) trained

Family Violence Coordinating Council

Illinois Psychological Association (IPA)

Juvenile Officer's Association

Kane County Hoarding Task Force

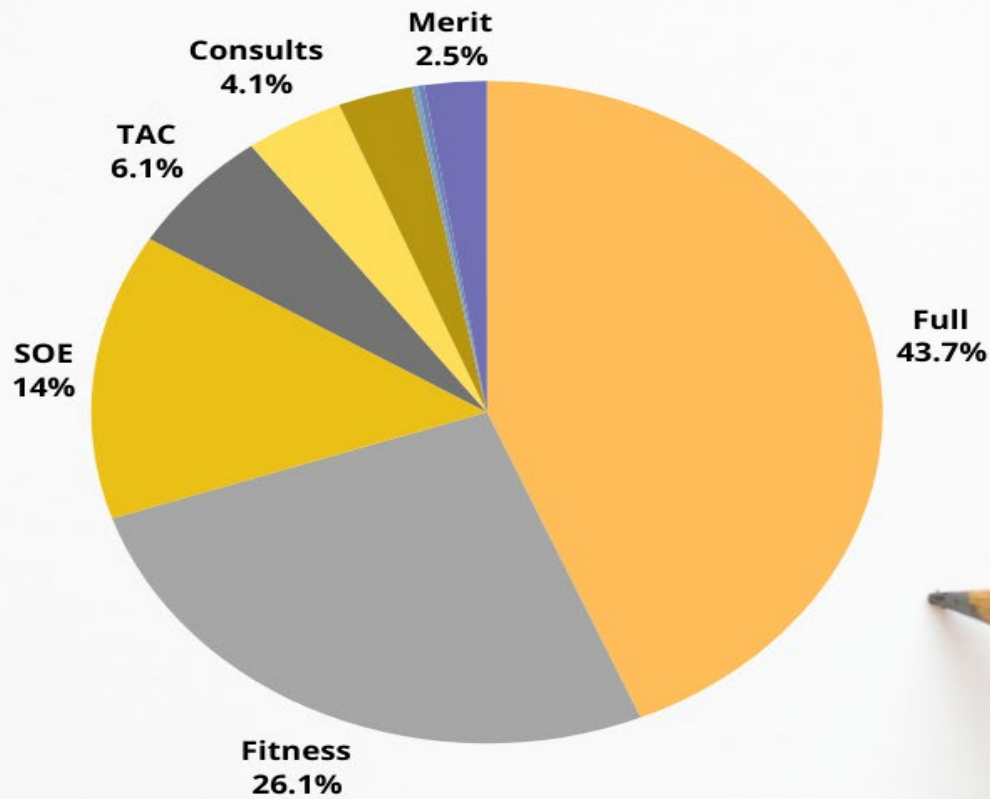
Kane County Major Crimes Task Force

Mental Health Task Force

Society for Police and Criminal Psychology



**Integrated into the  
court system and  
justice managers**



**TOTAL CASES 394**

**FULL**

**FITNESS**

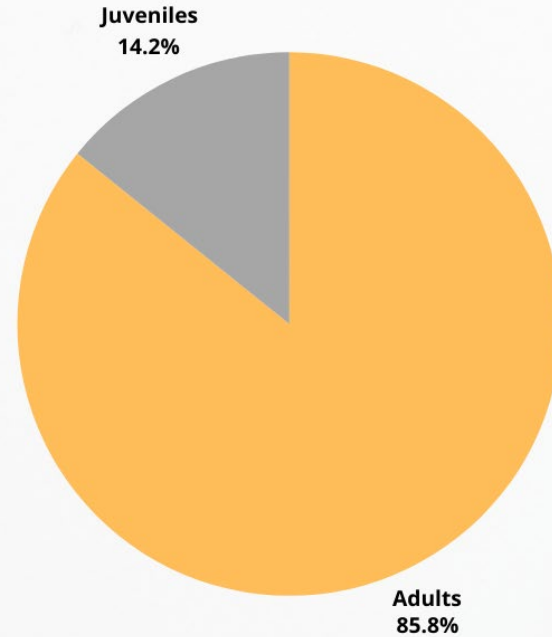
**SOE**

**TAC**

**CONSULTS**

**SANITY**

# Adult and Juvenile Cases



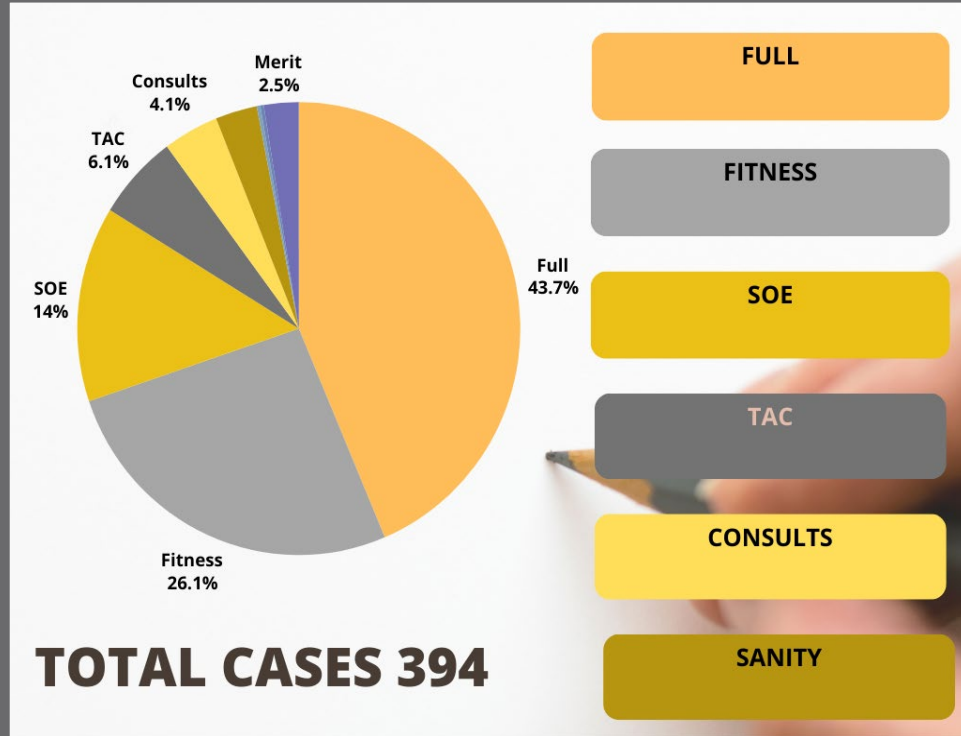
**ADULTS**

**JUVENILES**



## FULL PSYCHOLOGICALS

Domestic Battery  
School Shooting  
Juvenile Residential  
Substance Abuse  
Arson  
Theft  
Mental Health Court  
Risk Assessments  
Fitness to Parent



# 55 SEX OFFENDER EVALUATIONS/ SVP

**IQ tests**

**Personality Measures**

**Aggression measures**

**Substance Abuse measures**

**Computerized test of sexual interest**

**Deviant sexual interest assessments**

**3 actuarial measures**

**14-page sexual history interview**

**Clinical interview**

**Victim reports**

**Police reports**



# 116 FORENSIC EVALUATIONS

- Fitness to Stand Trial
- Fitness to Plea
- Sanity
- Miranda
- Transfer
- Conditional Release
- Fit to Proceed Pro Se
- Fitness to Be Sentenced





# 10 PRE-EMPLOYMENT

- Merit Commission
- Sheriffs Deputy
- Correctional Officers
- 911-Dispatchers
- Court Security
- Fitness for Duty



# CONSULTATION

Specialty Courts

Professional Consultation

Expert Testimony

Supervision



# KCDC Evaluations Outside of 16th Judicial Circuit

- MOU's with:
  - Kendall
  - Dekalb

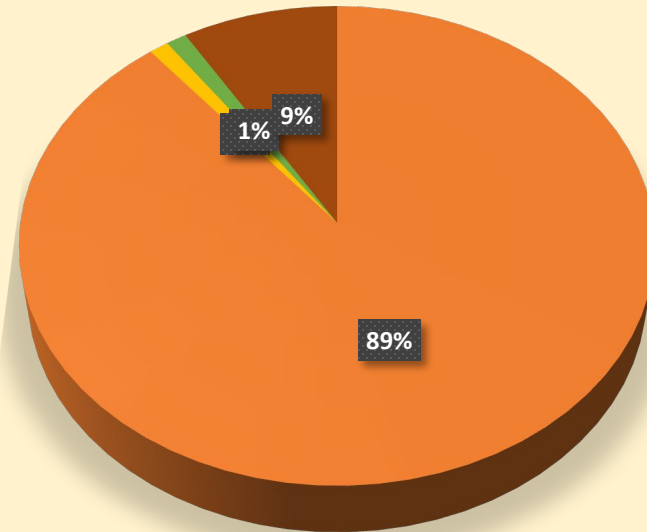


# Court-Mandated Treatment

## 821 Hours of Intervention



Treatment/Intervention



- Individual
- Group
- Family
- KIDS1st

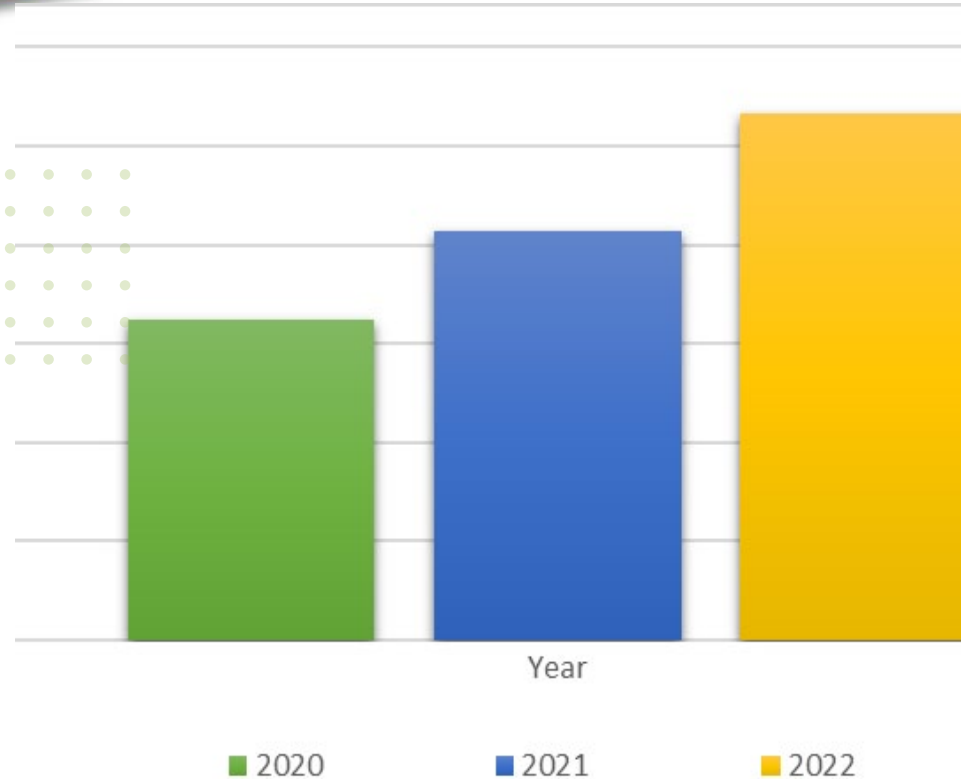
Number of Referrals: 515

## Three Year Comparison

**2020: 324**

**2021: 414**

**2022: 533**





# Trauma Treatment Room



## ❖ EMDR

A structured therapy that encourages the patient to focus briefly on the trauma memory while simultaneously experiencing bilateral stimulation (typically eye movements), which is associated with a reduction in the vividness and emotion associated with the trauma memories. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy is an extensively researched, effective psychotherapy method proven to help people recover from trauma and PTSD symptoms.

## ❖ Cognitive Processing

## ❖ Narrative Exposure Therapy



Kids 1<sup>st</sup>

851 Participants



Kane County's parenting education program

- Kane County's divorce parenting education program is a statutory requirement for divorcing parents of minor children
- Includes an online parenting training and test and then attending a two hour live session conducted by two psychologists
- Staffed by KCDC psychologists
- Offered weekly with a Spanish speaking session every other month that is run by a Spanish-speaking clinical psychologist.
- Goal of the class is to educate parents about the potential negative effects of divorce on children, how to best tell children about the divorce, to educate parents on the negative impact of marital conflict on children, provide effective ways to co-parent

# Kids 1<sup>st</sup>



Kane County's parenting education program

- Number of Classes: 49
- Number of Participants: 851
- Number of Spanish Speaking Participants: 74
- ADA accommodations: 2
  
- Fees Collected by Circuit Clerk: \$98,032.50



# Presentations Given

- Hostage Negotiations with the Mentally Ill
  - Mass Violence
  - Violence Risk Assessment
  - Systemic Racism
  - Sex Offender Evaluations
  - Fitness to Stand Trial
- Seminars:
    - Female Offenders
    - Trauma
    - Testimony
    - Sanity

# Psychoeducation for Justice Partners and the Community



Wednesday | 11/30/2022 | Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops (Live Webinar, Discussion & Post Screen...  
YouTube



## Civility & Professionalism Growing Cause for Concern?

By Ed Finkel

Keeping civility and professionalism on the docket.

Some Illinois attorneys and judges assert that political divisiveness, social media, the pandemic, and Zoom fatigue have contributed to a decline in civility and professionalism in the legal sector during the past few years, undermining previous gains.



Presenters at two ISBA CLE programs in March explored the phenomenon, the deeper reasons behind it, and possible silver linings. To provide a digest of their perspectives, the Illinois Bar Journal caught up with several presenters from the programs: a two-part seminar titled "Clarity and Professionalism: 2022: Pivoting for the Pandemic," co-sponsored by the ISBA Bench & Bar Section and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism; and "The Role and Benefits of Professionalism: Perspectives From the Bench and Beyond," sponsored by the ISBA Federal Civil Practice Section.

### Defining 'civility' and 'professionalism'

Judge Michael Chmiel of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in Woodstock, who coordinated the two-part CLE, defines civility as how courteously and politely people interact with one another. Professionalism encompasses civility but goes beyond it.

"The profession, among other things, polices itself formally and informally and has certain protocols

appearance for the j

Judge Chmiel encourages a "raggion" in their courtroom. "Personally, I've seen justice often, we focus on the rag

Judge Chmiel sees attorney to the court and the parties strategic points. To the eb get to a proper result, it se

### Warning signs

Christine Anderson, director Registration & Disciplinary the past couple of years. "I uncol conduct—in the cou opponents, sometimes to a case."

If an attorney is criticizing a formal complaints and his court," which requires more sanctions," she says. "That"

At the less-severe end, a la has reached the ARDC, the attorney that the pramable courteous and civil attitude

"Or they might enter into a



Wednesday | 8/17/2022 | PTSD (Public Safety & The Criminal Justice System) - Special Edition  
YouTube  
#PTSD #criminal justice



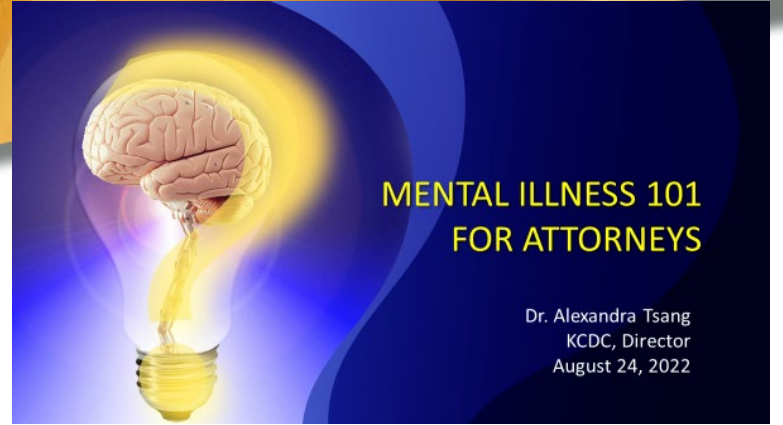
# DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Alexandra Tsang  
Kane County Diagnostic Center,  
Director  
October 4, 2022 NAPD



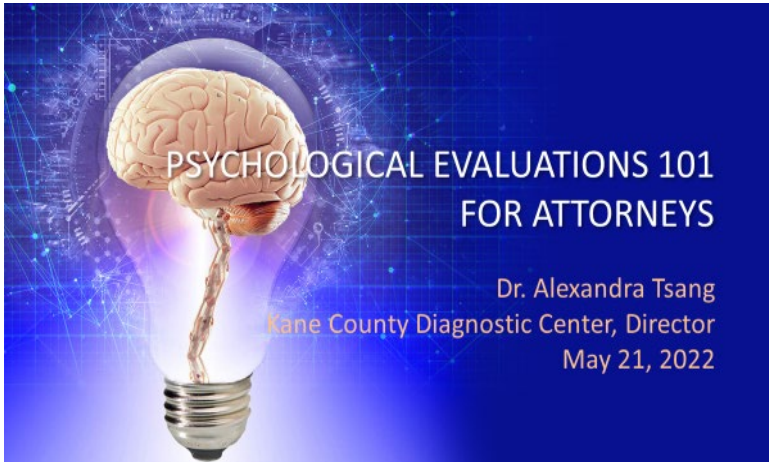
# MENTAL ILLNESS 101 FOR ATTORNEYS

Dr. Alexandra Tsang  
KCDC, Director  
August 24, 2022



# PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS 101 FOR ATTORNEYS

Dr. Alexandra Tsang  
Kane County Diagnostic Center, Director  
May 21, 2022



# MASS VIOLENCE

Dr. Alexandra Tsang  
KCBA  
May 25, 2022





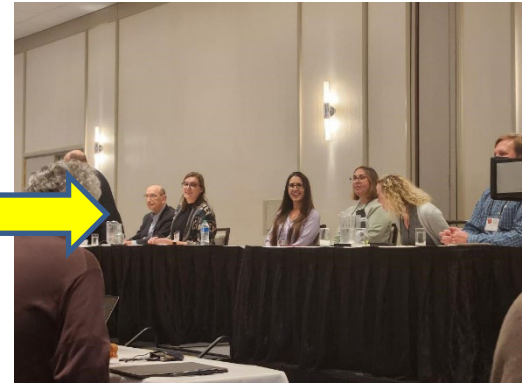


# Trainings Attended

- Telehealth
- Sanity
- Miranda and False Confessions
- Youth Fire setting
- Expert Testimony
- Trauma evaluations
- Psychopathy
- Neurodevelopmental Research
- Police Evaluations
- Mental Health Law
- Juvenile Offenders
- Extreme Political Beliefs



# Trainings Attended



KCDC:  
Forensic Jeopardy Winner!



# KCDC Internship in Clinical Psychology with a Forensic Emphasis

- We are a nationally recognized doctoral-level internship program, APPIC accredited
- One of the few national internships that offers a forensic-specific internship
- We pull from all USA clinical psychology/forensic doctorate programs
- Our past interns work in: Forensics/Corrections/Law Enforcement/Federal Gov./Military/Mental Health Institutions/Private Practice/Teaching/Clinical Agencies

# APA Accreditation

- Vital to future interns
- Site visit scheduled for 2025



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



Questions and Comments



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**St. Charles, IL 60174**  
**630-262-4483**  
**[tsangalexandra@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:tsangalexandra@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov)**