

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH 101



10/15/18 - SACRAMENTO
REGISTER

10/29/18 - LONG BEACH
REGISTER

Every day, new clinicians and evaluators are hired by agencies providing services to mentally ill offenders and/or tasked with keeping patients and the community at large safe. These new hires are well-qualified and have a solid understanding of psychosocial assessment and clinical treatment. Forensic evaluation and treatment, however, differs in important ways from purely clinical treatment, and there are numerous factors to consider in addition to the patient's well-being and risk of imminent harm to himself or others.

This training, Forensic Mental Health 101, seeks to address these differences with the goal of preparing those with clinical and/or community mental health backgrounds to evaluate, treat, and supervise mentally ill offenders in locked and unlocked settings. It is intended for those who are new to forensic mental health or early in their forensic mental health careers, and those who are seeking to re-focus their efforts and ensure they are performing their duties in accordance with the law and the best interests of the patient and the community.

Topics will include:

- Relevant mental health laws and terminology
- Key players in the California forensic mental health system
- Differences between forensic evaluation and clinical evaluation
- Basics of forensic report writing
- Basics of violence and sex offender risk assessment
- Differences between forensic treatment and community mental health treatment
- Special populations (e.g., sex offenders, neurocognitive/neurodevelopmental disorders, elderly)
- How to communicate with attorneys and courts, including responding to subpoenas and the basics of testimony

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the laws governing the treatment and supervision of mentally ill offenders in California
- Describe various inpatient and outpatient treatment settings for mentally ill offenders in California
- Describe key differences between forensic evaluation and clinical evaluation
- Describe the components of a forensic report
- Describe key differences between forensic treatment and community mental health treatment
- Describe issues unique to certain special populations
- Describe how to communicate with attorneys and courts regarding reports, subpoenas, etc.
- Describe the steps in preparing for testimony and the basics of testifying in court

CONTINUING EDUCATION

6 units for BBS, BRN, CPA

CE Statements : FMHAC is approved by the California Psychological Association to provide continuing professional education for psychologists. FMHAC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Provider #FOR005. Course meets the qualifications for 6 hours of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences through the California Psychological Association.