



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FORENSIC STUDIES (AIAFS) *presents*

Seminar Three: Working with Adults in Clinical and Forensic Settings: Neuroscience, Assessment, and Techniques

Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Sweeton, Psy.D., MS, MA

Hours: 6.0

Training Description

Professionals working with adults in clinical and forensic settings often face similar challenges, including understanding individuals' mental status, managing combative behavior, assessing for domestic violence or other abuse, and understanding behavior that may seem irrational. This seminar connects neuroscience research to clinical and forensic practice, focusing on areas of the brain involved in common mental illnesses, and presenting straightforward screening tools and techniques professionals can incorporate into their work with adults in clinical and forensic settings.

Training Objectives

1. Identify one screening tool for domestic violence, and one for substance abuse.
2. Describe two areas of the brain involved in executive functioning, and how activation in those areas of the brain can change when under stress.
3. Learn and complete the Mental Status Exam Screening for Mental Disorders.
4. State three conditions commonly seen in adults in clinical and forensic settings.
5. Name one technique that professionals can learn to help improve their own social perspective taking.
6. Identify one way in which dementia may affect the brain.
7. Name and practice at least two techniques that can help reduce an individual's sympathetic nervous system arousal and increase parasympathetic arousal, leading to greater access to the "thinking areas" of the brain.

Presenter Biography

Originally trained as a neuroscientist, Dr. Jennifer Sweeton is a licensed clinical psychologist, best-selling author, and internationally-recognized expert on trauma, anxiety, and the neuroscience of mental health. She is the author of the book, *Trauma Treatment Toolbox*, published by PESI Publishing & Media. Dr. Sweeton completed her doctoral training at the Stanford University School of Medicine, the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, and the National Center for PTSD. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in affective neuroscience from Stanford University, and studied behavioral genetics at Harvard University. For more information about Dr. Sweeton, visit <https://www.jennifersweeton.com/about-me>.