

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPASSIONATE TRANSFORMATION, INC.  
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## CURRICULUM VITAE

# ALEKSANDRA DRECUN, PSY.D.

## LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

### PSY 21778

A highly enthusiastic, motivated and self-directed licensed clinical psychologist with a wealth of teaching and clinical experience seeks employment opportunities in a challenging and rewarding setting, where one can provide psychological services that include clinical assessments, psychological and psychiatric evaluations. Previous responsibilities include teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level; consulting on cases; co-supervision and training practicum and intern students for purposes of ascertaining diagnostic impressions and providing treatment; conducting research presentations; program development; community outreach activities; imparting psychological services; conducting psychological evaluations and reports for purposes of diagnostic impressions and the development and maintenance of treatment plans.

### Summary of Qualifications

- Nineteen years of substantial experience providing superior psychological services to a diverse population that includes children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families in individual, family and group therapy modalities.
- Deep understanding of psychological issues that concern obesity and eating disorders.
- Superior ability to maintain emotional stability to cope with human suffering, emergencies, and other stresses.
- In-depth knowledge of crisis intervention techniques.
- Exceptional ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams, service users, staff and other professionals in a high-intensity environment.
- Outstanding interviewing (intake) and psychological/developmental evaluation skills particularly with respect to bariatric pre-surgical psychological evaluations in accordance with the suggestions set forth by the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.
- Notable ability to use independent judgment and to manage and impart confidential information.
- Excellent ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing medical information, test results, diagnoses and proposed treatment in a manner easily understood by the client and other professionals.
- Considerable knowledge of psychological test administration, scoring, and interpretation for the WAIS, WISC, WPPSI, MMPI-II, MMPI-A, MCMI, MACI, Rorschach, CAT-H, CAT-A, TAT, Myer's Briggs, 16PF, CPI, and Strong Interest Inventory.
- Excellent skill in writing psychological evaluations and preparing and maintaining patient records.
- Unquestionable ability to observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress.
- Incomparable ability to assess mental status in clients and to develop individual treatment goals and plans.

- Sound knowledge of individual program planning, ability to evaluate the progress of therapeutic program and to make individual modifications.
- Remarkable ability to devise, implement, improve, evaluate and manage programs.
- Extraordinary ability to train and supervise clinical students.
- Extensive experience and demonstrated excellence in teaching psychology courses at the undergraduate and graduate level as indicated by student and peer evaluations.
- Effective at providing instruction to students of diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, disability and ethnic backgrounds.
- Uncommon knowledge of and ability to apply relevant current education methodologies, accommodations and techniques.
- Excellent classroom management skills.
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills.
- Adept at and appropriate use of technology in the classroom (i.e., computers, multimedia projectors and blackboard).
- Solid understanding of and remarkable ability to respond to the psychological and academic needs of the college population.
- Proficient in time management skills, organizational skills, problem solving, decision making, coordinating with instructors, staff and students, providing appropriate referrals, recommending services and working with family and support services to assist client/students.
- Remarkable ability to provide appropriate referrals and recommend support services to assist students.
- Profound sensitivity to and understanding of the college populations' diverse abilities, interests and cultural backgrounds.
- Supportive of multicultural viewpoints among the student population, staff and faculty.
- Strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and flexible.

## **EDUCATION**

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[ 2005 ]            Alliant International University-CSPP            Irvine, CA  
**Psy.D., Marriage Family Therapy**  
*(AAMFT Accredited Psy.D. Program)*  
**Dissertation:** "Marriage and Family Therapists' Perceptions of and Adherence to Implementing a Policy for Family Secrets."  
 Graduated with a GPA of 3.9

[ 2002 ]            Alliant International University-CSPP            Irvine, CA  
**M.A., Marriage Family Therapy**  
*(AAMFT Accredited Program)*  
 Graduated with a GPA of 3.9

[ 2000 ]            University of California, Riverside            Riverside, CA  
**B.A., Psychology**  
 Graduated with a GPA of 3.9

## **DISTINCTIONS**

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Psy.D. Qualifying Exam passed with Distinction, Alliant International

University-CSPP (2004)  
Certificate of Appreciation, Family Services Association (2003)  
Chancellor's Honor's List, University of Riverside, California (2000)  
Dean's List, University of Riverside, California (1998-1999)

## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

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Addiction  
Anxiety Disorders  
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder  
Body Focus Repetitive Behaviors (Trichotillomania & Chronic Skin Picking)  
Depressive Disorders  
Dual Diagnosis  
Fitness for Duty Evaluations  
Forensic Competency Evaluations  
Hypnosis  
Independent Medical Examinations  
Individual, Couple, Family and Group Psychotherapy  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual+  
Premarital Counseling  
Psychological Evaluation  
Trauma  
Violence Risk Assessment  
Women's Issues

## **PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

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[ 2020 – present ] Ree Medical, San Diego, CA

### **Physician Advisor**

- Conduct peer file reviews and independent medical examinations to evaluate impairment or disability and answer health related issues for Veterans.

[ 2017 – present ] First Choice Evaluations, San Diego, CA

### **Physician Advisor**

- Conduct peer file reviews and independent medical examinations to evaluate high liability, high reserve and litigated claims to validate diagnostic impressions, causation of medical conditions, assess necessity of testing, treatment, hospitalization and/or surgery, confirm experimental or investigational treatments, assess impairment or disability and answer health related issues.

[ 2017 – present ] R3 Continuum, San Diego, CA

### **Consulting Psychologist**

- Case management services for business, namely the coordination of medically necessary medical services, vocational issues and personnel injuries at work. Crime victim services for businesses that include supportive emotional counseling for personnel. Providing case management services for businesses that include coordinating legal,

physical, social and psychological services for personnel traumatized at work. Provide consultation services for the preparation of a traumatic incident or crisis situation in the workplace. Provide response consultation services following a traumatic incident or crisis situation in the workplace. Provide onsite psychological services for the victims of a traumatic or critical workplace incident. Review short term and long term disability claims, and workers' compensation claims for businesses. Provide independent medical examination, fitness for duty evaluations and violence risk assessment. Provide disaster recovery services that include business planning and business continuity consulting.

[ 2016 – present ] Sterling Medical Group, San Diego, CA

**Clinical Psychologist**

- Conduct forensic competency evaluations for detainees through the Department of Justice to determine whether detainees are adjudicated competent to participate in legal immigration proceedings.

[ 2010 – present ] Network Medical Review Co. San Diego, CA

**Physician Advisor**

- Conduct peer file reviews and independent medical examinations to evaluate high liability, high reserve and litigated claims to validate diagnostic impressions, causation of medical conditions, assess necessity of testing, treatment, hospitalization and/or surgery, confirm experimental or investigational treatments, assess impairment or disability and answer health related issues.

[ 2008 – present] Association for Compassionate Transformation, Inc.

San Diego, CA

**Chief Executive Officer/Clinical Psychologist**

- Consulting and career coaching for individuals in recovery at local sober living homes in San Diego.
- Conduct pre-surgical psychological evaluations for bariatric surgery candidates to assess a patient's pre-surgical emotional readiness.
- Conduct psychological evaluations for diagnostic impressions, dangerousness, disability, fitness for duty, pre-employment evaluation, forensic evaluation and chemical dependency.
- Provide therapeutic services and facilitate support groups for court mandated clients.
- Evaluate and diagnose mental and emotional disorders of individuals and administer programs of treatment.
- Observe multi-diagnosed patients in various situations; selected, administered, and interpreted intelligence, personality and other psychological tests to diagnose disorders and formulate plans of treatment, and provide consultation to other mental health professionals with regard to test results.

- Treat psychological disorders secondary to violent crime (i.e., forcible rape, robbery, assault and battery, aggravated assault, domestic violence, child and elder abuse, and family members of murdered victims) to effect improved adjustments utilizing various psychological techniques.
- Select appropriate and empirically validated treatment approaches and plans in a variety of different modalities.
- Assess patient progress and modify treatment programs accordingly; communicate with and counsel family members as appropriate.
- Document therapy in accordance with policies and procedures regarding medical records; implement and adhere to policies which ensure patient confidentiality.
- Provide crisis intervention in situations requiring immediate psychological treatment.
- Participate in educational programs, in-service meetings, clinician meetings, and workshops to enhance professional development and maintain currency of methodology and techniques.
- Provide psychological consultations to other mental health professionals within hospitals, clinics, and other community based agencies with regard to clients and patient care.
- Impart empirically validated treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.
- Initiate and facilitate consultations with school personnel to address academic, emotional and/or behavioral concerns and develop an effective treatment plan.
- Disseminate knowledge of psychology and its services and provide expertise to local consumer groups, charitable and religious organizations.
- Active in-service meetings, clinician meetings, and workshops to enhance professional development and maintain currency of methodology and techniques.
- Provide supervision to psychological assistants for purposes of meeting licensing requirements and establishing new competencies with the intent of becoming an independent psychological practitioner.

[ 2008 – 2008 ] San Diego Family Services

San Diego, CA

**Clinical Psychologist**

- Evaluate and diagnose mental and emotional disorders of individuals and administer programs of treatment.
- Treat psychological disorders to effect improved adjustments utilizing various psychological techniques; select appropriate and empirically validated treatment approaches and plan frequency, intensity, and duration of individual, group, and family therapies.
- Assess patient progress and modify treatment programs accordingly; communicate with and counsel family members as appropriate.
- Document therapy in accordance with policies and procedures regarding medical records; implement and adhere to policies which ensure patient confidentiality.

- Provide crisis intervention in situations requiring immediate psychological treatment.
- Active in-service meetings, clinician meetings, and workshops to enhance professional development and maintain currency of methodology and techniques.
- Impart empirically validated treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses secondary to violent crimes that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.
- Conduct pre-surgical psychological evaluations for bariatric surgery candidates to assess a patient's pre-surgical emotional readiness.
- Provide supervision for psychological assistant.

[ 2006 – 2008 ] California Baptist University                      Riverside, CA

**Psychological Assistant & Clinical Psychologist**

- Diagnosed and evaluated mental and emotional disorders of individuals and administer programs of treatment.
- Observed multi-diagnosed patients in various situations; selected, administered, and interpreted intelligence, personality, and other psychological tests to diagnose disorders and formulate plans of treatment, and provide consultation to other mental health professionals with regard to test results.
- Treated psychological disorders secondary to violent crime (i.e., forcible rape and aggravated assault) to effect improved adjustments utilizing various psychological techniques.
- Selected appropriate and empirically validated treatment approaches and plans in a variety of different modalities.
- Assessed patient progress and modify treatment programs accordingly; communicate with and counsel family members as appropriate.
- Documented therapy in accordance with policies and procedures regarding medical records; implement and adhere to policies which ensure patient confidentiality.
- Provided crisis intervention in situations requiring immediate psychological treatment.
- Participated in educational programs, in-service meetings, clinician meetings, and workshops to enhance professional development and maintain currency of methodology and techniques.
- Instructed and directed students serving marriage and family therapy internships.
- Provided psychological consultations to other mental health professionals within hospitals, clinics, and other community based agencies with regard to clients and patient care.
- Imparted empirically validated treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.
- Coordinated and coached the new MFT trainees on intake consultations.
- Devised a program that addressed the unique therapeutic needs of children for the local community.

- Initiated and facilitated consultations with school personnel to address academic, emotional and/or behavioral concerns and develop an effective treatment plan.
- Prepared, presented and coordinated seminars, workshops, or conferences for graduate and professional practitioners.
- Disseminated knowledge of psychology and its services and provide expertise to local consumer groups, charitable and religious organizations.

[ 2004 - 2006 ] Michael Elliot & Associates Laguna Hills, CA

**Psychological Assistant** *in Private Practice*

- Conducted clinical psychodiagnostic assessment and testing, case management, and effective treatment planning for multi-diagnosed children and adults.
- Imparted empirically validated treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.
- Initiated and facilitated consultations with school personnel to address academic, emotional and/or behavioral concerns and develop an effective treatment plan.
- Devised a 10-week school-based program that addresses behavioral, emotional and academic difficulties for students at a private high school.

[ 2004 - 2005 ] Summit Medical Group San Bernardino, CA

**Psychology Intern**

- Assisted the chief psychologist in developing and coordinating a psychology department for the above comprehensive medical treatment team.
- Conducted clinical psychodiagnostic assessments and testing for children, adolescents and adults with litigation cases (workers compensation and personal injury cases) to evaluate whether the sustained injury has adversely affected the patient psychologically.
- Imparted empirically validated brief treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities to treat the psychological issues secondary to the sustained injury.
- Provided cognitive-rehabilitation treatment, family education, case-management and discharge planning for children, adolescents and adults who sustained cognitive deficits consequential to their work-related or personal injury.
- Directed attorneys in identifying relevant forensic litigation matters such as malingering, cognitive and functional capacity relevant to the case.
- Established and maintained patients' medical records in accordance with regulations, policies, and established practices.

[ 2003 - 2005 ] Alannah Foster Family Agency Riverside, CA

**Social Worker**

- Formulated and executed formal PowerPoint presentations for foster parents, social work staff and administrative group home staff on mental health issues pertaining to foster children and group home children aged 0-18.
- Coordinated a volunteer program in which college students are recruited, screened, selected, trained and supervised to provide services for foster children.
- Improvised foster parent trainings and home studies to effectively screen prospective foster parents.
- Facilitated foster parent support group on a monthly basis.
- Revised and conducted foster parent orientations, initial walkthroughs and home-studies to assist in evaluating prospective foster parents.
- Administered developmental assessments to screen for developmental delays in foster children aged 0-5, provide appropriate intervention in light of this delay and ensure that related services are obtained for the developmental delay.
- Created a developmental program that utilizes play as an intervention to assist children with developmental delays age 0-5, in reaching age-appropriate developmental milestones and in obtaining their developmental goals.
- Provided parenting skills training for foster parents, case management and treatment planning for foster children.
- Conducted violence risk/dangerousness assessment for children of the welfare system.
- Delivered on-call crisis intervention for medical and psychological issues pertaining to foster children.
- Provided parent education and counseling to child-abuse perpetrators.

[ 2003 - 2003 ] Family Services Association Moreno Valley, CA

**MFT Intern**

- Responsibilities included clinical psychodiagnostic assessment, case management, and effective treatment planning for multi-diagnosed children and adults and discharge suitability.
- Conducted clinical assessment for individuals charged with domestic violence to evaluate whether individual or group therapy is indicated.
- Imparted empirically validated brief treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.

[ 2001 - 2003 ] Vista Community Counseling Fontana, CA

**MFT Intern**

- Devised and delivered presentations for clinical staff on mental health issues pertaining to diversity.

- Conducted clinical psychodiagnostic assessments for children, adolescents and adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses for the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health and determine what related services are necessary to ensure that these individuals are functioning at their optimal level.
- Imparted empirically validated brief treatment approaches to children, adolescents and adults with multiple diagnoses secondary to violent crime that consist of individual, couple and family therapy treatment modalities.
- Facilitated brief group therapy for children, adolescents and adults for *Anger, Anxiety, Assertiveness Training, Co-dependency, Depression, and Parenting*.

## ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Undergraduate Teaching:

[ 2006 – 2008 ] University of California Riverside-Ext. Riverside, CA

#### Instructor

- Course Taught: **Alcohol and Other Drug Problems and the Family** (AODS CAADAC Approved Program)
- Course Taught: **Parental and Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education**

[ 2006 – 2008 ] Mt. San Antonio College Walnut, CA

#### Associate Faculty

- Course Taught: **Abnormal Psychology**
- Course Taught: **Introduction to Psychology**
- Course Taught: **Lifespan Development**
- Course Taught: **Psychology of Effective Living**
- Course Taught: **Human Sexuality**

[ 2008 – present ] MiraCosta College Cardiff, CA

#### Associate Faculty

- Course Taught: **General Psychology**
- Course Taught: **Human Sexuality**
- Course Taught: **Introduction to Psychology** (online course)

[ 2015 – present ] Miramar College San Diego, CA

#### Associate Faculty

- Course Taught: **General Psychology** (online course)

[ 2008 – 2011 ] Palomar College San Marcos, CA

#### Associate Faculty

- Course Taught: **Introduction to Psychology**
- Course Taught: **Human Sexuality**

### Graduate Teaching:

[ 2006 – 2008 ] California Baptist University Riverside, CA

#### Associate Faculty

- Course Taught: **Psychodiagnostics** (MFT graduate program—  
Team Teaching)

#### Teaching Assistant

- Course Taught: **Theories of Psychotherapy** (MFT graduate  
program)

### PROFESSIONAL LECTURES

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**“Attachment and Foster Children.”** Three-hour seminar presented to foster parents as an introduction to the various types of attachment, particularly those affecting children in placement. Alannah Foster Family Agency, February 5, 2005.

**“Bipolar Disorder in a Dialysis Setting.”** Two-hour seminar presented to nephrology social workers addressing diagnostic impressions, treatment options and management of patients with bipolar disorder in a dialysis setting. DaVita Dialysis Center, September 25, 2008.

**“Breaking Barriers to Weight Loss.”** One-hour workshop presented to members enrolled in a weight-loss challenge program. Rancho YMCA, presented on a quarterly basis beginning in 2009 to present.

**“Challenges of Cliques and How to Effectively Cope.”** One-hour workshop presented to the members of the National Charity League North County San Diego, January 24, 2010.

**“Chemical Dependency: Diagnosis and Treatment.”** Eight-hour seminar presented to graduate students. California Baptist University in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, September 9, 2006.

**“Childhood Dysregulation Disorders.”** Two-hour seminar presented to foster parents as an introduction to the various psychological disorders affecting foster children. Alannah Foster Family Agency, September 15, 2004.

**“Clinical Interventions for Anger-Management.”** One-hour seminar presented to school psychologists. Poway Unified School District at Oak Valley Middle School, May 12, 2009.

**“Communicating Effectively in the Workplace.”** Three-hour seminar presented to the group-home staff. Alannah Foster Family & Group Home, June 3, 2004.

**“Creating a Successful Relationship.”** Two-hour seminar presented to MiraCosta College staff to increase relational satisfaction. MiraCosta College, August 17, 2009.

**“Diversity and Psychotherapy.”** Four-hour seminar presented to mental health professional staff. Vista Community Counseling, March 16, 2002.

**“Divorce Planning: Career Guidance.”** Two-hour seminar presented to

women contemplating divorce. Carmel Valley Public Library, June 29, 2009.

**“Expanding Our Self-Regulation Tool Box.”** Two-hour seminar presented to the mental health staff for the Poway Unified School District, April 26, 2017.

**“Foster Children in Education.”** One-hour seminar presented to graduate students. National University in the Department of Education, December 12, 2005.

**“Fostering Emotional Intelligence in Children.”** Two-hour seminar presented to foster parents. Alannah Foster Family Agency, October 11, 2005.

**“Healthy Relationships.”** One-hour seminar presented to Teen Girls. Rancho Bernardo High School, May 30, 2018.

**“Irritability in Children and Teens.”** Two-hour seminar presented to parents. Poway Unified School District, February 7, 2013.

**“Managing Stress During the College Application Process.”** One-hour seminar presented to high school seniors. Cathedral Catholic High School, August 10, 2009.

**“Marriage and Family Therapists’ Practices Concerning Family Secrets.”** One-and-a-half hour poster presentation delivered. 2007 Annual AAMFT Conference, October 12, 2007.

**“Oppositional Defiance Disorder.”** Two-hour seminar presented to foster parents as an introduction to the behaviors characterized by ODD. Alannah Foster Family Agency, January 22, 2004.

**“Positive Parenting.”** Two-hour webinar presented to parents as an introduction to effective parenting. Knowledgeocity, November 2, 2008.

**“Secrets to a Successful Relationship.”** Two-hour webinar presented to couples to increase relational satisfaction. Knowledgeocity, November 2, 2008.

**“Self-Injurious Behavior.”** Two-hour workshop presented to the Poway Unified School District Mental Health Professionals, May 8, 2018.

**“Simple Tips to Improve Emotional and Sexual Intimacy.”** Two-hour workshop presented to the Entrepreneurs Organization. San Diego, February 4, 2011.

**“Teaching Our Children to Self-Regulate Their Emotions for Academic Success.”** Two-hour seminar presented to parents. Poway Unified School District, November 11, 2014.

**“The Effects of Stress on Sport Performance.”** One-hour workshop presented to chiropractic patients addressing the impact of one’s psyche on sport performance, health and life. Action Sports Chiropractic & Wellness, November 20, 2008.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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[ 2008 - 2008 ]

**Principle Co-Investigator**, Alliant International University-CSPP, Irvine, CA  
Research: *Marriage and Family Therapists' Policies and Procedures for Family Secrets*

[ 2003 – 2005 ]

**Primary Investigator**, Alliant International University-CSPP, Irvine, CA  
Study: *Marriage and Family Therapists' Practices Concerning Family Secrets*

[ 2000 – 2000 ]

**Research Assistant**, Department of Psychology, University of Riverside,  
California

Assisted Dr. Carolyn B. Murray, Ph.D. with constructing a code-book, coding,  
inputting data into SPSS, reviewing data and interviewing.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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Blackboard for distance learning courses (2007)  
Domestic Violence provider that meets state requirements (2003)  
Gottman Couples Counseling Training Level 1 & 2  
Group Facilitation Methods (2004)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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*MiraCosta College San Elijo Newsletter* (April Issue, 2009)  
**National Autism Awareness Month**

*MiraCosta College San Elijo Newsletter* (February Issue, 2009)  
**National Stalking Awareness Month**

*MiraCosta College San Elijo Newsletter* (November Issue, 2008)  
**National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**

*MiraCosta College San Elijo Newsletter* (October Issue, 2008)  
**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

*MiraCosta College San Elijo Newsletter* (March Issue, 2008)  
**The Power of Forgiveness in Relationships, Revised**

*Parents' Link California Baptist University* (April Issue, 2007)  
**Parenting Your College Student**

*Coastal Weddings* (November Issue, 2005)  
**The Pros and Cons of Utilizing a Wedding Website**

*West Coast Media* (August Issue, 2004)  
**The Power of Forgiveness In Relationships**

*West Coast Media* (April Issue, 2004)  
**Positive Parenting Tips That Foster Self-Esteem In Children**

*West Coast Media* (February Issue, 2004)  
**Rekindling Intimacy In Committed Relationships**

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Association of Marriage Family Therapists (AAMFT)  
American Association of Professional Hypnotherapists (AAPH)  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA)  
California Association of Marriage Family Therapists (CAMFT)  
California Psychological Association (CPA)  
California Teachers' Association (CTA)  
NAADAC—The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)  
National Board for Certified Clinical Hypnotherapists (NBCCH)  
National Education Association (NEA)  
San Diego Psychological Association (SDPA)  
Trichotillomania Learning Center (TLC)

## **LANGUAGES**

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English: speak with high proficiency and read and write with advanced competence.

Serbo-Croatian: speak with high proficiency and read and write with basic competence.