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## AB-PA Certification Seminars Agenda

Westin Hotel Pasadena, November 18-20<sup>th</sup>

Welcome to the AB-PA Certification seminars scheduled for November 18-20<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena.

The following information provides a general overview of the agenda for the three seminar days, two days for Basic Certification and a third additional day for Advanced Certification. If you have any questions prior to the seminars, please feel free to contact me; [dr craigchildress@gmail.com](mailto:dr craigchildress@gmail.com).

### Day 1 Agenda

#### Morning:

On the first day, I'm going to invert the structure I used for Foundations and start with the attachment system, link this into complex trauma and personality disorder pathology, and then up into the family systems framework. But I'm going to start the seminars with some neurological underpinnings of "protest behavior" and the socially mediated neuro-development of the brain first. I think everyone will find this opening information immensely valuable. Then, from this framework we'll move up through attachment, complex trauma, personality disorder pathology, and family systems constructs.

Each of these domains swirls back into the other, and we'll be unraveling all of the threads as they weave in and out of the various levels.

With this foundational material, I'm planning to go into the various nooks, crevices, and areas I have not emphasized in my other writing so that the attendees come away with a rich and full understanding for the concepts surrounding the origins of the pathology, and for the integrated interrelationships among these constructs across the various levels of the pathology.

#### Afternoon:

In the afternoon on Day 1, I'm going to open up the diagnosis - examining how each of the three diagnostic indicators by themselves are definitive for the pathology, but I'm not anticipating spending much time on the three primary diagnostic indicators. Instead, I'm going to focus on the 12 Associated Clinical Signs. These are gems, and I will explain the origins and nuances of each.

By the end of the first day, all of the attendees will have rock solid and in-depth understandings for the foundational material and diagnosis.

## Saturday Evening Seminar-ette

On Saturday evening, I'm planning on hosting a dinner at a local restaurant at which I'll discuss and describe the *Parent-Child Conflict Coding System*. This is a tool that will aid in achieving clarity of focus in the diagnosis of pathology. This will just be a little bonus dinner-session at a local restaurant in Pasadena for those that want to attend.

## Day 2 Agenda

### Morning:

There are two important components of Day 2, the *Treatment-Focused Assessment* protocol and the *Contingent Visitation Schedule*. Both of these will be nested within their broader contexts.

During the morning, we'll be talking about assessment. I'll go through each of the six sessions of the *Treatment-Focused Assessment* protocol describing exactly what we're looking for in each of the six sessions, and I'll be offering guidance on how to probe for information and frame issues to obtain the information of interest. I will also be covering the constructs of "stimulus control" and the "behavior chain sequence" that will absolutely differentiate authentic from inauthentic parent-child conflict. We'll also cover the structure and phrasing of the *Treatment-Focused Assessment* report provided to the Court.

By the end of Day 2 morning, everyone should have a rock-solid understanding for how to conduct a *Treatment-Focused Assessment*.

### Afternoon:

The afternoon session of Day 2 will open up the treatment component. There is a lot to treatment, and there are nuanced parts of therapy that I may not be able to get to. We will definitely go through the *Contingent Visitation Schedule* - both its conceptual framework in Strategic family systems theory, as well as the practical application of the *Contingent Visitation Schedule* - how to use it as an instrument to take charge of the family pathology and guide the family into a healthy separated family structure.

I'll also be explaining how the *High Road to Family Reunification* protocol of Dorcy Pruter achieves what it does, and how to work with *High Road* augmented recovery. If the child has been through the *High Road* workshop, therapy becomes so much easier. Therapy basically becomes stabilizing the pathology of the narcissistic/(borderline) parent and stabilizing the child's recovery.

If the *High Road* is not used to first recover the child, I'll also address the full richness of both the family therapy component and recovering the child through therapy. Recovering the authentic child becomes more involved when we are using traditional psychotherapy frameworks (rather than the catalytic interventions used by the *High Road* protocol).

By the end of Day 2, everyone should have a full and rich understanding for the various facets of therapy. Hopefully, your brains will be full and you'll be processing and integrating the information for the next several weeks.

## Consultation

I'm offering each of the attendees for the Basic Certification 4 hours of post-seminar Skype or telephone case consultation with me regarding the application of the information discussed in the seminars. So, once you leave the seminars and return home, if you have any questions about application to specific situations, contact me and we'll set up a Skype or phone call.

## Day 3 Advanced Certification

The first two days of the Certification seminars cover the foundational material and skill sets required for an appropriate assessment, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatment. The goal with AB-PA Certification is to provide targeted parents and the Court with confirmed professional expertise in assessing, diagnosing, and treating attachment-related pathology surrounding divorce.

The AB-PA Advanced Certification seminar will unpack the deeper levels of the pathogen that will allow AB-PA Advanced Certified mental health professionals to provide leadership into the next generation.

### Morning:

I am going to start the morning by unpacking the intersubjective system (Stern, Tronic; Fonagy; Shore; Trevarthan). The intersubjective system opens up two domains. First, it will open up a deep-level understanding for the "enmeshed" psychological fusion of the child with the narcissistic/(borderline) parent that will assist in unlocking and releasing the child from the "inflamed" intersubjectivity. The second door opened by intersubjectivity benefits psychotherapy in creating the "therapeutic relationship" that guides the recovery of the child's authenticity and stabilization of the family.

Attendees for the Advanced AB-PA Certification should watch the NOVA PBS episode on Mirror Neurons (google: NOVA Mirror Neurons) and should read the following two articles by Fonagy:

Fonagy, P., Luyten, P., and Strathearn, L. (2011). Borderline personality disorder, mentalization, and the neurobiology of attachment. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 32, 47-69.

Fonagy P. & Target M. (2005). Bridging the transmission gap: An end to an important mystery in attachment research? *Attachment and Human Development*, 7, 333-343.

During the latter part of the morning I will introduce the meme-structure of the pathogen, linking this meme-structure to the underlying trauma. Dawkins' Chapter on memes from his book, *The Selfish Gene*, would be beneficial (but not essential) to this component of the seminar.

Dawkins, R. (1976): Chapter 11. Memes: The New Replicators  
<http://www.rubinghscience.org/memetics/dawkinsmemes.html>

## Afternoon:

Continuing from the morning's discussions of the meme-structures of the pathogen, we will examine the trauma-themes and the linkages into the inhibition of the executive function system for logical reasoning, alterations to memory systems, and disturbances to identity systems. The meme-structure analysis of the pathogen will conclude with an historical overview of the role of these meme-structures in the mental health system's response to "parental alienation," the origins of the "flying monkey" feature of the pathology, and enacting the solution through AB-PA.

The final portion of the afternoon session of Advanced AB-PA Certification will extend the description of the pathogen into several severe variants of the meme-structure; gaslighting and crowd stalking, malignant narcissism, and the terrorist mind.

## Consultation

I'm offering each of the attendees for the Advanced Certification an additional 2 hours of post-seminar Skype or telephone case consultation with me regarding the application of the information discussed in the seminars (six hours total for the Basic and Advanced Certification). So, once you leave the seminars and return home, if you have any questions about application to specific situations, contact me and we'll set up a Skype or phone call.

## Goals for Certification

AB-PA Certified mental health professionals are at the vanguard of high-level professional expertise, providing leadership for professional psychology into achieving excellence. AB-PA Certified mental health professionals are like the "special forces" of professional psychology, guaranteed professional knowledge and professional expertise.

The personality pathology of the allied parent is not likely to change, and these families (and the children) will likely require active therapeutic stabilization for many years. I will be explaining how to accomplish this during the treatment phase of our discussions. The role of AB-PA Certified mental health professionals will be to stabilize the family's transition into a healthy separated family structure of shared co-parenting and shared bonds of affection between the child and both parents.

I look forward to working with you.

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