

Carla J. Cooke, Ed.D., Licensed Psychologist
(N.J. Lic. #35S100403200 | N.Y. Lic #025750)
Curriculum Vitae

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Highly competent licensed mental health professional with exceptional forensic, clinical, interpersonal and written/oral communication skills. Extensive background in the following broad-based skills:

Child Welfare	Sexual Assault	Workplace Matters
Psychological Trauma	Personal Injury	Forensic Evaluation
Expert Testimony	Best Interest/Family Matters	Consultation and Expert Report Review

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

4/22 – Present Sound Psychological Assessment Center, LLC, Scotch Plains NJ
CEO & Expert Forensic Psychologist

Serve as an expert in legal matters that involve children and adults. Conduct comprehensive psychological evaluations that address the adverse psychological impact resulting from any damaging incident(s) or how findings do not support claims. Practice areas include personal injury, child welfare, family matters. Consider and address cultural, systematic, environmental, and individual factors that are relevant and significant to findings. Utilize a structured process to conduct detailed forensic interviews and create in-depth psychological evaluation reports that are based on thorough knowledge of key psychological concepts; research of the literature related to case circumstances; and sound expert opinions that are provided within a reasonable degree of psychological certainty. Adhere to guidelines and regulations provided by professional organizations and boards. Successfully certified in court as an expert; able to effectively testify to findings with scientific and professionally deduced knowledge; and fully capable to address questions during depositions and cross-examination.

8/20 – 8/23 St. Peter’s University Hospital, New Brunswick NJ | Pediatric Psychologist

Conducted forensic evaluations for children and adults involved in Child Protective Services considering cultural and systemic factors. Facilitated forensic interviews with individuals who are suspected or confirmed to be victims or perpetrators of child neglect and child physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Assessed the impact of abuse and neglect including the administration and analysis of psychological tests. Made decisions within a reasonable degree of psychological certainty utilizing theoretical frameworks related to attachment, family environment, functioning and separation, child development, parenting, trauma, and, psychological functioning. Provided expert testimony during court proceedings.

11/02 – 10/20 Sanctuary of Hope and Healing Scotch Plains NJ | Founder and Director

Provided psychological, parental fitness and bonding evaluations that account for individual, cultural and systemic factors. Provided expert testimony during court proceedings. Provided oversight for licensed mental health professionals, supervision of post-doctoral professionals, and direction staff around administrative compliance with professional standards and practices. Possess expertise and extensive experience in trauma-informed approaches and evidenced-based strategies for children, adolescents, and adults. Utilized broad background and experience to assist clients to manage change, challenges and opportunities effectively.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

9/04 – 3/06 New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Trenton NJ
Assistant Commissioner

Served as an executive leader for Child Welfare Reform. Directed all aspects related to the startup of a new Division within a government agency and the management of a statewide systems change plan. Provided leadership for the implementation of 18 key initiatives designed to prevent child abuse and neglect and the supervision, development and training of 55 staff. Designed and managed the execution of community building strategies, and community-agency collaborations aimed at building stronger communities, strengthening families and keeping children safe. Developed and strengthened, goal-directed, partnerships with various advocacy groups, education leaders, corporate and foundation executives, faith-based organizations, consumers, and community residents. Oversaw the fiscal operations of a multi-million-dollar budget. Directed program development that was consistent with best practices, performance based contracting procedures, and continuous quality improvement efforts.

3/01 – 8/04 Plainfield Board of Education, Plainfield NJ
Director

Responsible for the overall management of School Based Youth Services, including program development, implementation and evaluation, staff supervision and training, fiscal management, grant preparation and compliance, and community/school relations. Directed and coordinated a variety of programs, at the secondary level, including a comprehensive counseling program, teen parenting program, infant and toddler day care center, adolescent prevention pregnancy program, service-learning program, youth employment program, and youth development and outreach program. Provided crisis intervention, clinical supervision and individual and group counseling services. Coordinated community wide initiatives including traumatic loss coalition, youth empowerment initiatives, and a gang prevention and intervention task force.

8/98 – 3/01 Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth NJ
Clinician (*Sept '99 – Mar '01*)

Designed and implemented a clinical treatment program for youth within an alternative education setting. Provided intensive individual and group therapy for students (middle and high school students as well as classified and non-classified youth) placed out of district due to disciplinary concerns. Responsible for all aspects of psychological services including intake and psychological assessment, crisis intervention, treatment and discharge planning, family engagement, case management, teacher consultation, and behavioral intervention.

Psychology Intern (APA approved pre-doctoral internship) *Aug '98 – Sept '99*

Provided outpatient psychotherapy with children, adolescents, adults, and families with varied diagnoses and levels of functioning. Facilitated groups with patients enrolled in an intensive day-treatment program in a highly structured therapeutic environment. Completed extensive psychological testing batteries with children, adolescents, and adults. Responsible for the administration of managed care procedures, treatment planning and case management services. Designed and facilitated psycho-educational workshops and trainings for parents, social service agencies and school personnel.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

11/94 – 8/98 Princeton University, Department of Health Psychology, Princeton NJ
Project Coordinator

Responsible for the overall management of health promotion research projects aimed at reducing risky behaviors among Black and Latino youth. Supervised project staff and designed and conducted trainings for project consultants. Assisted in the development of original health promotion interventions, educational health curricula, and grant applications. Provided leadership for the implementation of a Phase IV health promotion study with community-based agencies throughout the state. Managed data collection and participant recruitment and retention.

7/93 – 11/94 Seton Hall University, South Orange NJ
Student Development Specialist

Provided personal, academic, and career counseling to students within the Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF). Monitored the progress and overall functioning of more than 100 students. Designed and implemented treatment strategies to improve performance according to the individualized needs of students. Led personal improvement support groups for urban young women, and students of color within the university honors program. Designed and presented various workshops for the student population. Taught courses for first-year EOF students and served as advisor for two student organizations.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2003 – 2014 Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the College of Saint Elizabeth for
Graduate Programs. (Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology status 2008-2009)

Courses included: Counseling Children and Adolescents; Crisis Intervention; Counseling Special Needs Populations; Bereavement Counseling; Child and Adolescent Development and Behavior; Educational Psychology (undergraduate); and Counseling Theories and Methods

EDUCATION AND LICENSES

2023 – Present New York Psychology License (#025750)

2002 – Present New Jersey Psychology License (#4032)

1992 - 2000 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Recipient of Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology. M.Ed. Awarded Fall 1993

1990 - 1992 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, NJ
Recipient of B.A. in Psychology, with honors

1987 - 1990 Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ
Recipient of A.S. in Psychology, with honors

CERTIFICATION/SPECIALIZED TRAINING

2015 – 2026	Certified in Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing
2017 - 2021	Certified Clinical Trauma Professional
2007	Expert Witness Trained

PROFESSIONAL PAST/PRESENT AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association
 American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
 Association of Black Psychologists, New Jersey Chapter
 Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
 Association of Play Therapists
 EMDR International Association (EMDRIA)
 International Association of Trauma Professionals
 New Jersey Psychological Association

PUBLICATIONS

- ✓ Cooke, C. (2025). Whole Again: Living In, Through, and On The Other Side of Brokenness, Pivotal Shifts Publishing Division
- ✓ Cooke, C. (2025). The Sound Soul Care Strategy: Whole Again Companion Workbook, Pivotal Shifts Publishing Division
- ✓ Cooke, C. (2016). On Being Well Workbook: Foundations of Positive Emotional Health. W. Conshohocken, Infinity Publishing
- ✓ Cooke-Harris, C. (2009). Adolescence revised: Considerations for affluent African American youth. *New Jersey Psychologist*, 59 (3), 20-23
- ✓ Cooke-Harris, C. (2000). Body Image Attitudes and Disordered Eating Behavior Among Black American Women. UMI Dissertation Services

PROFESSIONAL/EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

- ✓ International Congress on Law and Mental Health, University of Barcelona, Spain (Co-Presenter) Trauma on Trial: The use of Trauma-informed Psychological Principles in Contested Custody Litigation, 7/26/24
- ✓ International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Rome, Italy (Presenter) Making the Case for Trauma-Informed Evaluations, 7/26/19
- ✓ International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Rome, Italy (Presenter) Beyond the Courtroom and Mental Health Office, 7/26/19
- ✓ 26th Annual APSAC Colloquium, Salt Lake City, Utah (Roundtable Presenter) When Forensic Psychology and Legal Advocacy Collide: The Case for Trauma-Informed Evaluations in Child Welfare Cases, 6/20/19
- ✓ 56th Annual AFCC Conference, Ontario CN (Workshop Co-Presenter) Legal Advocacy in Custody Disputes: The Case for Trauma-Informed Forensic Evaluations, 5/30/19
- ✓ Trends in Psychology in Family Law (Presenter), Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 12/1/18
- ✓ On Being Well (Guest Speaker), New Jersey Association of Black Psychologist –11/10/18
- ✓ Trauma-Informed Forensic Evaluations: An Interdisciplinary Approach, (Co-Presenter) Rutgers (5/18)
- ✓ Strengthen Families through Early Care & Education (Keynote Speaker), Prevent Child Abuse NJ (10/05)
- ✓ CommUnity for Youth (Keynote Address & Panelist) – Union County (5/05)
- ✓ Promoting Evidence Based Child Abuse Prevention Strategies – (Keynote Speaker) – 20th Annual Award Luncheon, Human Services Advisory Council of Salem County (5/05)
- ✓ Solving the Prevention Puzzle – (Keynote Speaker) – Hudson County 16th Annual Community Child Abuse Prevention Conference (4/05)

- ✓ Celebration of Womanhood: Choosing the Me I Want to Be (*Contributor & Presenter*) – New Jersey Prevention Network (3/04)
- ✓ Stimulating Creative Partnerships and Building Collaborations, (*Presenter*) National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (6/03)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment – Abused Child Research (3/31/26)
- ✓ Marijuana: Effects and Treatment – AATBS (6/30/25)
- ✓ Children Exposed to Domestic Violence – AATBS (6/30/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Tying it All Together – The Steve Frankel Group (6/22/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Social Capital, Developmental Ages & Stages; Role Modeling; Empirically Based Process; Interviewing Children – The Steve Frankel Group (6/21/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Managing Value Disputes; Never Married Parents; & the Holiday/Vacation Schedule – The Steve Frankel Group (6/19/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Allegations and Sensitivities – The Steve Frankel Group (6/18/25)
- ✓ Opioid Addiction and Its Treatment: A Brief Overview for Psychotherapist – Rutgers (6/18/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Forms, Procedures and Reports – The Steve Frankel Group (2/17/25)
- ✓ Mental Health Law – Tzkseminars (3/5/25)
- ✓ Custody Evaluations: Forms, Procedures and Reports – The Steve Frankel Group (2/17/25)
- ✓ Decolonizing Mental Health Treatment: Culture as Generational Medicine - Anti Racist Mental Health Alliance (10/4/24)
- ✓ Current Trends and Best Practices Developmental Disabilities Assessment for Autism and Intellectual Disability – American Psychological Association (6/17/23)
- ✓ Guidelines for Assessment and Intervention with Persons with Disabilities – American Psychological Association (6/9/23)
- ✓ Latinx Immigrant Families’: Separation and Reunification – Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress (6/8/23)
- ✓ Challenges Faced by Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse – New Jersey Children’s Alliance (4/25/23)
- ✓ Domestic Violence – NJ Collaborative for Emotionally Focused Therapy (4/16/23)
- ✓ Opioid Abuse - NJ Collaborative for Emotionally Focused Therapy (4/8/23)
- ✓ Helping all Children: LGBTQ+ Youth and the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems – National Children’s Advocacy Center (3/28/23)
- ✓ Using EMDR with fragmented clients: A protocol for overcoming self-alienation – EMDRIA (2/16/23)
- ✓ EMDR 2.0. An enhanced version of EMDR therapy? – EMDRIA (2/14/23)
- ✓ Safe and Practical EMDR for Complex PTSD - EMDRIA (2/11/23)
- ✓ Connection and Belonging: A Core Human Need and Distinct Category of NC/PCs (2/9/23)
- ✓ Clinical Racial Relevance with EMDR – EMDRIA (2/8/23)
- ✓ Validity Methods, Estimates, and Test Interpretation: Guides to Ethical Test Interpretation Practices – APA (2/8/23)
- ✓ Opioid Abuse, Addiction, and Treatment - The Association for Advanced Training in the Behavioral Sciences (6/15/21)
- ✓ Children Exposed to Domestic Violence - The Association for Advanced Training in the Behavioral Sciences (6/15/21)
- ✓ Finding Words Forensic Interview Training – Finding Words Child First NJ (6/7/21 – 6/11/21)
- ✓ Interviewing Children in Custody, Parenting and Family Evaluations When There Are Allegations of Child Abuse or Intimate Partner Violence – 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/30/21)
- ✓ Comprehensive Continuum to Address Poly-Victimization and Trauma - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/30/21)
- ✓ Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/29/21)

- ✓ Impact of Covid on Interventions - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/29/21)
- ✓ I am More Than What Happened to Me, a Conversation with J.R. Martinez. - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/29/21)
- ✓ The Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Family Dynamics - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/28/21)
- ✓ Trauma Informed Responses to the Trauma of the Covid pandemic with a focus on Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence - 18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/28/21)
- ✓ Kūlia E Kihe Mauiola: Healing Tools and Processes that Strive for Social Change in the Pacific -18th Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan (4/27/21)
- ✓ Turning Toward Ourselves and Each Other: Restoring and Sustaining Clinician Well-Being – The Trust (3/6/21)
- ✓ Turning Toward Ourselves and Each Other: The Pivotal Nature of Clinician Self-Care: Understanding the Stakes and Recognizing the Terrain – The Trust (2/20/21)
- ✓ Working with Children with Disabilities, New Jersey Children’s Alliance (6/25/20 – 6/26/20)
- ✓ When there are No Words, Sandra Paulsen, Ph.D. - The Steve Frankel Group, LLC in compliance with EMDRIA (1/2020)
- ✓ Spiritual Trauma, Mark, LCSW in compliance with EMDRIA (1/2020)
- ✓ When Faith Hurts: Recognizing and Responding to the Spiritual Impact of Child Abuse, Victor Vieth, JD, MA - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ New Developments in Epidemiology of Child Maltreatment, David Finkelhor, Ph.D. - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ Primary Prevention of Sexual Abuse: Supporting Parents to Promote Sexual Health and Safety in their Family and Community, Janet Rosenzweig, Ph.D. - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ Child Abuse and Family Violence in Child Custody Cases: Avoiding System Failure, Seth Goldstein, JD - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ The Ethics of Talking About What We Do, Brain Allen, Psy.D./Lucy Berliner, MSW - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ The Forensic Cultural Integrative Model: Developing Culturally Component Forensic Interview Practice, Christin Baker, Pd.D., Karyn Smarz, Ph.D., & Aileen Torres, Ph.D. - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ The Neurobiology of Trauma: Implications for Healing, Ashley Bolella, MSW - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ When Forensic Psychology and Legal Advocacy Collide: The Case for Trauma-Informed Evaluations in Child Welfare Cases, Carla Cooke, Ed.D. - 26th APSAC Colloquium (6/2019)
- ✓ Integrating Domestic Violence into Custody Evaluations and Reports, Arnold Shievold, Ph.D., Darren Mitchell, JD, Hon. Jan Rosa (Ret.) - AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)
- ✓ Overcoming Malignant Parent-Child Resist/Refuse Dynamics, John Morgan, Ph.D., Shawn McCall, Psy.D. AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)
- ✓ Coparenting Nuts-and-Bolts: Overcoming Disrupted Parent-Child Relationships. - AFCC 56th Annual Conference, Canada (6/2019)
- ✓ The Voice of the Alienated Child - AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)
- ✓ Parenting with a Psychiatric Disability: Rights, Barriers, Strategies, and Solutions - AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)
- ✓ Legal Advocacy in Custody Disputes: The Case for Trauma-Informed Forensic Evaluations - AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)
- ✓ The Ployvagal Theory’s Application to High Conflict Families, Rebecca Bailey, Ph.D. & Frank Davis, Ph.D. - AFCC 56th Annual Conference (6/2019)

Additional Professional Development Prior to 2019 can be provided upon request