The University of Denver’s Forensic Institute for Research, Service, and Training (or Denver FIRST) serves as a regional hub for all things in forensic psychology and is fast becoming a recognized go-to site for expertise in forensic mental health. We are currently working on multiple projects and partnerships involving incarcerated adults, child welfare cases, juveniles on probation, recently-released adult offenders, forensic evaluation, offenders with neuropsychological deficits, and persons facing competency issues in a variety of court settings.

Each of our distinguished MAFP faculty serves as a core member of the institute, and several noted DU faculty and community forensic leaders will serve in various affiliated roles. Neil Gowensmith, MAFP core faculty, brings his experience in research, grants management, forensic administration, academia and clinical practice to serve as the director of the institute. Denver FIRST offers a constellation of services through three central areas:

  Research: program evaluations for local and regional programs, high-quality original research across many forensic topic areas, and local and national grant-funded opportunities. This includes a multi-million dollar research grant focused on Traumatic Brain Injury in Colorado’s correctional system, continuing research on the quality and standards of forensic mental health evaluation, and a strong academic presence at national and international forensic psychology conferences.

  Service: low-cost, high-quality clinical services to underserved forensic populations and piloting innovative programs and practices in forensic mental health. These services include therapy (e.g., outpatient competency restoration, case management) and assessment (e.g., court-ordered evaluations of competency, violence risk and animal abuse) and are supervised largely by Denver FIRST faculty.

  Training: consultation with agencies involved with forensic mental health service as well as leading engaging workshops, trainings and presentations on a host of forensic topics to mental health, legal, correctional, and law enforcement audiences. Denver FIRST faculty have consulted with different departments in Colorado, Los Angeles county, the state of Washington, South Africa, and many other locations. Consultation typically revolves around standards of practice and forensic mental health systems (especially competency to stand trial).

Denver FIRST recently celebrated its two-year anniversary. We are especially interested in service opportunities, grant partners, and in building affiliations with excellent professionals in the community! Contact us at 303-871-7910, [http://www.du.edu/gspp/services/denverfirst/index.html](http://www.du.edu/gspp/services/denverfirst/index.html), or at DenverFIRST@du.edu for more info!
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