



# CCPA NET Letter

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Collin County  
Psychological  
Association

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## Restructured MMPI-2 Scales

Roger L. Greene, Ph.D.

CCPA would like to extend a huge thank you to Roger for presenting on the MMPI. We are doubly indebted to him for both flexibly filling in due to a schedule conflict and the wealth of information about the restructured scales that we received.

I think we were all impressed by Dr. Greene's profound knowledge of the MMPI and contributions to our profession.

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Greene living locally and we look forward to a future meeting on the MMPI-2.

We know some of you would have liked to attend but due to the change were not able. A brief summary of his remarks were his observations that distress runs through out all of the MMPI-2 scales. The restructured scales represent an attempt to isolate the general distress factor and identify the core concept of each clinical scale. By removing the distress factor from each scale and adding items, the restructured scales would hopefully represent a more pure measure of the core scale. Dr. Greene's analysis is that the restructured scales do not provide a significant import over previous content scales. He illustrated his observations with a clinical case. He also had candid remarks about scoring services and recommended hand scoring in special situations.

Purchase *MMPI-2: An Interpretive Manual (2nd Ed.)* if you don't have it already.



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### FUTURE MEETINGS:

- 10/22— MMPI Scales Southfork Hotel 12 Noon
- 12/3— Holiday Social 6 PM

## “Collaborative Divorce”

10/22—12 PM  $\Psi$  **Bob Matlock, PhD**

**Please attend and bring a friend!**  
**Our meetings are a great time to network!**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS—SCHEDULE THESE NOW!

Our monthly meetings are held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month at the Southfork Hotel Plano, unless otherwise specified. The Southfork Hotel is on the east side of 75, 1 block north of 15th Street in Plano. Meetings are usually held in the Hackberry room. Members may order lunch from the menu, or just enjoy the presentation. 1.5 CEU credits are given to members for attending the meeting.

***Oct 22—Collaborative Divorce with Bob Matlock, Atty. Southfork Hotel Plano***

***Dec 3— HOLIDAY SOCIAL at the home of Frank & Pattie Wichern***

***RSVP: 972-234-3178***

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR REFERRAL INFO. ON [www.psychselect.com/ccpa](http://www.psychselect.com/ccpa)! We try to keep it up to date, but we need you to verify your location and phone info. Remember you need to be current on dues to be listed!**

### OPPORTUNITIES!

#### Office Space

Several large offices with waiting area available. Located in Richardson near UTD. Office with other mental health professionals.

Contact: Frank Wichern (972) 234-3178

Two story, reasonably priced (\$950), 1200 sq ft office for rent. Four offices, waiting room, break area, rest room. 1325 19<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 4B, Plano

Contact: Dan Perkins 972-562-9140

West Plano 2300 sq. ft. office condominium has two spaces for lease to mental health professionals. The smaller office is about 172 sq. ft. in area and faces onto an eastern courtyard. The larger office has about 272 sq.ft. and has eastern and northern windows, a skylight, and built-in cabinets. Both have internet connections, phone hookups, recessed lighting, and soundproofing. The suite itself has a very nice and spacious waiting room, a nice admin area, file storage, a kitchenette, and interior restrooms for clients and staff. A separate exit is also provided for client and staff use. Free parking and easy access to all parts of the Metroplex are added features of this location. Please call Tom Van Hoose for more details at 972-250-2919.

#### Services

##### Groups

Sarah Spreda, PhD and Jason Simpson, PsyD will be offering a **Divorce Recovery Support Group!** The group will concern issues about the divorce transition. Contact them at 972.670.5153 Or 469.879.9588

email: [groups@SynergistWeb.com](mailto:groups@SynergistWeb.com)

##### Employment Sought:

**Marcia Moriarity who has been employed for a number of years in a psychologist's office is seeking employment. Contact Marcia at 972.867.8599**

##### Billing

WE MANAGE MANAGED CARE! You are in charge of scheduling your patients, treating your patients, and your TRF's. We do the rest. We are seasoned professionals. We make the phone calls to managed care and make sure they pay. We pre-authorize, file your claims, process your EOB's, do all the billing and collections, send you monthly reports, answer patients billing and insurance questions, and more! Free yourself to market your practice or balance your life! Call JLD and Associates at 972 -424 - 9212.

**LET THIS SPACE WORK FOR YOU! Advertise your specialty or service so our members can refer or utilize it! Send to: [wichern@att.net](mailto:wichern@att.net)**

**CCPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Greetings CCPA members! October 2004**



I would like to recognize Dr. Sarah Spreda for her service as secretary of CCPA. Sarah tends stay in the background. However, she is always on the job and dependable. She does a great deal to keep us organized, predicts problems, and often helps us “put out fires.” Thanks for being there Dr. Spreda!

I would like to discuss some of what I've been noticing while developing skill at using the dream within perpetual conflict technique that was discussed in my last column. The basic idea of the technique is that the partners take turns at discussing their dream behind their position in a perpetual conflict. So far I have a relatively small sample size of cases where I have used the technique. Unlike my original surprising ease and success with the technique I'm finding that I have to be moderately active to very active in order to make it work in 40% of cases. In 60% of cases it has been very easy (Dr. Gottman mentions 90%?).

When the technique does not unfold easily the person branches off the topic of the dream and begins discussing their side in the fight or their version of the perceived unfair stance their partner takes. Sometimes it can take three or four sentences before the therapist can discern that the client is branching into defending or criticizing. Sometimes the signal that these words are not about the dream comes in the form of a look on the listening partners face or a change in volume or tonality in the speaker. The therapist redirects the client back to the dream behind their stance. There are many ways to redirect the client. One way would be to say, “Is this more about you clarifying the personal meaning of your dream or is it more about defending or criticizing?”

A recent case where it was hard work to complete this exercise will demonstrate some of the challenges. Jane and John Doe have two grade school children and a 12 year marriage where there are more arguments and distance than they can stand. John presents as a pleasant good natured very successful business man who is sensitive, self-aware, intelligent, willing to share his feelings, loves his wife very much, wishes his wife wasn't so angry, and is concerned that her anger means she thinks he is not a good enough husband. Jane presents as an attractive strong woman who is stressed out by too many household tasks, disobedient children, too many children's sports activities, a husband who is not there enough, and she hides her anger behind a poker face smile much of the time. At home she shouts at John and the kids. John is an eager client who opens up easily and cooperates in the exercises. Jane often responds to John's moving work with a stance of, “I don't care. He's still the problem.” John easily opens his heart and discusses his personal meaning in his dream of peace and growing old with family. Jane smirks. When Jane attempts to discuss her dream within conflict she branches into criticism. She is redirected. She branches again (many times). When she is asked to use feeling words she gives arguments and explanation. Eventually, after very active work by the therapist, she manages to discuss without any feeling words her dream of a safe family environment.

Why was it so hard to help Jane discuss her dream behind her stance in the perpetual conflict? When the therapist looks at her background she has an 88 on scale four of the MMPI. This looks like anger and externalization of blame as in “he's the problem.” She grew up in a chaotic home, was abandoned by both parents, lived with her aunt and was a victim of incest by her uncle for several years. She does not trust easily. Now when she is in a heated discussion with John during session and the therapist takes their pulse rates John will typically be at 105 and she will be at 72. This low pulse rate combined with other information suggests she dissociates during escalations.

John is a 4 – 9 on the MMPI and scores at 38 on scale 0. This combined with his background suggest he has an antisocial personality style, he does not connect well in a genuine way with people, and he is very good at charming/conning people.

Given this background information it may be that Jane is somewhat wise in not easily making herself vulnerable with John. John could be attempting to charm the therapist. Considering the client's character styles the difficulty in making the dreams within conflict technique work makes sense and deciding how hard to try requires good clinical judgment.

***Steve Sliwinski, Ph.D.***

Suggestions, comments? Please contact me at [dr.sliwinski@comcast.net](mailto:dr.sliwinski@comcast.net).

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*The network of psychologists that  
connects!*

**CCPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OR OTHER  
RELEVANT INFORMATION,  
CONTACT CCPA: [wichern@att.net](mailto:wichern@att.net)**

***BOARD MEETINGS:***

***Please attend!***

600 W. Campbell Rd #5,  
Richardson

***NOON – First Friday of month!***

**CCPA THANKS  
Bill Whitehead, PhD  
For his efforts as  
Webmaster for  
www.psychselect.com**

***MENTOR'S CORNER: CCPA encourages it's members to  
build profitable, ethical practices. These tips are timely and  
we solicit your suggestions, recommendations and Questions!  
Copies of the CCPA Office Practices CD are still available!***

***Be Sure to download or get the Windows XP Service  
Pack 2, if you are using XP!***

***From a recent AP News article:***

**Languages train brains differently! Westerners shudder at the idea of reading even the most basic street signs and instructions in Chinese, a language with 6,000 characters to memorize to be considered fluent.**

**A new set of brain images shows why: Reading English-style alphabets and Chinese characters use very different parts of the brain.**

**The results also suggest that Chinese schoolchildren with reading problems misfire in a different brain region than the one used in reading alphabet-based languages like English.**

**This demonstrates that the learning disorder dyslexia is not the same in every culture and does not have a universal biological cause, researchers said.**

**Neurologists described the results as "very important and innovative."**

***While dyslexia has certain common roots, they said they now have some proof that this kind of functional problem plays out differently according to the unique demands that Western and Eastern languages place on the brain's wiring and processing centers.***

**Dyslexia is a common developmental disorder in which people of normal intelligence have difficulty learning to read, spell and master other language skills. In the United States, it is observed in 5 to 15 percent of the population, while in China it affects up to 7 percent. Its origins are complex. There appears to be an inherited genetic aspect. Researchers say they expect that the same genes would be involved in dyslexics regardless of their heritage.**

**Earlier brain scans show that English-reading dyslexics misfire in the left temporal-parietal region of the brain associated with awareness of phonemes, 44 sounds from the English alphabet. It is located in the middle and upper portions of the brain's left lobe. Similar results were found with French and Italian dyslexics.**

**"We assumed that all dyslexics probably were the same," Dr. Eden of Georgetown University said. "But reading Chinese requires a different set of skills." And, according to the new study, it uses some different parts of the brain called the left middle frontal gyrus, or LMFG.**

**Brain circuitry**

**Brain scans show the LMFG fires in normal Chinese readers, but Chinese dyslexics show glitches in that circuitry, according to Li-Hai Tan of the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda and the University of Hong Kong. The LMFG is located toward the left-front of the brain. It is associated with symbol interpretation. Unlike alphabet letters, Chinese characters represent entire thoughts and physical objects. Tan's results appear in the latest issue of the journal Nature.**

**It does not mean Chinese dyslexics might be able to use different portions of their brain and learn to read English signs and instructions more easily. Once a person learns to read they tend to use the same circuitry regardless of the second language and its alphabet, Eden said.**