



KANE COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL
making a difference ...together

Message of the Month...

For

Kane County Mental Health Council

- The Association for Individual Development
630-966-4000
- Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center
630-859-6562
- Ecker Center for Mental Health Services
847-695-0484
- Family Counseling Service of Aurora
630-844-2662
- Family Service Association of Greater Elgin Area
847-695-3680
- Gateway Foundation/Aurora
630-966-7400
- Kane County Health Department 630-208-3801
- Larkin Center 847-695-5656
- League of Women Voters
630-365-2138
- Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services, Inc.
630-892-5456
- National Alliance on Mental Illness, DeKalb, Kane-South, Kendall Counties, Inc. 630-896-6264
- Provena Mercy Medical Center
630-801-2657
- Provena St. Joseph Hospital
- Suicide Prevention Services 630-482-9696
- TriCity Family Services
630-232-1070
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center 847-608-1344
- Visiting Nurse Association of Fox Valley 630-978-9835
- Senior Services Association
847-741-0404
- Delnor Community Hospital
630-208-3000

Neuropsychology – the study of the brain and behavior.

* Your great aunt seems confused now and then, but she also seems a little depressed. You wonder if she might be starting to get Alzheimer's disease.

* Your nephew has always been a little excitable and difficult to calm down, and school has not been easy for him. Now his mother says that he is getting into some conflicts with kids at school, and showing more struggles with his grades. You wonder if maybe he had ADHD, or maybe even a learning disability. Where do you go for help?

Neuropsychologists are psychologists specially trained in brain-behavior relationships who use comprehensive testing to answer questions like the ones above. Decades of research in this area started with the brain-injured soldiers of World War I, and the information we know now about how both injured and normal brains work allows us to answer detailed questions to differentiate between depression and dementia, and to tell the difference between a learning disorder and the effects of an anxiety disorder, etc. The testing can be especially helpful when there is a question of mood disorder or personality issues along with a medical condition. For example, personality changes and childish behavior can be seen in frontal lobe dementia, and subtle mood and personality changes can be seen as a result of mild traumatic brain injury or concussion.

INFO CORNER: For these types of questions, the starting point is a consultation with your physician, who may suggest either seeing a neurologist first or direct referral to a neuropsychologist. A doctor's order is typically required for insurance purposes. Neuropsychologists should be board-certified (ABBP-CN or ABPN) or board eligible in clinical neuropsychology, as a hallmark of their proficiency in this field. For further information about clinical neuropsychology, please see www.nanonline.org or www.the-ins.org.