

Loretta Ann Sonnier, MD
Forensic Psychiatry Expert Consultation Services

March 1, 2024

Post Graduate Education and Training

- New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Fellowship, September 2017-May 2019
- Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, University of Cincinnati, July 2012-June 2013
- Triple Board Chief Resident for academic year 2010-2011
- Triple Board Residency Training Program in Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Child Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), June 2006-September 2011

Education

- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC), School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, M.D., August 2002-May 2006
- Université de Lyon III, France. Certificat Français Langue Étrangère, August 2001-May 2002 (French as a Foreign Language Certificate)
- Louisiana State University, B.A. in French and B.S. in Zoology, Magna Cum Laude, August 1998-May 2001

Honors/Awards

- Educator of the Year Award in Child Psychiatry, June 2021, Tulane Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Provider of the Quarter, Children's Hospital of New Orleans (CHNOLA), October 2020 (awarded to four providers each year in CHNOLA system)
- Mentorship Appreciation Award, 2015-2016 (Award given to one UAB Child and Adolescent Faculty member each year)
- Outstanding Resident in Child Psychiatry, 2010-2011 (CCHMC, award chosen by faculty for one graduating resident each year)
- 2010 Rappeport Fellow, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL, national award that provided a scholarship to attend the annual AAPL meeting)
- Resnick scholarship, March 2010 (Scholarship to attend meeting of the Midwest Chapter of AAPL in Pittsburgh, PA)
- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Lyon, France 2001-2002 (Full scholarship to live and study in France for one year)

Publications

- Mercier H, Weiss A, Sonnier L. Pediatric Psychosis. Rudolph's Pediatrics, 24th Edition, edited by Kline M. McGraw-Hill, 2024, pp. 446-453
- Sonnier, L. Acute Agitation. In Caring for the Hospitalized Child: A Handbook of Inpatient Pediatrics, 3rd Edition. American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Hospital Medicine, Elk Grove, IL, 2023, pp. 696-715
- Sonnier, L. Acute Agitation. In Caring for the Hospitalized Child: A Handbook of Inpatient Pediatrics, Third Edition. American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Hospital Medicine, Elk Grove, IL, February 3, 2023
- Ford C, Sonnier L, McCullum-Smith C. Deception Syndromes: Factitious Disorders and Malingering. In

Textbook of Psychosomatic Medicine and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, Third Edition, edited by Levenson J, (2019) American Psychiatric Association, pp. 323-341

- Miller S, Sonnier L. Psychological and Social Emergencies. In Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics, 6th edition, edited by Ellen F. Crain, Jeffrey C. Gershel (2018) Cambridge University Press
- Sonnier L, Jacques C, Thompson C. Overseeing Psychotropic Medications for Youth in State Custody. *AAPL Newsletter*, January 2014, Volume 13:18-23
- Barzman D, Mossman D, Sonnier L, Sorter M: Brief Rating of Aggression by Children and Adolescents (BRACHA): A reliability study. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law*, 2012; 40:374-382
- Barzman D, Brackenbury L, Sonnier L, Schnell B, Cassedy A, Salisbury S, Sorter M, Mossman D: Brief Rating of Aggression by Children and Adolescents (BRACHA): Development of a tool to assess risk of inpatients' aggressive behavior. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law*, 2011; 39:170-179
- Sonnier L, Barzman D. Pharmacological management of acutely agitated pediatric patients. *Paediatr Drugs*, 2011; 13:1-10

Regional Presentations

- Sonnier, L. Applying constructs of psychopathy to children. University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, November 14, 2023 by zoom
- Sonnier L, Calderon-Abbe J, Gordon S. Louisiana's Managed Care Associations presentation to Louisiana Subcommittee on Mental Health of House Committee on Health & Welfare, Baton Louisiana, October 17, 2023
- Sonnier, L. Hot topics in child psychiatry: Altered mental status, new onset psychosis, agitation, and school threat assessment. CHNOLA Pediatric Grand Rounds, May 10, 2023
- Sonnier, L. Applying constructs of psychopathy to children. Tulane Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 14, 2023
- Sonnier, L. Solitary confinement in juveniles. Tulane Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 22, 2022
- Sonnier, L. Update on Juvenile Sentencing and the DSM-5 Limited Prosocial Emotions Specifier. Tulane University Combined Psychiatry Grand Rounds for Adult and Child Divisions. May 7, 2021
- Sonnier, L. Inpatient psychiatry and mental health screening in juvenile justice. Tulane University Child Psychiatry Grand Rounds. February 19, 2021
- Sonnier, L and Goodenough, A. Update on child and adolescent suicide prevention and management. Tulane Pediatrics Saturday Continued Medical Education Seminar, December 1, 2018
- Sonnier, L. Flash forensics: Expert witness basics and Orleans Parish juvenile justice. Tulane University Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Grand Rounds, November 30, 2018
- Sonnier, L. Caregiver-fabricated illness and the case of Gypsy Rose Blancharde. Tulane Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 14, 2018
- Sonnier, L. Physician duty: Prescribe and protect. Tulane University Child Psychiatry Grand Rounds. October 13, 2017
- Sonnier, L. Louisiana House of Representatives. The science behind Miller. May 9, 2017 (In support of Senate Bill 16 to eradicate Juvenile Life Without Parole)
- Sonnier, L. Adolescent brain development. Presentation for the Louisiana Board of Parole and Pardons. April 27, 2017
- Sonnier, L. Juvenile Crime: The behavior and science behind Miller/Montgomery. Tulane Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 7, 2017
- Sonnier L, Pasquerella J. Presentation on adolescent brain development for Louisiana Senate Justice Reinvestment Initiative subcommittee on January 20, 2017
- Sonnier, L. Trauma and adolescent development. Sentencing and re-sentencing in Louisiana Seminar hosted by Louisiana Center for Children's Rights at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. December 9, 2016
- Sonnier, L. SCOTUS and the adolescent brain: how neuroscience is changing juvenile sentencing. Tulane University, Child Psychiatry Grand Rounds, November 18, 2016

- Sonnier, L. Trauma and adolescent development. Sentencing and re-sentencing in Louisiana Seminar hosted by Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, University of Louisiana at Monroe August 26, 2016
- Sonnier, L. The recent paradigm shift in medical child abuse. Tulane Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 8, 2016
- Sonnier L, Reeves C. Highlights of adolescent psychiatry. Children's of Alabama Nursing Continuing Education seminar. September 4, 2015
- Sonnier L. Identifying and treating trauma. Guardian ad litem certification course for the Alabama Administrative Office of the Courts. April 15, 2015
- Sonnier L. Physician Impairment. Medical Association of the State of Alabama annual meeting, November 18, 2014
- Sonnier L. Identification and treatment of traumatized children and adolescents. Children's Home of Cincinnati Symposium for the Cincinnati Pediatric Society. June 13, 2014
- Sonnier L. Identification and treatment of traumatized children. October 9, 2013. Children's Home of Cincinnati. (Through a grant to educate pediatricians about the evaluation and treatment of mental health, PI for grant is Philip Lichtenstein, MD)
- Mossman D, Sonnier L. A Complex Evaluation of Sanity. March 11, 2013. Summit Behavioral Healthcare
- Mossman D, Sonnier L. Adjudicative Competence And Persisting Symptoms of Mania. December 10, 2012, Summit Behavioral Healthcare
- Sonnier L. Disruptive Behavior Disorders. Mental Health Symposium for the Cincinnati Pediatric Society. June 2012
- Barzman D, Sonnier L. How to Quickly Assess the Risk of Violence and Aggression in Children and Adolescents – Child Psychiatry Grand Rounds at CCHMC, November 2010
- Sonnier L. Medical Child Abuse: Moving Beyond Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, Presentation for pediatric residency program, CCHMC, February 2010

National Presentations

- Keith Brown, Mirela Loftus, Sonnier, L. Promoting partnership between providers and payers., American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Conference, New York, October 28, 2023
- Sonnier, L. Applying constructs of psychopathy to children. Montefiore, New York. June 8, 2023
- Sonnier, L. Applying constructs of psychopathy to children. Cincinnati Children Hospital Medical Center's Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Grand Rounds via Zoom, March 8, 2023
- Sonnier L & Hameed H. Current Best Practices in Suicide Assessment and Prevention in the Inpatient Setting. Lakeland Regional Hospital in Lakeland, Florida via Zoom, February 23, 2023
- Sonnier L, Purkayastha S, Penn J, Mayer T. The Antidote for Polypharmacy: Deprescribing in Juvenile Justice. AAPL Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, October 27, 2022
- Ort K, Gallagher M, Miller M, Malas N, Lois B & Sonnier L. Management of Suicidality in Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). AACAP Annual conference, Toronto, October 2022
- As part of AAPL's Judicial Action Committee. Recent Cases and Why They Matter. AAPL, Denver, Colorado, October 2018
- Sonnier, L. SCOTUS and the adolescent brain: how neuroscience is changing juvenile sentencing. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Annual Review Course, January 2017
- Levin A, Prabhu M, Sonnier L. Vicarious trauma in legal professionals. AAPL Annual conference, Portland, OR. October 2016
- Sonnier L. The recent paradigm shift in medical child abuse. Midwest AAPL, Chicago, IL. April 2016
- Barzman D, Mossman D, Sonnier L. Brief Rating of Aggression by Children and Adolescents (BRACHA), American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), Phoenix, AZ, October 2010
- Sonnier L. From the Hinterland to factitious disorder on another. AAPL, Phoenix, AZ, October 2010

Board Certifications obtained but not currently meeting maintenance requirements

- American Board of Pediatrics, General Pediatrics, October 2011

Board Certifications that are currently valid and meeting maintenance requirements

- American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, General Psychiatry, January 2013
- American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nov 2014
- American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Forensic Psychiatry, October 2015

Medical Licensures

- Ohio State Medical License # 35.091743
- Alabama State Medical License # MD.33485
- Louisiana State Medical License #MD 303442

Employment History

- Behavioral Health Medical Director for Amerihealth Caritas Louisiana, August 2023 to present (lead behavioral health clinician informing management of 190K Medicaid members' mental health benefits)
- Medical Director of Behavioral Health Service Line, Children's Hospital of New Orleans (CHNOLA), March 2022 to July 2023
- Associate Program Director for Tulane Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, July 2020 to July 2023
- Director, Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry Track of Tulane Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship; January 2021 to July 2023 (also founder of this track at Tulane)
- Lead Psychiatrist for Orleans Parish Juvenile Justice Intervention Center (JJIC), March 2021 to July 2022 (oversaw psychiatric and mental health care in the juvenile detention center including creation/implementation of protocols and oversight of physicians, nurses, and social workers)
- Attending Psychiatrist, CHNOLA, Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit, April 2020 to July 2023
- Attending Psychiatrist, Orleans Justice Center (adult jail for Orleans Parish), July 2018 to March 2020
- Attending Psychiatrist, Eastern Louisiana Mental Health Systems, Jackson, LA. October 2016 to June 2018 (state forensic hospital serving adults)
- Consult-liaison child and adolescent psychiatrist, Lakeside Hospital, Metairie, LA, October 2016 to June 2018
- Assistant Professor, Tulane University Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, dual appointment in both the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Division of Forensic Neuropsychiatry, October 2016 to July 2023. I changed my status from Assistant Professor to Adjunct Assistant Professor in July 2023
- Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, August 2014 to June 2016. In this role I provided child, adolescent, and adult acute psychiatric inpatient care, consultation liaison psychiatry to Children's of Alabama, and supervision of medical students, general psychiatry residents, nurse practitioners, and child psychiatry fellows
- Medical Director for the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) Adolescent inpatient unit at UAB, January 2015 to March 2016. (ADMH paid for this unit and the unit left UAB in March 2016)
- Attending Psychiatrist, Summit Behavioral Healthcare, Cincinnati, Ohio. July 2013 to July 2014 (Served as an inpatient psychiatrist for adults involuntarily committed through the civil or criminal court)
- Psychiatrist on Duty for Veteran's Affairs Medical Center; Cincinnati, Ohio; September, 2008 to January 2013
- Contract Outpatient Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist for Talbert House; Cincinnati, Ohio; June 2011 to June 2012
- Contract Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist for Children's Home of Cincinnati. In this position I provided outpatient psychopharmacology management and served as the attending for school-aged children in the partial hospitalization program; October 2011 to July 2013

Professional Society Memberships

- American Psychiatric Association – member # 1008571
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

- American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
- Midwest Chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
- New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center
- American Psychoanalytic Association, Educator Associate
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)

National Committee Memberships

- Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, AmeriHealth Caritas, January 2024 to present (corporate/national committee for AmeriHealth drug formulary)
- AAPL Child and Adolescent and Judicial Action Committee since 2015
- AACAP Inpatient Committee since 2022
- APSAC Munchausen By Proxy Committee Member since 2020

Regional Committee Memberships

- Ethics committee, Children's of New Orleans (CHNOLA), July 2022 to July 2023
- Pharmacy and therapeutics committee, CHNOLA, July 2022 to July 2023
- Louisiana Senate Child Protection Act Advisory Commission (SCR 39), appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards, September 2018 to March 2019
- Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, Co-chair of Human Rights and Ethics Committee, March 2017 to July 2018
- Louisiana Psychiatric Emergency Certificate (PEC) Legislation Task Force, March 2017 to present
- UAB and Children's of Alabama Ethics Committee, August 2014 to June 2016
- Suicide Risk Assessment Committee, Children's of Alabama, August 2014 to June 2016
- Pharmacy Stewardship Committee, Children's of Alabama August 2015 to June 2016
- Order Set Committee, Children's of Alabama, January 2015 to June 2016

Areas of expertise and interest

- Hospital-based acute psychiatric care for children and adolescents
- Medical malpractice
- Managed care of behavioral health benefits (Medicaid)
- Adolescent development and culpability
- Civil commitment/involuntary treatment
- Boundary violations in psychiatric/psychological clinical practice
- Clinical education of physicians
- Psychiatric care in criminal and forensic contexts including juvenile justice and forensic hospitals
- Court-ordered evaluations and evaluations used in legal proceedings
- Psychodynamic/psychoanalytic psychiatry
- Deprescribing psychotropic medications
- Medical child abuse (aka Munchausen by Proxy, caregiver fabricated illness)
- Mitigation in criminal sentencing
- Legislative advocacy by psychiatrists