David L. Pogge, Ph.D., is Director of Psychology at Four Winds Hospital and head of the Psychological Assessment Service. Dr. Pogge received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of New Mexico in 1986 and completed his internship and post-doctoral training at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1987. In the 20 years he has worked at Four Winds he has performed or supervised more than 7,000 psychological evaluations, and published more than 70 research articles, abstracts and book chapters in the areas of psychopathology, neuropsychology, and assessment. Dr. Pogge also teaches graduate courses in neuropsychological and psychodiagnostic assessment.

John Stokes, Ph.D., has been a psychologist on the assessment service at Four Winds Hospital since 1988. He has over 30 years of experience in working with children, adolescents and their families in school, clinic, and hospital settings. In addition to professional practice experience, he teaches doctoral courses in the areas of learning disabilities, psychological assessment, and consultation services. He has been actively involved in the teaching, training and supervision of professional school-clinical child psychologists for the past 20 years and has conducted numerous workshops in psychological assessment for professional psychologists. His research activities have resulted in over 30 publications in the field of psychological assessment.
The reasons for psychological testing include:

• To clarify diagnoses (e.g., ADHD, learning disability, dementia, mood disorder, anxiety disorder, psychosis)
• To provide information about intellectual ability and cognitive functioning
• To identify neuropsychological problems (e.g., problems in attention, information processing, executive functioning, memory)
• To better understand emotional functioning and personality
• To understand the causes of serious conduct or behavior problems
• To inform decisions regarding treatment (e.g., psycho-therapy versus medication, residential versus outpatient treatment)
• To estimate risk for specific kinds of problematic behaviors (e.g., suicide and self-injury, assault, substance abuse)
• To assist in educational placement and planning

Psychological testing is a standardized, scientifically validated, and reliable method for measuring psychological characteristics, assigning diagnoses, predicting behaviors, and matching people to treatment plans, educational programs, and other kinds of interventions. Within the field of mental health/psychiatry it is the only technology other than conversation (i.e., interviews, therapy sessions, mental status exams, etc.) for assessing these issues.

Over the past 20 years the Psychological Assessment Service (PAS) at FWH has conducted more than 10,000 such tests of children as young as five, adolescents, adults, and geriatrics. We are able to provide intellectual, neuropsychological, educational, personality and psychodiagnostic testing to these age groups.

A typical comprehensive psychological assessment would include:

• An age-appropriate assessment of intellectual abilities and neuropsychological functioning. This would include:
  ▪ IQ testing
  ▪ Memory testing
  ▪ Assessment of language processes
  ▪ Assessment of non-verbal reasoning
  ▪ Assessment of information processing
  ▪ Measures of attention, working memory, and executive control
  ▪ Screening of basic sensory-motor processes
• An age-appropriate assessment of basic academic skills
• Assessment of basic personality traits and styles, including:
  ▪ Emotional controls and temperament
  ▪ Impulse control and judgment
  ▪ Defenses and coping style
  ▪ Reality testing
  ▪ Self-esteem and self-image
  ▪ Introversion, extraversion, and general orientation towards the interpersonal world
• Assessment of a range of psychiatric and behavioral problems, including:
  ▪ Psychotic disorders
  ▪ Mood disorders (e.g., bipolar disorder, major depression)
  ▪ Anxiety disorders (e.g., phobias, OCD, PTSD, social anxiety)
  ▪ Somatoform disorders
  ▪ Trauma-related symptoms (e.g., PTSD, dissociative symptoms)
  ▪ Substance use disorders
  ▪ Suicide potential
  ▪ Potential for aggressive behavior

A comprehensive outpatient assessment typically involves:

• An interview to clarify the presenting problems, review the relevant history, and discuss concerns regarding the testing process
• Review of relevant records
• 6 to 12 hours of face-to-face testing, usually conducted over one to two days
• Rating scales completed by parents, teachers, or other relevant observers
• Preparation of a written report that includes: a summary of the test findings; appropriate recommendations regarding academic needs, clinical treatment, and other relevant issues; and an appendix of scores from all of the tests
• A meeting to present the written report, discuss the findings, and review the recommendations
• Additional consultation as needed with relevant parties (e.g., referring clinicians, schools, CSE)

For further information or to schedule an OUTPATIENT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Please Call Dr. David Pogge at 1-800-528-6624 ext. 2567.