We Believe in Your Future.

All of us at Creative Care Malibu enjoy a view of the ocean’s ever-changing and infinite horizon, reminding us of our unlimited potential to change.

Today, in our role as one of the pioneers of dual diagnosis, we continue our professional commitment to being on the leading edge of new methodologies and clinical excellence.

As each client’s unique treatment begins to work, our view of the coastal tide reminds us that addiction, along with its companion disorders, will ebb, allowing a new wave to renew us with discovery and recovery.

Welcome to our program.

Dr. Morteza Khalighi and Dr. Karen Khaleghi
"I have such tremendous respect for the protocol you guys run and the cutting edge professionals that do it."

Dr. Phil

We are honored each time Dr. Phil refers a complicated case of his into the care of Dr. K and our treatment team. Each time he showcases our clients’ therapeutic progress through a series of follow-ups he is helping to educate the public on the successful leading edge approaches.

Creative Care’s reputation for clinical excellence can be traced back to its beginnings in 1989 when Dr. K was the first clinician to show an unswerving commitment to treating all of the coexisting conditions driving his patient’s addictions. Soon his dual diagnosis approach was proving to be so successful that other well-known facilities began referring their toughest clinical challenges into Dr. K’s Creative Care.

Dr. Khaleghi, lovingly called Dr. K, and his wife Dr. Karen Khaleghi tell the world they have four children. But spend any amount of time with them and you’ll discover that 22 years ago they gave birth to a fifth child that has grown up to become a successful residential facility specializing in dual diagnosis of co-occurring disorders in the treatment for drug and alcohol addiction.

Our Founders

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Sound Clinical Practices

Today, Creative Care Malibu is still the Khaleghi’s closely held baby; though it is a mature operation lead by Clinical Director Dr. Deena Manion and her skilled treatment team comprised of physicians, psychologists, licensed therapists, psychiatric nurses, and certified chemical dependency counselors.

The Creative Care Treatment Team employ a combination of standard care and leading edge modalities, prescriptive therapies, emotional support systems and holistic care in a beautiful and nurturing setting.

Deena Manion, PsyD, LCSW
Clinical Director

Dr. Deena Manion has been with Creative Care since 1999. She oversees the clinical and administrative aspects of the program and is directly involved with each client’s treatment. Dr. Manion holds her doctorate in Clinical Psychology and has been a licensed therapist since 1993. She is originally from New York where she trained under leaders in the field of psychiatry. She has worked in a variety of settings including hospitals, day treatment, outpatient and private practice. Dr. Manion has extensive training in Dual Diagnosis and Family Therapy.
A Careful Listening & Observing.

Through a careful listening and observing of each individual patient, we diagnose what co-occurring disorders might be amplifying their addictions. What emerges is a customized yet clinically sound treatment that allows us to more effectively help our clients change their addictive behavior patterns. Together, we can deal with these underlying problems and sort out their causes and effects. By discovering the "why," we reduce the chances that the patient will relapse into a chemically dependent lifestyle.

In addition to Drug and Alcohol Addiction we are experts in treating:

Personality Disorders  Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Mood Disorders  Psychiatric Disorders
Depression  Anxiety Disorders
Bipolar Illness  Food Addiction

Dual Diagnosis Treatment.
Our thoughtful admission process begins with our knowledgable and caring intake counselors.

Curtis Washington
Director of Business Development
Curtis is a dedicated professional who has worked as program coordinator, director of admissions and business development officer, for some of the best and most successful treatment centers in the country. He is very excited to bring a depth of knowledge, and broad skill set developed from collegiate studies of addiction, psychology, and human services to the team of Dual Diagnosis pioneers at Creative Care. It is Curtis’ passion to assist and work directly with individuals, families, or anyone struggling with addiction and related issues. Curtis is a firm believer that “one size does not fit all”, thus he embraces the Creative Care approach of individualized, comprehensive, hands on care.

Rachel Corbett, RRW
Outreach and Business Development Coordinator
Rachel is a Los Angeles native and recovering alcoholic with many years experience in chemical dependency, dual diagnosis, mental health, and integrated care recovery. In 2005, she began fulfilling her desire to help others by dedicating her work to facilitating the linkage of all populations including LGBT and HIV + to health care programs, mental health services and chemical dependency treatment centers. She has worked exclusively in recovery with the dual diagnosed community focusing on outreach and engagement to enhance her customer service skills. Rachel’s path led her to Creative Care to reach as many individuals as possible that are in need of dual diagnosis treatment.

Cameron James Saul, RRW
Intake and Insurance Coordinator
Cameron James Saul began fulfilling his passion of helping others in 2007 when he worked as a Program Developer for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department creating programs for inmates to begin their journey of sobriety. He has worked in residential chemical dependency treatment since 2008. His desire is to make the client’s experience the best possible, which led him to managing contracts for a large non-profit organization where he managed various government grants in order to maximize client usage. Cameron’s passion for connecting people to the best services available brought him to Creative Care to assist people accessing the highest quality of care available.

We help you navigate the journey to your residential treatment.

- costs and insurance
- traveling itinerary
- family communication

800-832-3280  www.creativecareinc.com
After Admission: Detoxification & Psychiatric Evaluation.

Our doctors meet with each client and family to ensure a thorough clinical psychiatric assessment. There may be undiagnosed psychological and neurological factors, traumas and developmental history to be considered that have not been dealt with effectively in previous treatment attempts.

A safe and compassionate detoxification and medication management monitored by our doctors and nurse will occur while the initial psychiatric assessments are made.
Morteza Khaleghi, PhD
Founder and Executive Director

Renowned for his clinical insight and skill, Dr. K personally initiates the clinical evaluation that follows admission to Creative Care Malibu. Dr. K was trained at CGI, the California Graduate Institute, earning his doctorate in Clinical Psychology. He has been working in the field of addiction and recovery since graduating and has been a key player in the continuing development of the Dual Diagnosis treatment methodology.

Burton Chertock, MD
Detoxification & Psychiatry

Dr. Chertock has been with Creative Care since 1997. He received his medical degree at the University of Buffalo and completed his psychiatric training at UCLA’s Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI). Dr. Chertock is board-certified psychiatrist and is certified to do detoxification including Suboxone. Dr. Chertock meets with each client to conduct a psychiatric and diagnostic evaluation and is available to see clients while at Creative Care up to three times per week. Dr. Chertock specializes in Bipolar Illness and PTSD.
Giovanni Aponte, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Dr. Aponte has been with Creative Care since 1989 and has many years of experience in treating clients with Dual Diagnosis and Addictions. He received his PhD in Psychology, Social Science and Economics. Dr. Aponte specializes in psychological testing and treatment of major Mood Disorders and other Psychiatric conditions. Dr. Aponte supervises the clinical staff as well as conducting psychological testing on each client.

Melissa Booth, RN, BSN
Nursing Supervisor
Melissa Booth specializes in psychiatric nursing and has worked in a variety of Dual Diagnosis treatment settings. Melissa works closely with our medical staff to provide clients with an individualized treatment plan that may include: detoxification, medication monitoring, health screening and education.

The serene and private beauty of Malibu.
Our intensive, immersive therapeutic combinations allow us to help each individual client change their destructive and addictive behavior patterns.

A Full Spectrum of Therapeutic Approaches & Services

- Detoxification
- Psychiatric evaluation
- Diagnostic evaluation
- Psychological testing
- Psychosocial evaluation
- Trauma assessment
- Health and physical assessment
- Medication management
- Personality Testing
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Men’s Group
- Women’s Group
- Trauma Group
- Grief Group
- Spirituality Group
- Couple Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Twelve-step counseling and meetings
- Nutrition Therapy
- Expressive Arts Therapy
- Equine Assisted Psychotherapy
- Yoga and Exercise Therapy
- Resource coordination
- Liaison with attorneys and court
- Neuropsychological testing - Additional Cost
- Massage and Acupuncture - Additional Cost
- Personal Fitness Training - Additional Cost
Ross McNutt, MFT
Therapist
Ross McNutt has worked in the field for thirty years as a therapist and as a director of various hospital and dual diagnosis treatment centers. He has been with Creative Care since 1996. Ross lectures about dual diagnosis and has appeared on television and radio.

Hillary Berens, PsyD, MFT
Therapist
Dr. Hillary Berens has been with Creative Care since 1998. She holds her doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. Hillary has worked in a variety of settings for many years and is also a graduate of UCLA’s Problem Gambling Studies Program. She specializes in addiction, recovery and family therapy.

Corrine Barthell, MFT
Therapist
Corrine is a licensed therapist and is trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing). Corrine has been with Creative Care since 2000 and specializes in addiction and recovery.

Creative Care is known for our staff’s depth of experience.

Anne Rose, MFTI
Therapist
Anne holds a Master’s degree in clinical psychology, with a concentration in co-occurring disorders. She has worked at Creative Care since 2005. Anne specializes in helping individuals with a history of trauma and PTSD. She also has experience in working with transgender clients. Anne has dedicated herself to working in the field of addiction and recovery since beginning her own personal journey in sobriety.

Alex DeCleene, MFT
Therapist
Alexandra DeCleene has held her masters in clinical psychology since 2001. Her areas of expertise are in abnormal psychology, addiction and family systems. Alexandra’s training in the field of addiction started at UCLA in 1999, where she worked in the neuropsychiatric institute studying the effects of drugs on the brain. Alexandra came to Creative Care in 2004 where she provides a dual diagnostic comprehensive treatment model.
Healing Your Relationship to Food.

Our chef provides gourmet meals with each patient’s health and dietary needs in mind.

Nutrition Therapy.

While at Creative Care clients can work with a registered dietitian to create a healthy plan focused on nutrition and exercise.

Lynn Tumpa, RD
Registered Dietician

Lynn is known throughout the country for her inspiring speeches about nutrition. She is an active member of the American Dietetic Association and has practiced nutrition counseling for more than 19 years. Lynn is a graduate of Hood College, served an internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital and is a certified Kundalini yoga instructor. Her innovative approach to nutritional treatment includes the integration of meditation and yogic philosophies.
Shane Coyle CDS, CATC I

Shane Coyle graduated from Pierce College after completing the curriculum in Addiction Studies. Currently, he is pursuing his degree in Psychology with an emphasis on addiction. Shane has been an addiction counselor to male adults at an Adult Rehabilitation Center where he also facilitated group and individual sessions and led classes on grief & loss. Shane is the Program Director of a community outreach program, which he developed, at a drug rehab center that specializes in the treatment of young adults with substance abuse issues and co-occurring disorders. In addition, Shane leads an Emotional Intelligence program and facilitates process groups. Shane was introduced to Equine Therapy through a co-worker, and fell in love with it instantly. He attended the EAGALA training, and believes working with the horses is healing.

Mihal Arguetty-Coyle, MFTI

Mihal Arguetty-Coyle graduated from Antioch University with a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology and also has her Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities/Theatre/Film from USC. Mihal did her clinical training by providing individual and group therapy to middle school children and their families. Prior to that, she worked at a residential psychiatric treatment facility in Venice, CA where she provided psychological and emotional support to clients. Mihal’s passion for horses started at the age of 11, when she went to camp and fell in love with the horses and horseback riding. By the age of 14, she had moved to the US from Israel to train and compete in show jumping. Currently, Mihal co-facilitates the Equine Therapy Group at Creative Care. She strongly believes in the healing power of horses and combining that with psychology to assist clients in finding emotional freedom.

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy

Horses are deeply emotional, intelligent beings. They mirror our inner emotional state and act out the feelings we consciously try to hide and the feelings we unconsciously defend. With the assistance of horses the therapist helps the client to identify patterns that block growth. The overall experience connects clients to their authentic selves and helps develop emotional intelligence. The work with horses is experiential and cathartic triggering an exploration of: self-inventory, surrender, trust, self-confidence, setting boundaries, affect, body language and behavior.

As therapeutic teachers, horses help those with trauma move from surviving to thriving. There is immediacy in being in the presence of these intense and powerful beings. For our clients, these therapeutic friends roam Creative Care’s 20 acres of land.
The Physical Practices of Yoga & Exercise as Therapy.

All forms of exercise and physical play not only improve the health of the body but also of the mind. The emotional pain that leads to addiction often involves a desensitizing and detachment from the physical self.

The use of yoga in our therapy reflects our commitment to treating the whole person; body and mind together. Yoga and Mindfulness practice can reduce stress while training the mind to suspend self-criticism and judgment. The act of contemplation rather than reactivity and impulsivity can provide the client with new ways of thinking and behaving.

Elissa Stifter, MA, PCI, RYT
Therapist and Yoga Instructor

Elissa has been with Creative Care and is a therapist and yoga instructor. She sees individual clients and runs groups as well as instructing our clients in the practice of yoga. She holds a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from Gonzaga University. Elissa is trained in trauma sensitive yoga and is certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy to treat PTSD. Elissa combines yoga therapy and clinical counselling to create a holistic, experiential therapeutic process for clients.
Expressive Arts Therapy.

Expressive Arts Therapy has emerged as an effective therapeutic tool for healing. Sometimes pain and sadness are buried very deep, beyond where words can find them. Through the creation of drawings, paintings, sculptures, and other art forms, feelings and thoughts are accessed and put into the artwork. Then, the artistic creation itself can be discussed as another avenue toward self-knowledge and awareness.

Laurel Robertson, CADEI Counselor
Laurel has been a recovery counselor and group facilitator with CC since 2008. She specializes in relapse prevention, and expressive arts for trauma survivors.
Our residences embody the best in comfortable California living.

Creative Care hums with the work of round-the-clock treatment.

Particularly important are the interactions between our counselors and our clients. Many of our counselors are in recovery themselves, offering a profoundly effective mirror as they walk the walk.

The counselors at Creative Care in Malibu have standards based on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and all of them are certified with extensive experience dealing with addiction, alcoholism, and other companion disorders.

Our clients always have direct access to our certified counselors helping them to form a bond and become invested in their treatment. When someone becomes invested in their treatment their success rate raises dramatically.

Our counselors here at Creative Care in Malibu not only have vast experience in this field, but constantly work on fine tuning their skills and learning new ways to help people. They regularly continue their education with trainings and classes and are dedicated in remaining teachable and open to new methods to help those that need them. This goes hand in hand with their passion and drive for what they do.
Joey Rodriguez, CAARR
Program Coordinator

Joey began his career with Creative Care in 2006 and is the Program Coordinator. He is a state certified drug and alcohol counselor through CAARR. Joey is currently working towards his Chemical Dependency Specialist Degree from Pierce College and preparing to get certified through CAADE.

Allen Wolfkill
Spiritual Counselor

Allen Wolfkill has worked in the recovery field since 2004 and also belongs to the Oglala Lakota/Sioux nation. He regularly visits his native South Dakota and conducts outreach and engagement with other Native Americans.

Allen respects all beliefs and faiths and incorporates his native background into his life and dealings with others.

Allen brings the power of Native American attributes such as humility, respect and empathy all over the world as he reaches out to communities.

Here at Creative Care, he focuses on working with dual diagnosis chemical dependency clients that struggle with mental health issues such as PTSD and trauma. He is extremely passionate about working with others on their substance abuse issues and also runs a spirituality group with a Native American perspective. Allen has the ability to work with any client from a spiritual level.
A perfect environment for discovery & recovery.

Leaving our Center.

The day will come. A time of discovery will have led to recovery. Each client will be stronger, healthier, and more self-aware than he or she was before they came to Creative Care Malibu. As they climb the stairs that lead away from us they will feel the reassuring hands of their expert team continuing to guide them as they transition to the everyday world.

We are committed to educating and supporting our client’s family and loved ones along the way as well; they must know what the client has gone through and how they can most effectively support them in their continuing recovery.
Karen Khaleghi, PhD
Founder & Director of Education
First as a parent and second as a practitioner, Dr. Karen Khaleghi speaks to parents and community organizations about the formation of addiction, the critical aspects of nature and nurture and the resulting disconnection between emotions and behaviors. Both Dr. K and Dr. Karen feel strongly that there needs to be more of a dialogue about the genesis of addiction and the path to recovery, a process they call “connecting the dots.”

Inquiries for speaking and media appearances please contact Valerie Allen, Valerie Allen Public Relations
p. 310.264.1888 • f. 310.264.1886 • c. 310.382.7800
e.valerie@valerieallenpr.com
www.valerieallenpr.com

Many of our clients stay connected to the Creative Care culture and the fellowship our treatment engenders. Their participation imbues us with the important spirit of renewal and affirms our belief in the unlimited potential for us all to change.

• Offsite Reunions
• Longitudinal Treatment Efficacy Study
• Private Online Social Network
• Alumni Invitational – Speaker Series
• Professional Support & Referrals

Kim Murphy
Alumni Coordinator
Kim is a people person and an avid student of human behavior, a passion that served her well during her tenure as a successful actress in TV, film and theater. She has since turned that interest toward the field of Psychology and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree toward a license in clinical social work. Having emerged from her own discovery and recovery journey, Kim is very excited to facilitate the connection between alumni and the healing community of Creative Care.
Jo Coen
Director of Marketing

Jo Coen has been working in the field of Addiction treatment and recovery for over 30 years. She’s both owned and operated her own facility as well as having worked for the premier adult treatment programs in the country. As evidenced by her leadership role in our industry, Jo’s extensive background and knowledge of core treatment objectives and techniques, marketing proficiency, and exceptional human relations skills have made her a powerful force in overcoming common and complex barriers to treatment for people in need.

Please contact Jo regarding:
Speaking Engagements
On-Site Visits
In-services & Workshops
651-260-0747

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