

Business Connection

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Business Spotlight

Paving the road for safe driving

Are you worried about someone's driving? One of the most difficult decisions facing physicians and families today is how to deal with a patient or loved one who has a medical condition or is taking medications that may have affected their ability to drive safely.

Many medical conditions such as dementia, heart disease and diabetes can affect driving abilities. Medications can also seriously impair someone's ability to drive. Even when no single condition is severe, several conditions can combine to make a person unsafe to drive. When a person is unsafe to drive, that person must stop driving. The problem is in knowing when to stop.

Driver Cognitive Assessment Center Owner and Founder Melanie Henry learned in 2017 about DriveABLE being one of the world's leading technologies for providing fair and accurate information about the safety of medically at-risk drivers. She immediately recognized the importance of bringing this service to her hometown in Pleasanton. The business opened the doors in October 2019.

Melanie arrived in the United States from Australia in 2007 and experienced many adjustments, including driving on the 'right' side of the road. Her experience working with older adults through the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, and as a driving school instructor gives her an additional sensitivity to drivers who are facing a possible transition away from driving.

"At the Driver Cognitive Assessment Center (DCAC), we provide the answer for the sensitive and difficult driving issue facing drivers and their families when they are seeing a change in driving skills and are concerned about their loved ones fitness to drive," said Melanie.

"I see my business as a community service, helping to make the Bay Area a safer place to drive. Our goal is to help identify unsafe drivers and to protect safe drivers from misidentification," said Melanie. "We pride ourselves on our compassion, care and sensitivity shown to our clients and families. We understand this can be a stressful experience for everyone involved and

we support our clients to complete the assessment to the best of their ability."

At DCAC, their qualified staff engages the medically at-risk driver in a two-part process. Not all drivers will need both assessments.

Through an in-office computerized cognitive assessment, designed to specifically test the interaction of mental processes necessary for driving a vehicle. Using touch screen technology and a simple three-button input. No mouse. No age limit. No experience is necessary. Providing fair and accurate information about the safety of your loved ones and other road users.

A behind-the-wheel functional assessment in an instructor (dual-control) vehicle. Scientifically validated and designed to cognitively challenge the driver, this evaluation provides an opportunity to demonstrate real world driving ability.

"My mantra about driver safety has become: it takes a village," said Melanie. Having a baseline assessment helps to guide the conversation, supports the family and physician with their decision making and gives peace of mind. Some drivers may need to stop driving for a specified period of time while their medical condition or medications are managed. When they resume driving, their confidence in their own driving skills is restored, the family worries less and other road users will be safe.

Call DCAC at 925-249-5947 if you have concerns and would like to schedule a driving assessment. By appointment only, Monday through Friday and weekends. For more information, please visit our website at www.dcacbayarea.com.



Melanie Henry,
Owner and Founder,
DCAC

DCAC technology designed to assess
drivers with medical conditions
DRIVER COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT CENTER, LLC