THE VILLAGE FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN
DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2018-2019

The Village, located in Hartford, Connecticut, is a large, private, non-profit, multidisciplinary, multi-program mental health and social service agency serving children, youth, parents and families.

As a private agency, The Village assumes a role of innovative leadership in the community. A concerted effort is made toward the development of pilot programs, consultation to community agencies, and collaboration with other mental health and social service providers. The emphasis of the agency is to participate actively in, and contribute to, community mental health and social welfare services, and especially to focus on services aligned with The Village’s mission “to build a community of strong, healthy families who protect and nurture children”.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND STUDENTS

The current Psychology Department at the Village includes five full-time psychologists licensed in Connecticut and one Master’s level psychology staff member. There are also two part-time licensed psychologists and three post-doc residents in the department. The nearly four hundred staff throughout the agency is comprised of masters’ level clinicians (MSW, MFT, etc.), bachelor’s level social workers, child development specialists, psychiatrists, and several psychiatric advanced practice registered nurses. There are also a number of graduate social work students, primarily from the Smith College and University of Connecticut Schools of Social Work, who are training at The Village. The staff represents a wide range of theoretical orientations, including cognitive-behavioral, family systems, integrative, psychodynamic, and milieu approaches.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The philosophy and goals of the internship training program derive from several sources, including models for training in professional psychology, the priorities and strengths of the Enhanced Care Clinic, and the mission to which The Village is committed.

While the psychology staff and the interns who train at The Village come from a variety of academic backgrounds and areas of specialization, the internship program itself most closely reflects Donald Peterson’s description of training for professional psychologists (1997, Educating Professional Psychologists, APA). Although he specifically addresses graduate Psy.D. programs, the emphasis on preparation for practice grounded in the scholarly/scientific discipline of psychology is one which meshes well with the internship at The Village.

The experiences and the supervision available at The Village emphasize a broad spectrum of work with children and their families. Intern activities may include child, adolescent, family, parent, and group psychotherapy, as well as psychological testing, case management, consultation, preventive and psychoeducational services, and research and/or other professional development opportunities. An emphasis is placed on culturally informed assessment and intervention reflective of the diverse, vulnerable, and underserved population that we serve. This is inclusive of children and families who are ethnically, and linguistically diverse, are LGBTQ, and from diverse family structures, The psychology supervisors and other staff support the interns in enhancing and developing a variety of skills, knowing that the majority of the interns who complete our program pursue a variety of practice-based employment options.
At The Village, all of the programs and services reflect the agency’s mission statement “to build a community of strong, healthy families who protect and nurture children.” Interns training at The Village share a belief in the importance of that mission and often have had prior related experience. In recent years, The Village has increased an emphasis on the use of Evidenced Based Treatments, particularly with respect to the treatment of child and adolescent trauma. The families served by The Village face many stressors in their lives and offer challenges, as well as satisfaction, to the professionals working with them. The agency also has a commitment to appreciating the diversity of staff and interns, and to providing culturally competent services to its clients. To that end, The Village makes concerted efforts to recruit and maintain members of ethnic minority groups, bilingual and bi-cultural staff and interns, and encourages multicultural perspectives on assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.

Based on the above, there are several goals for the one-year internship at The Village for Families & Children. They are as follows:

1. Competence in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups and communities, and addressing the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations;

2. Competence in psychotherapeutic interventions with children, adolescents, and families from diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations;

3. Competence in assessment and diagnosis of problems, capabilities, and issues associated with individuals and families;

4. Competence in interdisciplinary functioning and consultation skills;

5. Competence in professional values, attitudes, and ethics;


**DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERN ACTIVITIES AND TIME ALLOCATIONS**

On average, interns spend between forty and fifty hours each week engaged in the various components of the internship. Clinical staff, including interns, are expected to be available to work into the early evening two to three times each week. All clinical staff, including interns are expected to travel between sites for meetings, trainings, and client activities. At times, additional hours may be necessary. However, an integral focus of the program is on self-care and developing a balanced and healthy approach to the demanding work we do.

A typical breakdown of responsibilities and training opportunities, along with approximate time allocations per week, is listed below. Please be aware that interns’ exact assignments and responsibilities do vary, as do the time demands of any particular assignment.

**Outpatient Services: 20-25 hours**

Outpatient mental health services include individual child and adolescent therapy, play therapy, family therapy, parent guidance, and group therapy. These services are grounded in the goal of helping children, youth, and families identify their challenges and difficulties, while also recognizing and building upon their strengths. Village clients are diverse in terms of racial, ethnic, and cultural identity. Many have histories of significant trauma, as well as complex and challenging present life circumstances. As such, an emphasis at the Village is placed on trauma informed care.
Each intern is assigned to one of two multidisciplinary child guidance teams within our Enhanced Care Clinic (ECC). The Village’s ECC provides high-quality treatment for children and families presenting with psychiatric, behavioral, and emotional challenges. Services are guaranteed within a maximum of two weeks, depending on severity of need. The ECC currently specializes in several evidence-based treatments to address trauma and each intern will gain exposure to the variety of models, with a concentration in Trauma-Informed Child Parent Psychotherapy. Interns will participate in 12 months of training in CPP, which consists of a total of six day-long didactic training sessions, weekly supervision from in-agency CPP trainers, and will utilize process notes and video reviews to ensure fidelity to the model. Additionally, each intern will have the opportunity to engage in therapeutic services within a school-based clinic setting. Collateral work/case management, clinical rounds/consultation, and quality assurance meetings are included within the overall time allocation.

The outpatient time allocation includes an expectation that interns will complete a total of 500 hours of direct service during the internship year; with 450 of those hours being provided directly in the ECC; while the remaining 50 hours are accumulated through psychological testing, developmental assessments, and rotation experiences.

**Assessment: 3-4 hours**

Interns will participate in the Mid Level Developmental Assessment (MLDA) Program. The MLDA Program bridges the gap between developmental screening and tertiary level assessments, and addresses the needs of children ages 0-5 with mild/moderate levels of delay and behavioral concerns. The MLDA promotes earlier intervention for some children by allowing them to bypass extensive diagnostic evaluations and begin services right away. Each intern is expected to complete 12-15 MLDA evaluations over the course of their internship year.

Each intern will have the opportunity to complete psychological assessments during a brief rotation. The Village’s Psychological Evaluation Center offers individualized psychological testing services for children ages 2 through 18 years. The PEC uses the most advanced and culturally appropriate psychological tests available. A wide range of diagnoses are assessed, including anxiety disorders, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, developmental delays, neurocognitive deficits due to brain injury, and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders. Psychology staff, including interns, are responsible for providing feedback to caregivers regarding results of the testing and associated recommendations.

All interns participate in two hours of psychological/developmental testing group supervision, where traditional intellectual and personality testing are reviewed and non-traditional multicultural instruments are introduced. Material from testing assignments may be reviewed, with an emphasis on developing integrated, culturally-sensitive reports and specific, well-grounded recommendations.

**Supervision: 4-5 hours**

Each intern has two licensed clinical supervisors, and will meet for one hour per week with each supervisor. Clinical supervisors are members of the Psychology Department, and offer diversity in background, orientation and supervision style. Yet, most utilize an integrative approach to therapeutic interventions.

In addition, psychology interns meet for group supervision at least two hours per week. One hour of group supervision is with a clinical supervisor and is focused around exploring case material, with an emphasis on the use of process notes and videotaped sessions. Interns will also attend weekly psychological/developmental testing group supervisions. The group format offers the opportunity for interns to process new referrals and/or ongoing testing cases.

We expect that interns are willing to engage in meaningful self-reflection during supervision, and we encourage interns to develop and effectively utilize the concept of “use of self” in supervision and clinical practice.
Videotaped and live supervision is a routine aspect of our clinical and testing supervision, and is viewed as a valuable training resource.

As part of psychology staff and interns attend a biweekly Psychology Department staff meeting. During these meetings, psychology staff members gather to discuss clinical practice at the Village, psychological testing cases in progress, professional development and competency-related issues, and current topics of clinical interest. Twice per year interns will present during psychology staff meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for psychologists and interns to convene and share information with one another in a professional, yet informal environment.

**Research/Professional Development Project: 2-3 hours**

Throughout the internship year, interns will complete a research/professional development project, which is expected to contribute to the evaluation and enhancement of one of the Village’s existing programs. This requirement is a reflection of our belief that professional psychologists should strive throughout their careers to engage in professional development by staying current with the literature, and by integrating theory, research, and practice. Interns may choose to participate in an agency program evaluation through the Research and Planning Department, complete a project within our active Grants Office, or participate in clinical research ongoing within the agency. Interns will be assigned research projects based on their interests and previous research experience.

**Brief Rotations: 6 hours (Supplemental)**

Following the introduction and orientation period (August-November), there is the opportunity for interns to participate in a series of brief rotations. Rotations are supplemental to the core internship experience; hence, each intern’s performance will determine readiness to commence rotations. Interns are assigned to one of three rotations within the agency and spend six hours per week for a total of three months in each respective rotation. Rotations are determined on an annual basis and rotations are aimed at expanding the type and range of programs that interns are exposed to; with the ultimate goal being to for interns to learn the variety of roles and ways that a psychologist can have an impact in a community mental health setting. Rotations for the 2017-2018 training year include: Community Support for Families, Adult Services, and Residential.

**Training Seminars: 5-6 hours**

Interns meet on a regularly scheduled basis for advanced seminars throughout much of the training year. The didactic component of the internship is comprised by psychology-specific seminars combined with didactic trainings which may be open to trainees of other disciplines and/or other agency staff (as appropriate). Interns also participate in the Child & Adolescent Development Discussion series on a weekly basis, which is focused on exposing interns to the range of salient articles on different stages of development.

Annually, didactic trainings are offered on topics such as: psychological assessment, psychopharmacology, clinical supervision, ethics and professional practice, professional development as a psychologist, cross-cultural competency in psychotherapy, psychology and the law, multicultural clinical case discussion, play therapy, family therapy, etc. All didactic trainings at The Village are required to include an integration of cultural competence and diversity factors. Similarly, themes related to working with children and adolescents with trauma histories are a significant focus of didactic trainings at The Village.

During the year, the agency sponsors a number of seminars and full-day workshops with speakers of local, regional, or national prominence. These are available to interns at no cost, within the parameters of their schedules, and following discussion with supervisors to assure that the subject meets the intern’s training goals and interests. Topics vary from year to year and emphasize practice issues related to the agency’s mission and focus on children and families. Some
past presenters have included Kenneth Hardy, Ph.D., Ross Greene, Ph.D., Eliana Gil, Ph.D., Charles Zeanah, MD, and Ana Gomez, LPC.

**AGENCY FACILITIES**

The Village is located in Hartford, Connecticut, a capital region of approximately two-hundred thousand in population. Hartford is about halfway between New York and Boston, and within easy commuting distance of several excellent universities and colleges in Connecticut, including Yale University, Wesleyan University, Connecticut College, Trinity College, University of Hartford, and the University of Connecticut.

Many facilities of The Village for Families & Children are housed in a number of cottage style buildings on 32 acres of land in Hartford (listed in the National Register of Historic Landmarks). Another primary service site is The Village South – Center for Community Life, housed in a converted trolley barn in the south end of Hartford. The Village also houses therapeutic and community-based services in Gray Lodge – Center for Family Life on Spring Street and Alison Gil Group Home for Girls in Manchester, and has extended day treatment programs, located in Manchester, Middletown, and Meriden. The Enhanced Care Clinic also offers services in multiple Hartford elementary, middle, and high schools across the city.

Cultural and entertainment opportunities in the area include the Hartford Symphony, Connecticut Opera, the Hartford Ballet, several theater groups, a wide variety of restaurants and clubs, baseball (AA), college basketball, museums and galleries. Opportunities for outdoor activities are also varied and extensive.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2018-2019**

The Village will offer four internships for the 2018-2019 training year. Appointments are for twelve months, starting September 5, 2018. The stipend is currently $22,476. Interns are granted twelve days of vacation, agency holidays, and up to five days for illness/bereavement. Additionally, interns are granted up to five days per year for professional development/dissertation release time. The agency provides malpractice insurance and a portion of the cost of individual medical insurance for interns; insurance for dependents is available.

The applicant must have passed their comprehensive examination, be admitted for doctoral candidacy, and currently meet their graduate university’s eligibility requirements for internship. Preference is given to candidates from an APA-accredited program in Clinical Psychology or Combined School/Clinical Psychology. Consideration also will be given to applicants from APA-accredited programs in School Psychology or Counseling Psychology. It is expected that the applicant will have had practicum and/or externship experience in standard psychodiagnostic methods and course work and practica in psychotherapy (1,200 hours minimum, with 600 hours being direct client contact). Additionally, we strongly prefer those applicants who have experience administering, scoring, and interpreting projective measures, specifically the Rorschach. Experience in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and families is expected and experience with urban, low-income and/or ethnically diverse populations is highly desirable.

If you would like to apply for the 2018-2019 training year, please follow the directions on the APPIC website (www.appic.org) using the Applicant Portal and submit the following by November 17, 2017:

* Completed AAPI Online
* Curriculum Vitae
* A sample psychological testing report of a child or adolescent
* An official graduate school transcript
* Three letters of recommendation (preferably 2 of the 3 from clinical supervisors)
Once we have conducted a preliminary review of application materials, we will contact a number of applicants to arrange for interviews at The Village, which will be conducted during the week of 1/8/18. Applications will be notified of interview status by December 8, 2017. The Village’s APPIC match number is #118111.

Please note that the information provided in our prospectus is accurate and reflective of our current program offerings as of its revision date of September 2017. As we are a part of a larger agency committed to advancement and growth, we reserve the right to make programmatic changes at any time, reflective of agency development. In addition, staffing changes do at times occur. Therefore, it is possible that the future internship program may not match exactly as described in our prospectus, which is only able to be revised annually. In the interim we are happy to respond to inquiries with respect to any recent or anticipated changes to our program.

Specific questions about the application process or the Doctoral Internship in Psychology at the Village should be directed to Carlita Elias, Psy.D., Internship Training Director at celias@thevillage.org or (860) 236-4511 ext. 3724.

The Village for Families & Children is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority applicants are encouraged to apply. Due to the nature of the work performed by interns and the clients served by The Village, admission to the internship program will be contingent on successful completion of background checks. These include drug screen, tuberculosis test, police record check and protective services record check after the APPIC match is completed.

The Doctoral Internship Training Program in Psychology at The Village is accredited by the American Psychological Association. The program is also a member of the Association of Postdoctoral and Internship Center (APPIC) and adheres to APPIC policies and procedures.

American Psychological Association
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