THE VILLAGE FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN, INC.
PREDOCTORAL INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN PROFESSIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2019-2020

The Village, located in Hartford, Connecticut, is a large, private, non-profit, multidisciplinary, multi-program mental health and social service agency serving children, youth, adults 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 and two part-time psychologists licensed in Connecticut. There is one Master’s level psychology staff member and there is one post-doctoral resident. The more than five hundred staff throughout the agency include masters and doctoral 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 psychology and social work students training at The Village. They come primarily from the Smith College and University of Connecticut Schools of Social Work and the University of Hartford and University of Connecticut doctoral psychology programs. The staff represents a wide range of theoretical orientations, including cognitive-behavioral, family systems, integrative, psychodynamic, and milieu approaches.

PROFESSIONAL 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, as well as adults. Intern activities may include child, adolescent, family, parent, and group psychotherapy, as well as developmental testing, case management, consultation, and preventive and psychoeducational services. 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. The Village has a strong emphasis on the use of Evidenced Based Treatments, particularly with respect to the treatment of 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 multi-cultural 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, Inc. 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, adults 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;

INTERN ACTIVITIES AND TIME ALLOCATIONS

On average, interns spend between forty-two 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 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 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 racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse. Many have histories of significant trauma, as well as complex and challenging present life circumstances. As such, The Village emphasizes trauma informed care.

Each intern will work on a multidisciplinary team 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 from initial contact, 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. Interns will participate in the Attachment Regulation and Competency (ARC) supervision groups and receive didactics in this model, as well as participate in other group forums where trauma-based models (EMDR, TF-CBT, CPP) are discussed and applied. 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 375 of those hours being provided directly in the ECC. The remaining 125 hours are accumulated through residential treatment and developmental assessment.

**Residential Treatment Services: 8 hours**

Each intern will spend one entire day or two half days in one of The Village’s residential treatment programs located at 1680 Albany Avenue. While in residential, interns will conduct brief psychosocial screenings utilizing a range of measures with all new admissions, as well as provide full psychological evaluations for clients that need more extensive assessment. In addition, interns will work within the milieu setting and will co-facilitate treatment groups for
the residents. Interns will gain exposure to Dialectical Behavior Therapy techniques while engaged in the residential programs.

**Elective Rotations (8 hours)**

Interns also have the opportunity to participate in elective rotations within the Adult Services Division and Integrated Care program. Elective rotations will be served either one day per week or two half-days per week for 3-6 months, depending on demand.

The Village’s Adult Services programs offer treatment and care coordination services at multiple levels of care for people with mental health, substance use and co-occurring issues. These services include Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) for primary mental health diagnoses, primary substance use disorders, and a specialty IOP for people receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction. Outpatient-level individual and group treatment also are offered for these issues. In addition, The Village offers recovery services led by Recovery Coaches/Navigators, individuals who are, themselves, in recovery from addiction. These peer interventions assist people in connecting to a wide range of recovery supports in the community.

Interns can customize the elective adult services rotation to match their specific interests. A typical rotation might include participation in an IOP, co-facilitating a treatment group, and/or carrying a caseload of individual clients. The rotation also might include an opportunity to accompany Recovery Coaches/Navigators in their community interventions for part of the rotation.

Interns in the elective Integrated Care rotation would serve in the Connecticut Children's Medical Center's outpatient pediatrics offices located in East Hartford and West Hartford. The intern will work with the integrated team consisting of pediatricians, psychologists, nurses, medical assistants, care coordinators, and physician assistants. Duties will include consultations with medical staff to provide behavioral health input, receiving "warm hand-offs" from providers to connect patients to behavioral health treatment services, providing assessments, treatment and referrals, assisting psychology staff in educating medical personnel about behavioral health and integrated care issues, and serving as the primary clinician for children/families who are seeking care. The intern will learn both how behavioral health and primary care services can and should be fully integrated, and also how behavioral interventions can be effective with "purely" medical conditions.

**Developmental Assessment: 3-4 hours**

In addition, 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 8-10 MLDA evaluations over the course of the internship year.
**Supervision: 4 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. Videotaped and live supervision is a routine aspect of our clinical and testing supervision, and is viewed as a valuable training resource.

In addition, psychology interns meet for group supervision 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 reviewing videotaped sessions. Interns will also attend weekly developmental assessment (MLDA). MLDA evaluations are supervised through a weekly multidisciplinary team meeting which is facilitated by the MLDA team coordinator.

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.

Psychology staff and interns attend monthly Psychology Department staff meetings. During these meetings, psychology staff members gather to discuss clinical practice at The Village, how to apply training/didactic concepts in clinical practice, professional development, and areas of competence in preparation for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). The overarching goal of psychology department meetings is to prepare interns for independent practice as psychologists and “life after internship”. These meetings provide an opportunity for psychologists and interns to convene and share information with one another in a professional, yet informal environment.

**Didactic Seminars: 4-5 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 of psychology-specific seminars combined with didactic trainings which may be open to trainees of other disciplines and/or other agency staff (as appropriate). 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.
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, Inc. 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 an historic, 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, the KidSafe program in Vernon 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. Our location places us within an easy drive of the ocean, mountains, cities and forests; Opportunities for outdoor activities are varied and extensive.

APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2019-2020

The Village will offer four internships for the 2019-2020 training year. Appointments are for twelve months, starting September 3, 2019. The stipend is currently $22,476. Interns are granted earned leave time and sick time. The agency provides malpractice insurance and a portion of the cost of individual medical insurance for interns; insurance for dependents is available.

The applicants 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). 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 2019-2020 training year, please follow the directions on the APPIC website (www.appic.org) using the Applicant Portal and submit the following by
November 16, 2018:

*Completed AAPI Online
*Curriculum Vitae
*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 1/7/19. Applications will be notified of interview status by December 7, 2018.

Please note that the information provided in our prospectus is accurate and reflects our current program offerings as of its revision date of September 2018. 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 occur at times. Therefore, it is possible that the future internship program may not match exactly as described in our prospectus, which only can 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 Dr. Nancy Grechko at ngrechko@thevillage.org or by calling (959) 333-7025.

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 American Psychological Association accredits the Doctoral Internship Training Program in Psychology at The Village. 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  APPIC
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