



Youth Affairs Division Palm Beach County

Predoctoral Internship in Psychology 2010-2011

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APPIC Program Code
142811

Introduction

The Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division Predoctoral Internship in Psychology is offered through the Palm Beach County Department of Public Safety. The overall goal of the Youth Affairs Division is to foster healthy individual and family functioning in families where youth have been identified as “at-risk” for entering the juvenile justice system, dropping out of school, getting involved with gangs, running away from home, substance use, and entering the child protective system. This goal is accomplished through family, group, and individual therapy, psycho-education, parent training, psychological evaluation, consultative services, and community outreach. Services are provided free to Palm Beach County residents. Interns will complete a six month rotation at Highridge Family Center, a residential facility, and a six month outpatient rotation at Youth Service Bureau and Education Center.

The Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division employs psychologists, Master’s level clinicians, clinical social workers, and family counselors. Interns will receive primary supervision from licensed psychologists. Consultation from other staff will be provided as needed.

The psychology intern is required to complete a 2000-hour internship. The internship begins the day after Labor Day and continues for one year. In accordance with Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) standards, the minimum requirements include 500 hours of direct clinical contact, 100 hours of individual supervision, 100 hours of group or additional individual supervision, and 100 hours of didactic training.

Description of Training Sites and Activities

Highridge Family Center

Highridge Family Center is a 48-bed residential facility serving at-risk youth between the ages of 11 and 16. Typically, the families seeking services through Highridge have been struggling with conflicted family relations, poor academics, disruptive school behavior, drug experimentation, poor peer group choices, minor law infractions, and emotional difficulties. In conjunction with the Palm Beach County School District, residents of Highridge are provided alternative education while they are enrolled in the program. The facility is divided into four (two male and two female) dormitory-style "houses," each with the capacity for 12 residents. The residents live at the facility Monday through Friday, returning to their homes on weekends and school holidays to practice newly learned skills with their families. Each house has a Family Therapist providing family, group, and individual therapy and two Residential Counselors who provide behavior management and therapeutic milieu activities.

The psychology intern will be at Highridge Family Center for six months. The intern is responsible for providing family, group, and individual therapy to residents of Highridge. Additionally, the intern will participate in weekly treatment team meetings, case conferences, monthly live family sessions, multi-family groups, staff consultations, and presentations to parents. The Highridge Family Center rotation also requires written psychosocial evaluations, formal treatment plans, treatment plan reviews, and discharge summaries.

Youth Service Bureau/Education Center

The Youth Service Bureau serves families with children through age 17 years who are residents of Palm Beach County. Families seek services through the Youth Service Bureau for a variety of reasons, including behavioral disorders, school/academic problems, parent-child relational problems, adjustment to parental separation or divorce, grief/loss issues, and abuse or neglect. Referral sources include schools, Department of Children and Families (DCF), and prevention or diversionary programs such as Youth Court and Family Violence Intervention Program. Therapists providing family, individual, and group therapy utilize a Brief Therapy model. There are three area offices and several satellite offices located throughout the county. Staff members include Masters and Doctoral level Family Therapists from various mental health fields.

The Education Center is a community resource for primary prevention through education, training, and professional development. The Education Center provides free services to parents, children, families, school personnel, and mental health professionals in Palm Beach County. Through the Youth Affairs Education Center there are opportunities to become involved in parenting education/skills groups, continuing education workshops, and outreach activities, including presentations to schools and community agencies.

This rotation is six months. During that time, the psychology intern will be responsible for providing short-term family, individual, and group therapy. In addition, the intern will be involved in parent education services, intake assessments, provisional diagnosis, treatment planning and implementation, and case management.

Psychological Evaluation

Psychology interns are expected to complete a minimum of five psychological evaluations over the course of the 12-month internship. Full batteries include clinical interviews and assessment of intellectual functioning, behavior, and personality/social functioning. Psycho-educational testing may also be included in the full assessment batteries. With supervisor approval, less inclusive partial batteries determined by the needs of the family, may be completed. Interns are to consult with referring therapists, hold feedback sessions with the family, and complete reports in a timely manner. Referrals for psychological testing come from Highridge Family Center and the Youth Service Bureau.

Didactics

Didactic activities include weekly formal training on a variety of topics, including ethics, professional development, intervention strategies, diagnostic issues, psychological testing, child maltreatment, domestic violence, supervision, and organization administration. Additionally, interns will present treatment and testing cases, participate in journal review discussions, and become part of the family therapy treatment team, both behind and in front of the one-way mirror. Opportunities to attend conferences are available.

Stipend and Benefits

The internship annual stipend is \$23,000, paid biweekly. There are 12 paid government holidays and up to two weeks of unpaid leave time. The work week shifts are 10 hours long, Monday through Thursday.

Application Information

Applicants for internship training at the Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a doctoral candidate in an accredited clinical or counseling psychology program.
2. At least three years of graduate education in psychology must be completed.
3. An endorsement from the applicant's director of clinical training or department chair indicating that the applicant is prepared for internship.
4. A minimum of 1000 hours of practicum training must be completed prior to internship.

In addition to the requirements listed above, preference will be given to applicants who have experience working with children, adolescents, and families; training or classes in family and systemic theory; training and experience in short-term therapy; and psychological/psycho-educational testing experience. Previous experience providing family therapy is not required.

The internship aims to recruit from various universities and geographical areas. A variety of backgrounds, experience, and theoretical orientations are welcomed. The Youth Affairs Division conforms to EEO/AA guidelines. Minority applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Each applicant is required to submit the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) Online by **November 23, 2009**. The AAPI Online can be accessed on the APPIC website, www.appic.org, by clicking on “AAPI Online.”

Completed AAPI Online applications include the following documents:

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. The actual application, including essays and the Director of Training’s verification of eligibility and readiness for the applicant
4. Transcripts of all graduate education
5. Three letters of recommendation

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Once the applications are completed and reviewed by the training committee, the Director of Training will invite applicants via e-mail to schedule an on-site interview. Interview status will be determined by December 15, 2009. On the day of the interview, there will be a group meeting with the Internship Training Director for an overview of the site and training opportunities. Individual interviews will be conducted by the psychologists on staff, including the primary supervisors. As a group, applicants meet with the current interns. The Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any rank information from any internship applicant.

The Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division Predoctoral Internship in Psychology reviews completed applications and the final roster of ranked applicants is sent to the National Matching Service, which can be reached at the following website: www.natmatch.com/psychint. Applicants and their graduate program clinical training directors are contacted accordingly following release of computer match results.

Following the match and before the start of the internship, Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division interns must complete the county application for employment, a background check with fingerprints, and a physical examination. It is recommended that interns obtain a Florida drivers license.