TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PH.D. AND PSY.D. STUDENTS AT LINKAGES TO LEARNING – YMCA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

Our school-based Child and Family Externship at Linkages to Learning-YMCA Youth & Family Services Program provides externs with unique and unusual training opportunities to provide mental health services to child clients across settings-in therapy, at school, and within their families.

WHO WE ARE:

The Linkages to Learning-YMCA Youth & Family Services Program provides school and community-based mental health services to a very deserving population: at-risk elementary school children and their families, most of whom are recent immigrants to this country. Services are provided at the Linkages to Learning offices housed on site at several elementary schools in Silver Spring, Montgomery County, MD. Services offered are comprehensive and include individual psychotherapy, family and group therapies, psychiatric evaluations and medication management, and psycho-educational groups.

Psychology externs are involved with most aspects of the program, including providing individual, family, and group therapies; parent guidance/training; classroom observation/interventions/consultation; and intake evaluations. Externs are able to work closely with the Linkages to Learning interdisciplinary team, and with classroom teachers, school staff, and administrators.

Programmatically, we are very mindful of current literature and “best practices,” and train our externs to effectively work in an integrative, or “flexible” manner, weaving together child-directed play therapy techniques and evidence-based interventions where appropriate. We offer weekly seminars on such topics as risk assessment, biofeedback, acculturation and diversity, behavioral interventions, trauma, TFCBT, sand tray, play and family therapies, in addition to other areas of interest.

CASELOAD/SUPERVISION:

Caseloads are generally 6 individual clients and their families, and 1 to 2 groups as desired, with an hour of individual supervision, on site, per week with a licensed clinical psychologist. Group/peer supervision is available with other multidisciplinary staff members and students on a weekly basis. Additional informal supervision is provided as requested and/or needed.

HOURS & SCHEDULING:

The externship is a minimum of 16 hours per week to be scheduled between 8 and 5pm, Monday through Friday. No evening work is required.
Wednesday morning 9 am - 12 pm is mandatory as supervision and seminars take place at that time.

WHO SHOULD APPLY:

We tend to accept more advanced graduate students (i.e. those who have had at least one year of clinical experience). We seek diversity in our applicants and students with multi-lingual skills are encouraged to apply.

*We greatly value the ability to speak Spanish, as many of our clients are from Spanish speaking families. Externs who do not speak Spanish will have the use of a Language Translation Line during meetings with parents/guardians/family members.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested students may submit a cover letter explaining their interest in our program, a current CV, and three letters of recommendation.

Materials should be submitted electronically to Stephanie Judd, Ph.D. at stephanie.judd@ymcadc.org by Friday February 5, 2021.

** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, interviews will likely take place online at the end of February or the beginning of March 2021. Candidates for interviews will be contacted by phone/email to arrange for an interview time.

QUESTIONS? Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.

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