

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, case management, and psycho-educational groups.

Psychology externs are involved in most aspects of the program, including providing individual child therapy; 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, presented by staff and outside experts, on such topics as risk assessment, domestic violence, biofeedback, acculturation and diversity, behavioral interventions, trauma-focused therapy, trauma and the brain, sand tray interventions, child-directed play therapy, and family therapies, in addition to other areas of interest.

CASELOAD/SUPERVISION:

Caseloads are generally 6-8 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 with over 25 years of experience in supervising graduate students. 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 5 pm, 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.

While we appreciate the ability to speak Spanish, as many of our clients have Spanish-speaking parents/families, Spanish language skills are NOT necessary for acceptance into our program. Externs who do not speak Spanish will have the use of a Language Translation Line for translation purposes.

Students interested in a nurturing, supportive training atmosphere, excellent clinical opportunities working with diagnostically and ethnically diverse child population, and receiving exceptional supervision, are encouraged to apply.

We try to focus on the “whole student” – providing clinical training, attention to professional development, and support for self-care.

**In addition, some opportunities are available to continue as a trainee for a second year of externship to experience long-term child therapy and accrue additional clinical hours. Externs staying on for an additional training year will be considered for a “Lead Extern” position with increased responsibilities and training opportunities.

HOW TO APPLY:

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

Materials should be submitted electronically to Stephanie Judd, Ph.D. at sjuddphdllc@gmail.com by Friday February 2, 2024.

** Interviews may take place in person or online at the end of February or the beginning of March 2024. 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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