Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to provide information to you and your psychology graduate students regarding our Child and Family Therapy Externship at the YMCA Youth & Family Services-Linkages to Learning Program.

Please forward this description to any or all graduate students who may be interested.

Description:

The YMCA Youth & Family Services-Linkages to Learning Program provides school- and community-based mental health services to a chronically underserved population: at-risk elementary school aged children and their families, most of whom are recent immigrants to this country. Treatment is provided at the Linkages to Learning offices housed on site at several elementary schools in Silver Spring, Montgomery County, MD. This setting provides a unique and unusual training opportunity to work closely with child clients across settings-in therapy, at school and within the family context. 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; intake evaluations; and classroom observations and interventions. Externs are able to work closely with the Linkages to Learning multidisciplinary team, and with classroom teachers and school 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, tying in evidence-based work as much as possible. We offer weekly seminars on such subjects as risk assessment, biofeedback, family reintegration, behavioral interventions, trauma, sand tray, play and family therapies, in addition to other topics of interest.

The externship is 16 hours per week to be scheduled between 8 am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. No evening work is required. **Wednesday morning is a mandatory day as supervision and seminars take place on that day.**

The caseload is generally 4-6 individual clients and their families, and 1 to 2 therapy groups. One hour per week of individual supervision, with a licensed clinical
psychologist, is provided. Peer group supervision is available on a weekly basis. Additional informal supervision is provided as requested and/or needed.

Please note, we tend to accept more advanced graduate students (i.e. those who have had at least one year of clinical experience). In addition, we greatly value the ability to speak Spanish, as many of our clients are from Spanish-speaking families.

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 sjudd@verizon.net by Wed. 2/13/19.

Interviews will likely take place at the end of February or beginning of March 2019.

Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Thank you,

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