Doctoral Program Externship – Child & Autism Psychological Assessment 2020-2021

Location:
4141 E. Dickenson Place, Denver, CO 80222

Contact for student:
Jamie Brenner, Psy.D.
Jamie.Brenner@mhcd.org

Description of Site:
The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) is a known innovative thought leader in the behavioral health community, both at the local and national level. MHCD is the largest community mental health center in Colorado, priding itself in providing a wide range of wrap around behavioral health services with the primary focus of personal wellbeing, recovery, and resiliency. MHCD provides services largely to those with Medicaid, Medicare, no insurance and those enrolled in grant-funded programs, although private insurance is accepted. Most people served have a serious and persistent mental illness, significant trauma history, and many struggle with substance use. There are currently over 20,000 individuals actively engaged in clinical services. A wide variety of services are offered, including outpatient behavioral health services, rehabilitation services, residential and housing services, psychological assessment services, medication and pharmacy services, primary care services, day treatment programs, and forensic programs. The Mental Health Center of Denver is committed to a strengths-based, recovery-focused model of service delivery that utilizes trauma-informed and evidenced based practices to help people served recover from mental illness and focus on personal wellbeing. Services are delivered in a collaborative context on multi-disciplinary teams.

Type of clients served:
All ages are served at MHCD: infant, child, adolescent, adult, elderly and families. Most adults have a serious and persistent mental illness, are indigent, or come to MHCD as homeless individuals. Many have experienced some type of trauma, either as children/adolescents or later as adults. Many individuals come to MHCD directly from a psychiatric hospitalization. Many individuals have a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.
Diverse populations served: We serve a very culturally diverse population

Services provided by psychology trainees:
The trainee will conduct psychological assessment of youth ages 3-18 years old. Assessments address a wide range of referral questions regarding cognitive, adaptive, academic, emotional, and social functioning. We also assess for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the lifespan using the Autism Diagnostic Observations Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2) and Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised (ADI-R). Students will receive a wide range of training in different types of psychological assessments, including therapeutic approaches to assessment. They will participate in a weekly Rorschach seminar to enhance knowledge of the R-PAS scoring system. Externs will be expected to conduct psychological assessments with child populations from start to finish as they progress through the training year.

Duties of student extern:
Appropriate battery development, test administration, clinical interviewing, coordination with providers, medical record review, scoring, report writing and providing feedback to families, primary providers and the client. The student will gain more independence and autonomy with the above skills throughout the training year. Weekly group supervision and/or individual supervision is provided.

Supervised by Jamie Brenner, Psy.D.

Theoretical Orientation: Therapeutic Assessment
Supervision format: _X_ Individual _X_ Small Group
Ratio of supervision to clinical hours: __1:8_

Number of student externs: 1
Number of hours/week trainee works: 20+ week

Student extern qualifications needed:
- Third- or Fourth-year students only
- Completion of all program requirements for assessment coursework
- Administration of at least one R-PAS as part of an assessment battery
- Good report writing skills
- Clinical experience with children & adolescents with severe and persistent mental illness
- Must be available on Tuesday mornings for assessment supervision and R-PAS seminar
Pay: None

If asked to interview, please provide a sample psychological assessment report. This is typically a 12+ month externship that runs through late summer/early fall. It is preferred that externs begin before September. Please contact Dr. Jamie Brenner via email (Jamie.Brenner@mhcd.org) if interested in applying. All externship requests must be sent via email. Please do not fax or mail resumes or cover letters.