Doctoral Program Externship - Adult Neuropsychology Service

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

Contact for Student:
Kathryn Dunham, PsyD, ABPP-CN
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Student Supervisor’s Credential Level:
PsyD/PhD, board certified in clinical neuropsychology (ABPP)

Brief Program Description:
This position conducts neuropsychological assessments to address a range of referral questions including cognitive, psychiatric, and behavioral impacts of general medical, neurological, and psychiatric disease; decisional and independent living capacities; and impact of medications and illicit substances on cognition and behavior. Individuals with suspected/documented traumatic brain injuries, dementias, epilepsies, organ failure, brain tumors, autoimmune diseases, chronic psychotic disorders, movement disorders, somatic disorders, substance dependence histories, and non-credible presentations are seen. The neuropsychological track also assesses for intellectual disability, learning disabilities, and ADHD. The student will likely see a range of complex, multifactorial presentations. This is a neuropsychological assessment externship with adult and geriatric populations ONLY. No neuropsychological assessments with children (<16 years of age) are possible.

Title and Hours required:
Doctoral student in clinical or counseling psychology, about 20+ hours/wk, 12+ month commitment. We prefer a start date in July, but this is somewhat flexible. There is no pay for this training position.

Minimum Qualifications and # of openings:
1-2 openings for 3rd year or beyond doctoral student OR those who have completed all program requirements for assessment coursework and have prior experience with neuropsychological testing. Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest in a path towards internship and fellowship training in neuropsychology. Must have good interviewing, test administration, and report writing skills. We are specifically looking for applicants who are both flexible and eager. Applicants must provide a letter of interest, sample report, and CV to Dr. Dunham via e-mail.
**Type of clients served:**
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 struggles 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.

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.

**Supervision/Training:**
The Mental Health Center of Denver is committed to providing excellent clinical supervision to all Mental Health Center of Denver staff, including students. This externship will be supervised by a licensed clinical psychologist who is board certified in clinical neuropsychology. Individuals interested in working primarily with child and adolescent clients are encouraged to apply to the separate MHCD Child Psychological Assessment practicum, which is housed in the same department. Individuals interested primarily in psychodiagnostic training with adults are encouraged to apply to the separate MHCD Adult General Psychological Assessment practicum, also housed in the same department.

The Mental Health Center of Denver has the largest in-house training program in a community mental health center in Colorado. All students/volunteers may attend trainings at no cost. Examples of training topics include Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Risk Assessment, and Conceptualizing Cultural Competency.
Duties of psychology trainee:
This is a neuropsychological assessment externship ONLY. Clinical cases will be approached from a biopsychosocial standpoint. Students will be responsible for clinical interviewing, test administration, scoring and interpretation of test results, and writing the integrated report as well as several administrative tasks. They will then give feedback, including treatment recommendations, to the referring parties and the client. The student will progress through the above duties in an incremental fashion with initially more close supervision and guidance. Weekly 2-3-hour group supervision and as needed individual supervision is provided.

Aim of skill development includes: Appropriate battery development, test administration, clinical interviewing, coordination with providers, medical record review, scoring, report writing, and providing feedback to clients and collaterals, primary providers, as well as coordinate, as needed, with involved systems of care (i.e., outside medical or psychological providers).

Other qualifications needed by psychology trainee:
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- High level of professionalism
- Critical and flexible thinker
- Self-starter who shows initiative
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Comfortable working in both a team environment and independently
- Training and/or experience with integrative report writing is preferred
- Good computer skills

For students offered a position, please follow the directions specified on the website at www.mhcd.org under the “Careers” link. Follow the link to Student Placements and then scroll down to the appropriate externship.