

THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

CHILDRENS HOSPITAL
LOS ANGELES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

2009-2010

Affiliated with
University of Southern California
USC Keck School of Medicine, and
Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
A University Center of Excellence



The USC University Affiliated Program is funded in-part by Grants #2T73MC00008 and #90DD0486 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA, and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, ACF, US Department of Health and Human Services, and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Services.

INTRODUCTION

The University Center for Excellence Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and the Community Mental Health Services clinic at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) offers second year students from both Mental Health and Family and Children concentrations in the USC School of Social Work a comprehensive internship in a unique pediatric health care setting.

The internship is designed to prepare master's level social work (MSW) students to assume the role of practicing professionals in both private and public sectors of community mental health. Through didactics, intensive individual and group supervision, and direct patient contact, interns receive comprehensive experience in quality social work training that instructs them in assessment, treatment, consultation, case management, and client advocacy.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Clinical Social Work Internship Program is based upon the philosophy that fundamental social work principles and treatment methods drawn from behavioral, cognitive, psychodynamic, family systems, and developmental theories should



be integrated in a family-centered manner for effective and ethical psychosocial care. This internship provides an opportunity to develop basic professional skills in clinical social work in an outpatient mental health clinic and to develop an appreciation for the elements of professional development that result in a strong integrated professional identity.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

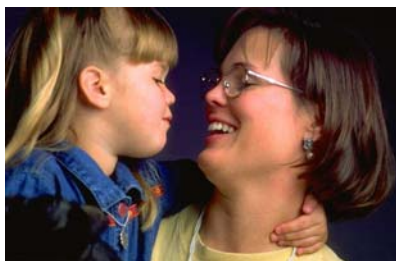
The clinical social work training program goals and objectives include the following:

- To provide clinical social work interns with training in outpatient psychotherapy with children and their families, drawing from a range of theoretical perspectives and intervention methods that allow the interns to develop beginning competence in being able to conceptual and intervene in the multiple systems of a child's life.
- To train clinical social work interns how to complete comprehensive psychosocial assessments, including DSM-IV diagnoses, with pediatric clients and their families.
- To provide a comprehensive training experience for social work students in an interdisciplinary setting, promoting the development of knowledge of the multiple disciplines that can be involved in mental health care of a child as well as collaborating with these discipline in assessment and treatment.
- To assist clinical social work students in becoming knowledgeable about neuro-developmental disabilities in children and as a basis for competency in assessment, treatment, and advocacy for these children.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The program components leading to the development of professional competency have been organized and are directed by USC UCEDD clinical social work faculty. The components of the training program include didactics, case conferences, individual and group supervision. In addition to the learning experience, the didactics and case

conferences provide the students the opportunity to interact with peers as well as professional staff from a diversity of disciplines.



The Social Work Training Program is coordinated by Craig Gerlach, LCSW who, along with Debbie Litberg, LCSW and Kerri

Marks, LCSW comprise the Social Work faculty providing primary supervision for the SW interns in the 2009-2010 training year. The primary supervisors oversee the intern's training experience in its

entirety. The supervisor is available to discuss all aspects of the intern's experience during the program year and is responsible for the student's evaluation submitted to the school.

Other social work staff participating in the intern training experience are: Gus Fierro, MSW who participates in the intern group supervision as well as co-leading the Mother's Support Group with participating interns; Paulette Holt, who will serve as a preceptor for the student doing clinical work at an Children's Comprehensive Care, an off-site community pediatric clinic collaborating with the UCEDD; and, Beverly Daley, LCSW, PhD who serves as the preceptor for the LEND training.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

The UCEDD Community Mental Health Center provides mental health services to children and their families from the Hollywood/Los Angeles area. The program is primarily funded through the Department of Mental Health and the clients are those typical of those presenting in other DMH community mental health clinics with the addition of referrals generated by the clinic being part of a major pediatric hospital. The clinic sees a racially diverse population including a large number of children whose parents are monolingual Spanish speakers. Our clinic offers multiple specialty services and programs but the SW Internships for the 2009-2010 training year are part of the Child and Family Program. However, for one position this year we are offering an additional specialty experience in the hospital based Pain Clinic

Child and Family Program

The Child and Family Program provides the clinical social work intern experience in providing outpatient psychotherapy to children and their families who represent diverse ethnic backgrounds from,



primarily ,lower economic conditions. The child clients in our clinic present with a broad range of emotional, behavioral, cognitive and/or neuro-developmental problems. Our goal of being flexible in meeting the needs of the child and family is reflected in teaching the student to provide a variety of treatment modalities including individual therapy, play therapy, family therapy, collateral therapy with parents, and parent support groups.

A variety of didactic experiences will be offered: the LEND Training; monthly UCEDD Grand Rounds; and the weekly Mental Health Didactic. Interns will also participate in a weekly hour-long group supervision that focuses on building skill in case presentation.

As part of the expected clinical experience, the intern will develop competency in the psychosocial assessment of children referred to our community mental health services clinic due to behavioral, emotional or learning difficulties. The social work student will be expected to develop competence in use of the DSM-IV for providing five axis mental health diagnoses. The intern will develop the ability to link diagnostic assessments to meaningful interventions.

Pain Clinic:

CHLA offers social work interns a unique opportunity to provide mental health services to children, adolescents and their families who are impacted by a chronic illness. In conjunction with the Pediatric Psychology Program, interns provide individual, family and group therapy as well as case management services to diverse children and adolescents in outpatient medical clinics. Psychosocial intervention assists children, adolescents and their families with adjustment to various medical conditions, coping with medical treatment plans, and preserving quality of life

This year, Social Work Interns will have the opportunity to provide services for children and adolescents with chronic pain. In the Pediatric Pain Management Clinic, interns will have the unique opportunity to work as part of an interdisciplinary team while implementing interventions conceptualized using a bio-psychosocial model. Interns will participate in conducting pain clinic assessments, developing treatment plans and facilitating groups (both process and psycho-



educational) while being exposed to interventions such as relaxation and biofeedback. The Pediatric Pain Management Clinic at CHLA treats patients using a holistic approach and as a result students will be exposed to both western and eastern medical practices.

LEND Program

Students will participate in a weekly interdisciplinary lecture program focusing on developing basic competency in assessment/recommendations for children with neuro-developmental disabilities and special health care needs. The model is broadly interdisciplinary and the training encompasses both micro and macro perspectives in providing services for this population.

FELLOWSHIPS

A unique opportunity for those selected as interns is the opportunity to extend the training experience into a one to two year fellowship. The fellowship, typically starting in July, is an intensive training experience that continues the generalist training of the internship but adds the opportunity for specialty training and experience.

It currently has a \$29,500 yearly stipend with full benefits.

STIPENDS, PARKING, HOLIDAYS AND VACATION

Yearly stipends are offered in the amount of \$5000, paid monthly over the 8 months of the internship. . An additional amount is added to the stipend to help cover off site parking costs

The UCEDD allows fewer holidays from the internship than does the university. During the intern year, clinic holidays are as follows: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. If the student chooses to observe additional USC holidays (such as Martin Luther King's Birthday, President's Day, etc) they will be required to use a vacation day. The students are given 5 vacation days which is equivalent to two weeks (2.5 day week). Typically, the students are expected to take their vacation during the winter break, but they are offered some flexibility regarding this.

Internships are expected to commence on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 .

