

Penn-Ohio Psychology Internship Program

2012-2013

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PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Community Counseling Center (CCC) of Mercer County Pennsylvania began offering pre-doctoral level internships in 2004. CCC is well established within the community and is committed to providing high quality training to practicum students, and interns desiring experience with a community mental health population in a rural setting. The Penn-Ohio Psychology Internship Program is a cooperative effort between agencies within the community. The pre-doctoral internship promotes the acquisition of skills necessary to provide competent psychological assessment, consultation, supervision, and intervention. Through a combination of supervised clinical experience and didactic training the interns are prepared to function as an entry-level professional psychologist in a health care, community mental health, or private practice setting.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the internship program at Penn-Ohio is to prepare psychology graduate students for the professional and ethical practice of general psychology in rural communities. In order to reach this goal the intern is involved in a myriad of experiences. The applied setting of the internship enhances skill development through progressive, sequential, and cumulative tasks and training opportunities.

Program objectives include:

- ❖ To further develop the intern's clinical knowledge and skills in areas of assessment, intervention, supervision, and consultation.
- ❖ To develop a greater understanding of community mental health and the unique challenges inherent in a rural setting.
- ❖ To increase awareness and sensitivity to issues related to cultural differences and diversity.
- ❖ To develop a professional identity as a psychologist with confidence and trust in one's own clinical skills and judgment.

TRAINING MODEL

Penn-Ohio utilizes the Scholar/Practitioner Model of training. Our training is built on the premise that in order to provide competent psychological services one must remain cognizant of the current research available in the field. Supervision and didactic trainings encourage the intern to continue their educational development through scholarly inquiry. Close clinical supervision of the intern's intensive experiential training, utilizing a variety of treatment modalities, ensures that the intern is prepared to function as an entry-level professional psychologist in a number of health care settings.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Penn-Ohio maintains membership in The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Penn-Ohio is not accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

INTERNSHIP SITES

Community Counseling Center

The Community Counseling Center of Mercer County is located at 2201 East State Street, Hermitage, PA 16148. CCC has provided comprehensive community behavioral health services to adults, children, and families since 1957. The Center is a private, non-profit corporation and is an affiliate of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Behavioral Health (UPMC), and a member of the United Way.

Community Counseling Center is a community mental health facility offering a comprehensive continuum of children and adult clinical services. Outpatient services include the following: brief and long-term counseling, couple, family and group therapies, community-based treatment including family-based psychotherapy, school-based services, deaf and hard-of-hearing services, drug and alcohol treatment for adolescents and adults, MISA (Mentally Ill Substance Abusers) treatment, evaluation and testing, children and adult psychiatric services, day treatment programs, and vocational services. Other services include residential treatment programs, supported housing, psychiatric rehabilitation, emergency services, respite services, consultation, training, and education.

Paoletta Counseling Services

Paoletta Counseling Services (PCS) is located at 456 North Pitt Street in Mercer, PA, 16137. PCS is a PA state licensed outpatient Mental Health clinic and is accredited by the Joint Commission of Health Care Organizations (JCHCO). Personalized mental health services for children, adolescents, and adults are provided and include the following: psychiatric evaluations and medication management, individual, group, and family counseling, psychological evaluations, and BHRS (Wraparound services staffed by Mobile Therapists, Behavior Specialist Consultants, and Therapeutic Staff Support workers). Patients with Medicare, PA Medicaid, and private insurance are accepted.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The internship is comprised of a 40 hour per week experience for each intern and *does require the flexibility and the willingness to work evenings and weekends.* Interns are expected to spend approximately twenty hours per week in direct contact with clients.

Both sites offer the interns experiences in assessment and intervention with a widely varied population of children, adolescents, and families/adults. Treatment occurs in the community (client homes and schools), and outpatient and possibly residential settings. Within these various arenas interns are encouraged to examine the factors that affect their theoretical approach to treatment and are also encouraged to further expand their clinical repertoire and understanding of mental health.

Primary Rotations

Community Counseling Center

Community Counseling Center offers many opportunities for interns to train in a number of programs and activities based on interest and availability. Interns will be able to provide Mental Health Assessments, Psychological Evaluations (general and OVR), Individual or Marital/Couples therapy, and co-facilitation of outpatient Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol groups. Opportunities to design a curriculum for group facilitation are also available. Additionally, interns may participate in the provision of community-based services through School-Based treatment and

evaluation if they elect to do so. They will conduct assessment interviews and hone diagnostic skills through administering various testing batteries and completing professionally written reports. West Central Center for the Deaf (WCCD) is a direct service and consultative center. Interns with appropriate training and credentials may provide community-based mental health services to the deaf and hard of hearing throughout west central Pennsylvania. Other minor rotations may include experiences in psychiatric rehabilitation services and/or residential housing programs. CCC also provides consultation services to The Mercer County Head Start Program whereby interns may provide assessment or educational services. Interns are expected to facilitate several training experiences for CCC staff, and to provide clinical supervision and oversight for other clinicians. The Interns will receive weekly individual and group supervision to support them in their various clinical rotations and roles, and to enhance their ethical and professional development, along with their multicultural awareness. They will also participate in bi-weekly consultation and multidisciplinary treatment teams facilitated by the Medical Director or other resident psychiatrist. For general information regarding Community Counseling Center please visit our web site at www.cccmer.org. *Please note this link does not provide further information specifically regarding the internship program.*

Paoletta Psychological Services

Interns may receive training experiences through the Summer Treatment Activities Program (STAP), the BHRS program and in the Outpatient Clinic. While working at the STAP, interns have the opportunity to work with team members in providing organized and structured clinical activities within a clinical summer camp environment. Within the BHRS component, interns receive direct experience with in-home Mobile Therapy, treatment plan development and writing, participation in multidisciplinary clinical teams, and case presentation/consultation for youths ages 3 – 21 and their families. Through the Clinic component, interns participate in Intake Assessments, Psychological Evaluations, Individual or Marital/Couples therapy, Drug & Alcohol services, and Consultation for clients of all ages. Additionally, interns receive training experiences through workshops presented by PCS staff or local/national professionals. Interns are expected to facilitate training experiences for PCS staff as well. The Interns will receive weekly supervision, and may provide supervision to other clinicians. Information about Paoletta Counseling Services can be found on our web site at www.paoletta.org.

Schedule

A typical week for the intern may include the following:

Direct clinical hours (therapy or testing) -	20 hours
Supervision (individual and group) -	4 hours
Training activities -	6 hours
Consultation -	2 hours
Peer contact -	2 hours
Intern's supervision of others -	2 hours
Administrative -	2-4 hours

DIDACTIC TRAINING

Interns receive training in a broad range of topics relevant to the practice of psychology and community mental health. Topics include clinical, ethical, and social-cultural issues of interest. Trainings are conducted in both formal and informal settings at the agencies, and formal seminars/trainings outside of the agencies (i.e., professional conferences offering CEU credits). Presenters can include professionals from CCC/PCS or professionals from within the community representing various social service agencies, or private practice agencies. Informal training experiences also occur through observation, attendance at grand-rounds, treatment team meetings, assigned readings, etc. As part of their experience the interns are also expected to provide trainings to other staff members based on their dissertation topic, or clinical topics of interest.

SUPERVISION

Licensed psychologists employed by the agencies provide individual clinical supervision on a weekly basis. A minimum of two hours per week is set aside for individual supervision however the supervisor is available throughout the week for consultation as needed. Supervision may take place in the office and may include the use of audio, or videotape. Live supervision may also be utilized within the community or office setting. Ancillary supervision by clinicians within various departments in which the intern is working may also be provided.

Group supervision is also provided on a weekly basis. During this time the supervision focuses on specific cases or clinical issues and professional identity development. Interns may present difficult cases for discussion, and obtain and provide constructive feedback. Interns should be prepared to present cases utilizing various theoretical perspectives. Weekly group supervision also serves to encourage and support peer interactions among the interns.

Additionally, individual and group supervision is utilized to further the intern's knowledge and skills in formal psychological assessment. A variety of assessment instruments are reviewed during the course of the year including cognitive, personality, projective measures and neuropsychological screening instruments. Assigned psychological assessments will be discussed with regard to interpretation and integration of the test data, as well as cultural, legal, and ethical factors.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

During the first month of the internship each intern is informally evaluated with regard to his or her level of skill, knowledge, and ability. Specific goals or objectives for the internship are identified in a collaborative manner by the supervisor and the intern. These goals and objectives are then monitored throughout the internship experience. Interns are expected to reach these goals (competencies) as outcome measures for the successful completion of the internship year.

Formal written evaluations are completed at 6 and at 12 months. Informal feedback is provided throughout the year during individual supervision. Interns will also evaluate the supervisors at 6 and at 12 months.

PRIMARY CLINICAL FACULTY

Lisa A. Phillips, Ph.D., BCBA-D, earned her doctorate degree in clinical psychology in 2006 from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. The year prior, Dr. Phillips was a member of the first intern class to complete their pre-doctoral training at the Community Counseling Center in Hermitage, PA. In 2008, she became a licensed psychologist in the state of PA, and completed the necessary coursework to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst as well. Dr. Phillips clinically supervises children and family service programs and oversees other BCBA-candidates who mainly work with children diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. The majority of her professional experiences have been in the areas of children and family services in outpatient and community settings, clinical supervision, and training and development.

Sue-Ellen Brown, Psy.D., received a Psychology Doctorate degree in clinical psychology in 1986 from Central Michigan University and completed her internship at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Center in Philadelphia, PA in 1984. She practiced clinical psychology in Michigan and Pennsylvania from 1980 to 1999 and worked extensively with victims of childhood abuse. She was an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Sciences in Philadelphia for six years, and from 1999

to 2010, Dr. Brown worked as an assistant professor at the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine's Center for the Study of Human-Animal Interdependent Relationships. She also did research and published on the human-animal bond including the application of self psychology to companion animals, ethnic variations in pet attachment and dissociation and pet attachment. Dr. Brown currently works at Paoletta Counseling Services where she sees clients of all ages and uses hypnosis when appropriate. She is certified in hypnosis through the America Society of Clinical Hypnosis, and three of her dogs are certified therapy dogs with Therapy Dogs International and accompany her to see her clients.

APPLICATION PROCESS

**All application materials should be submitted together in the same package.*

The following information should be submitted by December 15th:

1. Complete AAPI application, which is available online through the APPIC web site at: www.appic.org.
2. Three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with your clinical experiences and skills.
3. Official transcripts for all graduate level training.
4. Current resume/vitae.
5. Work sample of a testing report with all identifying information redacted

Applications should be processed in accordance with APPIC expectations. Any direct mailings should be sent to:

Lisa A. Phillips, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director of Training
 Community Counseling Center Internship Program
 2201 East State Street
 Hermitage, PA 16148

(724) 981-7141 x 178
lphillips@cccmer.org

Completed applications will be reviewed by the internship committee and by current interns. Qualified applicants with training needs and goals that are consistent with Penn-Ohio's training model will be invited to interview for a position. Those unable to schedule an on-site interview may be interviewed via telephone.

This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from

any intern applicant. This internship site abides by all APPIC regulations. A copy of regulations regarding Uniform Notification is available at:
http://www.appic.org/about/2_3_5_about_policies_and_procedures_match.html

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The internship year will commence on Monday July 2, 2012 and will end on Sunday June 30, 2013. The internship experience provides 2000 hours of supervised clinical training. The internship stipend is \$14,872.00. Individual medical insurance is available with employee contribution of \$20.00 per pay. Six paid holidays and 40 hours of personal paid time off are provided.

ABOUT THE AREA

The western Pennsylvania area offers a small town atmosphere, yet is conveniently located between several large metropolitan areas. Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Erie are all within a short driving distance and provide wonderful opportunities for enrichment. There is direct and easy access to Interstates 80 and 79 linking Mercer County with shopping, cultural, and sporting events in these cities.

There are a variety of activities available within the area and stunning natural beauty. The Allegheny Mountains provide scenic richness throughout the year but are never more spectacular than in the fall with the change of seasons. Winter allows for snow sports and there are many ski resorts within driving distance. Spring and summer months provide a temperate climate. Swimming, biking, hiking and other outdoor activities are popular in the area.

Historically this area was a major contributor to the nation's steel industry. Some of the large steel mills have ceased operations however many remain active. The economic base has expanded to include light industry, hi-tech manufacturing, the service industry, and tourism. The average income is approximately \$30,000.

The cost-of-living also makes western Pennsylvania an attractive place to reside. Real estate and housing are available far below the national average. The average cost of a home is \$58,000, and average rent is \$450.