County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health

Student Professional Development Program

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

Specialized Foster Care West Los Angeles

Psychology

☐**Internship/**☒**Practicum**

Specialization: Children (particularly those age 0-5) with their bio or foster families who are involved with the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)

DMH Agency:	**Specialized Foster Care, West Los Angeles**	
DMH Agency Address:	5757 Wilshire Blvd, #200 Los Angeles, CA 90036	**Service Area** **5**
DMH Agency Liaison:	Jessica Thomas, PsyD, IFECMHS, CCTP, PMH-C	
New or Returning:	☐ New ☒ Returning	
Liaison Email Address:	jthomas@dmh.lacounty.gov	
Liaison Phone Number:	(213) 923-7174	
Liaison Fax Number:	N/A	
Agency ADA accessible	☒ Yes ☐ No If "No" identify:	

Student Requirements:

How many positions will you have?	1
Beginning and ending dates:	September – July

Student Schedule: Monday through Friday

Please indicate days and times students should be available to provide services, including mandatory staff meetings (SM), training seminars (TR), supervision (SUP), etc.

Monday	Alternate (~6-8 hours)
Tuesday	Alternate (~6-8 hours)
Wednesday	Mandatory (dyadic/training seminars) (~6-8 hours)
Thursday	Alternate (~6-8 hours)
Friday	Alternate (~4-6 hours)

Total hours expected to be worked per week:	20 – 24 across 3 days
Number of direct client hours per week anticipated:	4-8
Expected average consumer caseload:	4-6
What cultural groups typically receive services at your site?	Latinx, Black/African-American, White, Russian, Armenian, Orthodox Jewish

Student Professional Development Program

Description of Site: *(Please describe the type of Agency setting and services offered)*

We are co-located within the West Los Angeles DCFS office in Service Area 5 and are a directly-operated LAC-DMH site that focuses on children and families involved with DCFS; providing screening/triage, assessment, individual and family therapy as well as case management services for children/families with open DCFS cases and on-site clinical consultation with DCFS staff. Our work is trauma-informed and highly collaborative, working closely with DCFS partners working to best meet the multifaceted needs of the child and family. As such, we attend multidisciplinary case consultation/staffing meetings and Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings with staff from various county departments (eg. DCFS, DPSS, LACOE, DPH) as well as service providers. Our child clients range from 0-18 as well as Non-Minor Dependents (NMD) age 18 – 21 and services are all funded by Medi-cal. Due to the site supervisor's expertise in infant/early childhood mental health, students can expect a heavy on emphasis on learning/carrying cases for children age 0-5. Our clinical services are provided primarily in the field (eg. at homes, schools, shelters) however they can also be provided on-site at the DCFS office.

Target population and types of services provided: *(please check all that apply)*

☒ **Individuals**	☐ **Psychoeducational groups** ***(e.g. Parenting)***
☐ **Groups**	☐ **Community Outreach**
☒ **Families**	☒ **Brief treatment to mid-term treatment**
☒ **Children & Adolescents**	☐ **Long term treatment**
☐ **Adults**	☐ **Crisis Intervention**
☐ **Older Adults**	☒ **Screening and Assessment**
☒ **Court/Probation referred**	☐ **Psych Testing** ***(For psychology students only)***
☒ **Consultation/Liaison**	☐ **Other** (*specify*):

What are the most frequent diagnostic categories of your client population?

PTSD, ADHD, Adjustment D/O, Mood/Anxiety D/Os, Developmental Disorders, & Substance Use

What specific (perhaps unique) training opportunities do students have at your agency?

Broadly, students can expect a cohort practicum program with weekly didactic trainings including an emphasis on trauma-informed care, EBPs, substance use, diagnosis, documentation and TAY and Birth-5 populations, along with students placed at other LAC-DMH sites, countywide.
Students at our site, can expect an emphasis on infant/early childhood mental health including, but not limited to; perinatal mental health and dyadic (parent-child) therapy with families involved in child welfare as well as exposure to use of tools such as the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health & Developmental D/Os of Infancy & Early Childhood (DC: 0-5), Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3 & ASQ-SE:2), among others. Opportunities for exposure to dyadic interventions using Infant Massage may include "side by side" field response with the supervisor as student interest and clinical need arises. Additional opportunities for learning/shadowing the direct supervisor related to her oversight/management of the SA5 Multidisciplinary Assessment Teams (MAT) for all newly detained children by DCFS in the service area, may also arise.

What evidence based practices or theoretical orientations will students be exposed to at this site?

Students will have on-site opportunities for exposure to Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Infant Massage and Dyadic (parent-child) Play Therapy with caregivers and young children age 0-5 as well as TF-CBT for ages 3-21. Additional cohort trainings may include Seeking Safety and CBT/DBT. Students will participate in group supervision and be exposed to the use of Reflective Supervision with their direct supervisor.

Do students have the opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary team environment that includes those with lived experience?

Our work is highly collaborative and multidisciplinary with exposure to the wide array of programs offered by DMH. Students can expect to work closely with other DMH psychologists and staff (eg. LCSW/LMFT, Community Workers etc) as well as DCFS staff (CSW, SCSW, DI, ARA, Parent Partners), staff from other co-located departments (DPSS, LACOE, DPH) and other outside service providers and partners (eg. contract mental health agencies, Regional Center etc).

List locations where students will be providing services **other than agency**?

During their field-based clinical work, students can expect to work with children and families in the community; including family homes, foster homes, schools, shelters etc.

Does your agency allow students to videotape and/or audiotape clients for the purpose of presenting cases in their academic classes? Yes ☒ No ☐

With signed consent

Student Professional Development Program

Supervision:
What types of supervision will be provided for the students and what is the licensure/discipline of the supervisor? Please specify below.

Type	Hours Per Week	On Site Supervisor Degree/Discipline
Individual:	1-2 hours/week	PsyD
Group:	1-2 hours/week	PsyD/PhD/MD/LCSW/LMFT

What is the minimum ratio of supervision to client contact hours? 2:7

Does your agency require a particular range of previous experience or specific prerequisite coursework? *If so, please explain*.

All students must be in good standing with their doctorate program. Students with prior experience with children/adolescents and/or a particular interest in mental health services for children age 0-5 who have experienced trauma, are encouraged to apply. Spanish speaking students are also highly encouraged to apply. Finally, due to the community/field-based nature of the work, reliable transportation is necessary and proximity to the work site may be meaningful for the student.

Agency Application Process

Only students from academic institutions who have a current affiliation agreement with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health may be considered for a placement opportunity. DCTs are expected to submit a list of students approved to apply to our site from each school, prior to the application cycle commencing. The application cycle opens January 1st and closes January 30th. Students should submit a Letter of Interest, CV and optional Letter(s) of Recommendation for our review beginning January 1st with interviews scheduled on an ongoing basis during the application window. That said, placement offer(s) can be made on a rolling basis once a candidate match has been identified from the interviewed applicant pool, therefore, students are **highly encouraged** to submit materials early in the application window.

Mandatory requirements following match:

All students are processed through Human Resources Bureau and must obtain live scan clearance. Once onboarded, students are required to complete mandatory HR trainings including; HIPAA Compliance, Privacy Awareness, Transgender, Gender Diverse & Intersex (TGI) Affirming Care & Equity Training as well as a Sexual Harassment Prevention Training as part as the terms of their training.

DMH Staff/Field Instructor completing this form:

Jessica Thomas, PsyD, IFECMHS, CCTP, PMH-C **Title**: Clinical Psychologist II/MAT Psychologist SA5/Birth to Five Coordinator SA5

Email: jthomas@dmh.lacounty.gov

Program Manager: Haydouk Zakarian, LCSW

District Chief: Angelia Ridgway, LCSW

☒ Both Program Manager and Chief agree to students accepted at this site.

Electronic Signature: Jessica Thomas, PsyD