



## **Psychology Practicum Training Program Child Assessment 2019-2020 Training Year**

### **ABOUT THE AGENCY AND SETTING**

The Guidance Center has been providing quality mental health services since 1946. Formerly known as The Greater Long Beach Child Guidance Center, the agency was founded by a group of local public school teachers and counselors who were concerned about the mental health needs of children with behavior and learning problems in school. A relatively small clinic for many years, the agency became affiliated with the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital and moved its offices to the grounds of the Medical Center.

During the past 15 years, the agency enjoyed considerable growth and increased the number of programs, clients served and community-based locations significantly. Between 1995 and 2001, The Guidance Center grew from a relatively small clinic in Long Beach with a satellite office in San Pedro, to a major community mental health service provider employing more than 150 mental health professionals, support staff, administrators, and interns. Today, the Center provides services to children and families at three sites within Long Beach and its surrounding communities. In addition to a large outpatient center in Downtown Long Beach, the Center has operated a satellite clinic in San Pedro since 1977, and a model interagency "System of Care" program in Compton since 1998. The Center also has provided outpatient services in Avalon, on Catalina Island, since 2001.

The Guidance Center is a major contract agency, providing specialty mental health services for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and also works closely with the Long Beach and Paramount Unified School District (providing on-campus mental health services at over 40 schools), and the County Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation. System-wide, clinicians and interns provide thousands of hours of clinical assessment and treatment services monthly, including diagnosis, crisis intervention, individual, collateral, group, and family psychotherapy, individual and group rehabilitation services, case management, in-home and school-based services, intensive service programs for children and adolescents, psychiatric evaluation and medication services, outpatient substance abuse treatment, and psychological testing. Clients include children from 0 to 18 years and/or parents/caretakers, who are from a broad spectrum of lower and middle income households, with cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, behavioral, school, and family problems. In terms of ethnicity, Center clientele are approximately 62% Hispanic origin, 24% African-American, 10% Anglo-American, and 2% Pacific Islander. The Guidance Center has a 70 year history of providing full scope mental health services to the most disadvantaged families within the greater Long Beach area.

Multidisciplined clinical staff and interns work closely with parents, school personnel, allied agencies, and other resources to address each child's difficulties in a professional and coordinated manner. All staff clinicians are state licensed, or otherwise qualified mental health professionals, in one of California's major mental health disciplines. In addition to doctoral psychology internship training, the Center serves as a training site for MSW and MFT interns and doctoral psychology practicum students from local programs. The agency is licensed by the State Department of Health Services as a Psychology Clinic.

### **Training in Child Assessment:**

**1. Testing:** Students will complete a minimum of 5 comprehensive, integrated psychological testing batteries and provide feedback to the families. Exposure to a wide array of cognitive (e.g., WISC, KABC), achievement (e.g., WIAT, KTEA), neuropsych (e.g., NEPSY, DKEFS), and socioemotional (e.g., Rorschach, Roberts-2) tests is provided through didactics and direct administration. Typical referral questions include diagnostic clarification, assessment of learning disabilities, and assessment to provide treatment recommendations. More than 5 reports may be completed depending on experience and writing abilities or program requirements.

**2. Consultations:** There will also be opportunity to conduct shorter consultations such as reviewing previous testing reports or providing client observations for purposes of diagnostic clarification.

### **Minimum Practicum Requirements:**

1. A minimum of 16 hours (2 days).
2. Commitment from September 4, 2019 through August 31, 2020. Early release may be permitted for start of internship if requirements are completed.
3. All practicum students are required to be on site every Friday for one hour of group supervision and one hour of didactic training.
4. All practicum students are required to attend orientation. Assessment practicum students attend orientation and assessment boot camp from 9am-5pm (most days) on September 4, September 6, September 9, September 11, and September 13. Additional days may be needed.
5. Students must have some coursework in psychological assessment/testing and approval from the DCT to apply.
6. All practicum students are required to have completed 48 semester/trimester units or 72 quarter units of graduate coursework in psychology and obtain a professional licensing waiver. Details of the professional licensing waiver will be discussed during the interview.

### **Application Procedures:**

- Email Dr. Kendra Bailey the following materials: (1) a cover letter outlining what you hope to learn during practicum, (2) your CV with 3 references listed, (3) a de-identified writing sample (psychological assessment for testing practicum students), and (4) an unofficial copy of your transcripts. The writing sample should accurately reflect your writing, case conceptualizations, and clinical skills. There is no minimum length requirement for the writing sample. Writing

samples, CVs, and unofficial transcripts should be emailed along with your cover letter to Kendra Bailey, Ph.D. at [kbailey@tgclb.org](mailto:kbailey@tgclb.org).

- **Students from captive sites: please follow the procedures for submitting materials as indicated above but discuss due dates with your DCT.**

**Location:**

Practicum students will be housed at our headquarters at 1301 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90813. Testing practicum students will provide psychological testing to clients within any of our five programs located among these three sites:

School-based/Outpatient/Intensive Services: 1301 Pine Ave, Long Beach 90813

San Pedro site: 222 W. Sixth Street Suite 230, San Pedro, CA 90731

Compton/Lynwood site: 901 W. Victoria Street, Suites F & G, Compton, CA 90220

**General Information:**

**\*Supervision.**

- One hour of weekly individual supervision is with a licensed psychologist.
- Live supervision or video recordings of sessions are required.
- One hour of group supervision is with the psychology interns (supervised by a licensed psychologist) each week for one hour on Friday.

**\*Didactics.**

- Assessment boot camp for testing practicum students is required the first three weeks in September as part of orientation.
- Monthly continuing education seminars are available and typically occur the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- Testing didactics are required for assessment practicum students for one hour each week on Friday.

**\*Time Off.** Students are given a total of 10 days of time off, inclusive of sick and vacation time.

**\*Additional Benefits.**

- Mileage reimbursement for travel to and from client's home or school site.
- \$1500 stipend to be paid in two installments: once in December and once at the end of practicum.
- Computer, work space, and testing materials.

***Please note: Due to agency insurance policies and DMV requirements, and because students are expected to deliver mental health services in the field (requiring driving), students who match with The Guidance Center must obtain a valid California driver's license prior to the start of the training year. Further, to ensure that safe driving is a priority, students must maintain the following: a valid drivers license that is neither suspended nor expired; have no more than 3 minor driving violations and/or accidents combined within the last 3 years; no major driving violations within the last 5 years. Students must also have sufficient vehicle insurance coverage and pass a background/fingerprinting check.***