



Postdoctoral Fellowship in Child/Adolescent Psychology

Founded in 1951, the Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) is a non-profit community mental health center that serves youth and their families. Clients come from a variety of socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Presenting problems cover a wide range of issues faced by children and their families including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, attention deficits, learning disabilities, family changes, and exposure to trauma. Individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, psychiatric evaluation, psychiatric treatment, and psychological assessment are available regardless of family income. Our mission at ACGC is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges.

The Austin Child Guidance Center offers a postdoctoral fellowship in child/adolescent psychology. Fellows work as part of an interdisciplinary team of psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers, and licensed professional counselors to provide individual and family therapy, group therapy, psychological assessments, and parent consultation. Because of the wide range of ages and presenting problems we see at ACGC, training is broad but offers fellows the opportunity to focus on specific areas of interest (e.g., early childhood, autism assessment, trauma treatment).

ACGC is a trauma-informed care treatment center that follows guidelines set forth by the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care. To that end, clinicians are trained in empirically supported treatment for trauma survivors, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT) and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). ACGC promotes the implementation of trauma-informed practices in all programs and services.

Staff

Austin Child Guidance Center has six licensed psychologists on staff. In addition, our treatment staff includes a part-time child/adolescent psychiatrist, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed professional counselors.

Supervision

Postdoctoral fellows receive a minimum of two hours a week of face-to-face clinical supervision from a licensed psychologist at the center and one hour of group supervision. The supervision group is lead by a licensed psychologist and includes other trainees at the center.

Didactic Education

Postdoctoral fellows are expected to attend the following:

- Weekly seminar for trainees: Seminar includes doctoral psychology practicum students, clinical social work interns, professional counseling interns, and other trainees (e.g., mental health nurse practitioner student) and provides training on topics relevant to the treatment of children and adolescents.
- Interdisciplinary Case Staffing (ICS): Case conferences are held twice monthly with all clinical staff members present. Fellows are expected to present cases at ICS.
- Staff professional trainings: Austin Child Guidance Center hosts regular clinical trainings on a variety of topics presented by local professionals with expertise in the topic area.
- Annual Children's Mental Health Seminar: This day-long training for ACGC staff and other mental health professionals focuses on a topic important to children's mental health treatment. Recent topics have included Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and treating children with comorbid depression and anxiety.

Training Goals

Training goals for postdoctoral fellows at Austin Child Guidance Center include the development of proficiency in (1) child/adolescent assessment given a range of presenting concerns (e.g., learning disabilities, ADHD, trauma, autism-spectrum disorders); (2) psychotherapy with children, adolescents, and families; and (3) working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary treatment team. With regard to psychological assessment, postdoctoral fellows will learn how to select appropriate instruments to address the referral questions, to identify other factors and/or disorders which need to be ruled out, to write a comprehensive report, and to provide appropriate, timely feedback including treatment recommendations to caregivers and other referral sources. Postdoctoral fellows will also increase their proficiency in utilizing various empirically supported treatment modalities, especially cognitive-behavioral therapy and parent training approaches, to address a number of issues presented in individual and family therapy with children and adolescents. Postdoctoral fellows will learn how to identify goals with clients, to develop a conceptualization of the client within their family system, to identify appropriate strategies to address treatment goals, and to measure progress. There are ample opportunities for interdisciplinary consultation and collaboration throughout the treatment process. Other goals (e.g., developing group therapy skills, assessment of autism-spectrum disorders) are set by the fellow and his/her supervisor at the outset of the postdoctoral fellowship year.

Duties

The postdoctoral fellow is expected to provide one comprehensive psychological assessment weekly to children and adolescents referred to our center. In addition, the postdoctoral fellow will carry a caseload of approximately six to eight clients receiving individual or family therapy. The fellow will present cases at ICS at least twice during the course of their time at the center. The postdoctoral fellow is expected to first co-lead, with a licensed psychologist, and then lead a parent training group or child therapy group at the center. Finally, fellows are expected to participate in the weekly walk-in clinic for a minimum of four weeks. Other opportunities (e.g., consultation, leading parent workshop, supervision) are available based on the postdoctoral fellow's interests and training goals and availability.

Requirements of Candidates

The postdoctoral candidate must have completed their requirements for graduation from an APA accredited doctoral degree program including the completion of a one-year pre-doctoral internship placement. The candidate must be graduating prior to September 1st of their postdoctoral year. Experience with intellectual, academic, and emotional testing is essential. Experience with Rorschach is preferable. In addition, the postdoctoral candidate will be required to have experience in individual and family therapy with children and/or adolescents using evidence-based approaches. The successful candidate will also have demonstrated participation as part of a treatment team.

Salary and Benefits

The postdoctoral fellowship will begin September 1st and continue for 12 months at 40 hours per week. Salary is paid bi-monthly. Vacation and sick leave are provided, as well as employee health insurance.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, a de-identified sample psychological assessment report, an unofficial copy of your graduate school transcripts, and three reference letters to Julia Hoke, Ph.D. by January 31, 2018. Applications may be mailed or submitted via email. Potential candidates will be notified by email or phone if chosen to interview.

Contact Information

Director of Psychological Services: Julia Hoke, Ph.D.
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