



Psychology Practicum Training Program Child Therapy 2022-2023 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 Guidance 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 Guidance Center has operated a satellite clinic in San Pedro since 1977, and a model interagency "System of Care" program in Compton since 1998. The Guidance 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, Guidance 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 Therapy:

1. Therapy: Students will carry a caseload of approximately 6 clients providing services including: ongoing and annual assessments as needed; clinical case management; a range of psychotherapeutic interventions and modalities, including implementation of evidence-based interventions; clinical case consultation with other treatment staff, schools, and allied agencies; crisis intervention; and termination planning and discharge. Services are provided in the office, client's homes, and schools. Students will likely have some outpatient clients from our integrated care program, The Whole Child, which sees clients that have comorbid medical and mental health diagnoses.

2. Outcome Measures: Students utilize outcome measures (e.g., Pediatric Symptom Checklist; Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) for all of their cases to track progress.

3. Initial Intake Assessments: Students will complete weekly initial intake assessments during the training year utilizing Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health initial assessment form.

Minimum Practicum Requirements:

1. A minimum of 16 hours (2 days).
2. Commitment from August 31, 2022 through August 18, 2023. 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 (frequency TBD) at the Long Beach office.
4. All practicum students are required to attend orientation. Therapy practicum students attend documentation training and orientation from 9am-5pm (most days) on August 31, September 2, September 7, September 9, and September 12. Additional days may be needed.
5. Students must have had at least one prior practicum placement, some coursework in therapeutic techniques, and approval from the DCT to apply.

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** (no reference letters required), and (3) a **de-identified writing sample** (intake assessment or treatment summary for therapy practicum students). 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 and CVs should be emailed along with your cover letter to Kendra Bailey, Ph.D. at kbailey@tgclb.org.

- The Guidance Center will be offering **4 positions** for the 2022-2023 training year, inclusive of captive and eMatch positions.
- **Captive Position Applicants:** Please discuss due dates with your DCT.
- **eMatch Applicants:** All applications materials are due **February 25, 2022**. Interviews will occur the 2nd and 3rd week of March.
- The Guidance Center will participate in the SCAPTP eMatch to fill the position on **April 11, 2022**. The Guidance Center abides by SCAPTP practicum policies.

Location:

Therapy practicum students will be housed at our Long Beach, San Pedro, or Compton site. Supervision and trainings will occur at our Long Beach site. The agency has five programs located among 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 each week on Friday.
- For therapy practicum students, an additional half-hour of weekly individual supervision is with a psychology intern (supervised by a licensed psychologist).

***Didactics.**

- Documentation training for therapy practicum students is required the first two weeks in September as a part of orientation.
- Monthly continuing education seminars are available and typically occur the 1st Wednesday of each month.
- Didactic seminars are required for therapy practicum students. The frequency of didactic seminars for the 2022-2023 training year is TBD.

***Additional Benefits.**

- Students are considered non-exempt, temporary, part-time employees of The Guidance Center and are paid \$15/hr. This is subject to change depending upon agency budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, in which case students would not receive a stipend.
- Six total days of leave time (inclusive of school breaks, vacation, professional leave) may be taken for the duration of the training. Trainees are given three paid sick days.
- Mileage reimbursement for travel to and from client's home or school site.
- Computer, work space, and therapy materials.

***COVID-19 Information.**

- All interviews for 2022-2023 training year positions will be conducted via Zoom.
- We are currently providing both in-person and telehealth services, depending on client need. Practicum students will be expected to deliver services wherever is clinically indicated (e.g., home, field, office, school, telehealth) following agency and local safety precautions. PPE will be provided to practicum students by the agency. We are hopeful that we will have returned to providing primarily in-person services by the 2022-2023 training year, but will continue to follow local guidelines.

Please note: Due to agency insurance policies and DMV requirements, and because practicum students are expected to deliver mental health services in the field (requiring driving), practicum 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, practicum students must maintain the following: a valid driver's 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. Practicum students must also have sufficient vehicle insurance coverage and pass a background/fingerprinting check. All employees (including practicum students) must be vaccinated against Covid-19 in accordance with applicable law. TGC will evaluate requests for exemption in accordance with applicable law.