



**CHILD & FAMILY CENTER
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY PRACTICUM
PROGRAM**

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Message from the President/CEO

WHY CHILD & FAMILY CENTER

We are excited that you are considering Child & Family Center for your training site. For over 40 years, Child & Family Center has continued to build on what our founders started, providing quality care and services to children and families in need. Child & Family Center is deeply embedded within the community with strong community partnerships with other non-profit agencies providing services to those in need. This gives you the wonderful opportunity to build your clinical skills in a truly community based and collaborative agency with exposure to a full continuum of services and settings.

OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

With Child & Family Center, interns work in various departments and programs within the Agency such as Outpatient Mental Health, School-Based Services, Early Childhood Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Substance Use Disorders. You will gain exposure to the varied roles that clinicians play in community mental health agencies.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH YOU

Child & Family Center is a vibrant and growing community based behavioral health organization that offers a full continuum of services to a large and varied population from early childhood all the way to young adulthood and beyond. We value growth, training, initiative and innovation and strive to build a learning culture. We look forward to you being a part of our mission and journey.

Joan Aschoff, PsyD
President/Chief Executive Officer
October 31, 2019

About the Agency

Child & Family Center (“C&FC” or “Agency”) is dedicated to helping children, families, and adults to thrive and reach their full potential. Established in 1976 as St. Stephen's Special School, the Agency's founders saw a need to assist children with emotional, learning, and behavioral problems. Helping parents and caregivers learn better ways to parent children was a priority. Evolving into the Santa Clarita Valley Special Children's Center in 1985, counseling services were added for teenagers and their parents. Now known as the Child & Family Center, the Agency has grown into a provider of comprehensive prevention, early intervention, diagnostic evaluation, and therapeutic services for children, teens, adults, and families who live in the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas in Los Angeles County.

Child & Family Center helps thousands of children, their families, and the community by providing comprehensive prevention, early intervention, diagnostic evaluation and therapeutic services for children, teens, adults and families. Programs include

Individual, family and group counseling

- Substance use prevention, education, and treatment
- School-linked services
- Crisis intervention
- Intensive in-home care
- Domestic violence services

The staff of professionals includes child psychiatrists, licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, marriage family and child therapists, case managers, and therapists who work in collaboration to provide the best possible care. The Agency collaborates with school districts, social service agencies, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services, Los Angeles County Department of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, among others to provide the best possible care for clients. The basic philosophy underlying all the Agency's programs is that early intervention and guidance in an individual's life can prevent more serious problems from developing.

The Training Setting

Child & Family Center is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public-benefit corporation and provides community-based mental health, substance use, and domestic violence services. Its headquarters are in Santa Clarita, California in the County of Los Angeles. It also operates outpatient clinics in Santa Clarita and Palmdale, California and a confidential domestic violence shelter in the Santa Clarita Valley. It is Medi-Cal and Drug Medi-Cal certified in the state of California, Medicare-eligible provider through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and has other various third-party funding arrangements (e.g., grants, Cal OES).

Dedicated to meeting the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents, adults, and their families, a range of services are provided such as counseling, intervention services, and parent education. Professional training is offered to all staff, members of the community, and mental health interns and trainees. The Agency's mission is to change lives and heal relationships by helping people thrive through education, treatment, prevention and advocacy. The Agency is committed to evidence-based practices, client outcomes, staff training and development, linguistic/cultural competency, and continuous quality improvement.

The Training Program

At the Child & Family Center, our Training Program is committed to the development of passionate and skilled clinicians through clinical, team-oriented, real-world experience. While we aim for opportunities for retention post-graduation, our goal overall with the practicum program is to prepare the students to become employment-ready at any community mental health agency.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of formal structured training sessions are provided for practicum students, including an initial orientation where trainings related to the Agency and the training program's policies and procedures are reviewed. Practicum students receive training on the Agency's electronic health record system and clinical documentation required by third party payers. Student/interns also participate in monthly didactic seminars with MSW interns and psychology practicum students.

DIRECT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

MFT student/interns provide individual, collateral, family, and group therapy, and have opportunities to provide some case management. Student/interns will learn skills essential for employment including trauma-informed treatments and will gain exposure to Evidence-Based Practice models such as Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, and Seeking Safety. Efforts are made to ensure that trainees receive a varied caseload in terms of age, gender, culture and diagnoses.

SUPERVISION

Each student/intern is assigned a primary supervisor. The student/intern receives one hour of individual supervision from their primary supervisor and participates in two hours of group supervision each week. Additional supervision is provided as necessary to support each student/interns clinical caseload.

Training Year Logistics

C&FC accepts students for practicum placement in each Fall. The training year begins during the first week of August and concludes the last week of May. All students are required to attend all orientation days. Student/interns are allotted two weeks (40 hours) leave time plus Agency holidays during the training year. The Agency is closed the week between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. The first two weeks are orientation that include administrative and clinical training.

MANDATORY DAYS/TIMES

- The MFT practicum requires a minimum of 20 hours on site per week.
- Wednesdays are mandatory for training and group supervision.
- Student/interns are expected to be onsite 3-days per week with at least two evenings until 8:00 p.m.

STIPEND

Child & Family Center does not currently offer a stipend for the MFT practicum placement.

Application and Selection Requirements

Child & Family Center has training agreements with a number of accredited graduate programs in the greater Los Angeles area. C&FC begins accepting applications from MFT students enrolled in these affiliated graduate programs in February for Fall practicum placement. We are not accepting students for Spring placement at this time.

If you are interested in applying for practicum placement with Child & Family Center, please email the following information to [**StudentTraining@childfamilycenter.org**](mailto:StudentTraining@childfamilycenter.org)

1. A cover letter stating your area of interest, language ability and experience in community mental health
2. Resume or curriculum vitae
3. Include time availabilities for possible interviews in the email

Potential candidates will be contacted to set up a phone interview, followed by a possible second, in-person, interview with the program supervisors.

Please note: applicants must obtain full legal clearance from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and related California entities prior to the start of the practicum placement. Practicum placements are contingent upon obtaining full legal clearance and approval from Child & Family Center's Human Resources Department.

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Contact Information

Programmatic questions should be directed to Director of Training, Amy Warren, Psy.D.

Dr. Warren can be reached by email at: amy.warren@childfamilycenter.org or by phone at (661) 259-9439.

Agency Information

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