

## Behavioral Health Training Program

### Practicum Position Description

#### **Program Overview:**

APA/VVSF's Behavioral Health Training Program is two-fold in our goals and multifaceted in each domain.

Our first goal is to provide effective therapeutic services to our diverse and multicultural communities in Visitacion Valley and Chinatown, where many families' mental health needs are going unmet. The children, teens, and families we work with have experienced incredible challenges in their lives that have a negative impact on their academics, relationships, and work. We're dedicated to offer culturally sensitive individual and group therapy that helps clients to manage difficult feelings, so they can attend to their lives in healthier, more productive, and successful ways.

We also train practicum students to learn the foundational concepts of offering therapeutic services, which range from assessment, treatment planning, documentation, crisis intervention, collaborating with a multidisciplinary team, individual and group therapy, and talk and play therapy. Our training program specifically focuses on guiding practicum students to utilize multi-cultural, psychodynamic, relational, and trauma informed concepts to provide therapeutic services.

Practicum students will have the opportunity to make significant and positive impact in our clients' lives. They will learn to offer a safe space for clients to share their experiences either through talk or play therapy. Our clients receive a professional level of understanding, support and empathy that they do not have access to anywhere else. Over the course of the year, practicum students will increase therapeutic skills and interventions that will improve their ability to attune to client's specific needs. They will have the privilege and honor to witness client's increased self-awareness, develop internal emotional strength, learn to set limits when necessary, speak up for themselves, and manage difficult feelings in new ways.

#### **Position Description/Responsibilities:**

\*Provide assessments, diagnosis, treatment plans, crisis interventions, talk and play therapy, individual and group therapy.

\*Collaborate with parents, teachers, school and after school staff, case managers, and other professionals in client's life.

\*Attend case conferences, didactic trainings, individual supervision, and staff meetings.

### **Position Requirements:**

- \*Must be working towards a Masters in Social Work or Marriage Family Therapy.
- \*Must be able to work 16 to 20 hours weekly.
- \*Must be able to attend case conference and didactic training every Thursday from 10am to 12pm.
- \*Must be able to attend monthly staff meetings on Fridays from 9:30am to 12:00pm.
- \*Must be able to meet for weekly individual supervision.
- \*Must be able to attend 2 half-day trainings in late August.
- \*Must be interested in working with children and/or teens in a school setting.
- \*Must be interested in working with individual adults or families in the center.
- \*Must understand and follow ethical and legal standards according to the NASW, CAMFT, and APA and able to maintain confidentiality.
- \*Must have strong organizational skills, time management, and ability to prioritize.
- \*Must demonstrate professionalism and have effective and excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- \*Must be willing to learn to provide therapy from a psychodynamic, relational and trauma informed lens.
- \*Must be passionate in serving our clientele who are diverse, multicultural, and have significant trauma in their lives to manage.
- \*Must be able to work independently and collaboratively.
- \*Must pass reference check, background check, and have recent TB test results.

**Ideal Candidate:**

\*Multi-lingual in Chinese (either Mandarin or Cantonese) or Spanish.

\*Has been or is currently in one's own psychotherapy.

\*Has experience either volunteering or working in a community based organization providing support for people who are underserved.

**Working Conditions:**

\*Hours are from 9am to 5pm.

\*Working in school and center based programs possibly exposes oneself to infections such as the cold or flu virus.

\*Working with kids, teens, and adults who have been exposed to trauma, where crisis intervention may be necessary, and vicarious trauma may occur.

\*Working with children may require one to sit on the floor or be physically active.

**Compensation:**

\*APA will provide each practicum student with a laptop and phone for clinical use only.

\*APA will provide each practicum student with a stipend in the total amount of \$1,198 for the year. \$599 will be given halfway through the training year and \$599 at the end of the training year.

**How to Apply for the Position:**

\*Email to Izabel Pisikyan, M.A.

APA Family Support Services Behavioral Health Administrator  
at [izabel.pisikyan@apafss.org](mailto:izabel.pisikyan@apafss.org)

\*Send a Cover Letter indicating why you are interested in training at APA/VVSF's Behavioral Health Training Program and what you have to offer APA/VVSF's clientele.

\*Send Resume or Vita

\*Send 3 character references who are not family members.