

## **Internship Information**

### **Pre-Doctoral Psychology Internship**

Psychology is part of the Mental Health Services Unit, which is part of Health Services. The overall management and direction of mental health services is the responsibility of the DOC Mental Health Director, a psychologist. At the institution level, mental health services are under the supervision of Psychology Directors. There are 34 psychologists in the DOC.

### **Internships are offered at four DOC facilities:**

1. MCF- Stillwater. MSF-STW is a Close (a security level between Maximum and Medium) custody facility has a population of about 1450 adult male offenders. MCF-STW has a number of special programs including several industries, education, and a chemical dependency treatment unit. The facility is about 100 years old and has tiers of cells, but is renovated in most areas. A New 150-bed segregation unit has opened in the summer of 2008. The mental health staff consists of two MSW's (one licensed), six master level therapists (one LP 3, 3 LPC's), a Psy.D., LP Program Director, an Office Administration Specialist, one social work intern, one full-time pre-doctoral psychology intern, and one pre-doctoral assessment practicum student. Mental health staff at this facility provide a wide variety of services including the following: diagnostic testing and assessments, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention and frequent consultation with the numerous disciplines within the facility. An intern at this case can expect a wide diversity of clients and referral issues ranging in complexity and severity of disorder. MCF-STW is located 25 miles east of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

2. MCF-Oak Park Heights. This is the DOC's only maximum-security facility and, with only 395 inmates, the smallest male facility. Over 80% of the inmates are convicted of serious crimes against persons, and 35% are serving life sentences. MCF-OPH is a modern, "underground" facility that has been shown as the positive alternative in a number of documentaries on super-max prisons. This facility also has the Mental Health Unit, a 46-bed inpatient psychiatric unit. The first half of the internship will be in the Mental Health Unit, and the second half will be working with offenders in the general prison population. MCF-OPH is located next to MCF-STW and is about 25 miles east of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

3. MCF-Lino Lakes. This is a medium custody facility with 1100 inmates, 150 of whom are in sex offender treatment and 240 in chemical dependency treatment. Other inmates are in work or education programs. Four psychologists provide mental health services. Being a medium custody

facility, MCF-LL is like a college campus with a razor-ribbon fence around it. Most of the inmates are nearing the end of their sentences so there is an atmosphere of activity and change. The psychology intern at this site will be involved with assessments and individual and group therapy. MCF-LL is located 24 miles north of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

4. MCF-Shakopee. MCF-SHK, the DOC's only adult female facility, violates many of the usual assumptions about prisons and inmates. For example, there is no fence around the facility because the local neighborhood did not want one. Escapes are rare. Crimes range from theft to murder, although many crimes involve dependency on a male. Three psychologists provide services to the 340 inmates. The psychology intern at this site will be involved with a full range of clinical services. MCF-SHK is located 31 miles south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

For more information including application procedure click link below.

# **PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) was created in 1959 to consolidate state correctional functions within one agency. There are three divisions in the DOC: adult facilities, community and juvenile services, and management services. The DOC currently operates ten correctional facilities – eight for adults and two for juveniles. The adult prisons have about 5,600 males and 340 females; there are about 150 juveniles. In addition to the incarcerated offenders, approximately 14,600 adult and juvenile offenders are supervised on probation, supervised release, and parole.

Minnesota has a national reputation for operating humane, safe correctional institutions that have low levels of violence and are safe for inmates and staff. Although the adult inmate population in Minnesota has been increasing during the past decade, DOC correctional institutions are not confronted with the magnitude of prison crowding that is plaguing most states. Minnesota is 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of people incarcerated in state prisons per 100,000. This low rate of incarceration reflects Minnesota's reliance on alternatives to prison for less serious offenders. The system is designed to reserve expensive prison space for only those criminals who are dangerous and need to be incarcerated.

The DOC's correctional institutions are accredited by the American Correctional Association, which means the facilities are in compliance with hundreds of standards relating to all aspects of institutional operation. The DOC's central office, adult and juvenile release functions, and adult and juvenile field services are also accredited.

## **ORGANIZATION OF DOC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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institution level, mental health services are under the supervision of Psychology Directors. There are 34 psychologists in the DOC.

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## PHILOSOPHY

The Pre-Doctoral Psychology Internship Program at the Minnesota Department of Corrections emphasizes the practice of clinical psychology in a correctional facility. Correctional facilities are unique institutions, which have their own culture, vocabulary, and social hierarchy. They are also unique for the responsibility and authority given to psychologists. Correctional Psychologists direct mental health services in their facilities; this means that psychologists working in these settings must understand the overall dynamics of corrections as well as develop specialized clinical skills. Therefore, interns in the DOC will have experience with diverse issues and clinical problems.

## GOALS

It is the goal of our program that, by the completion of the internship, interns will have developed sufficient competence in the following areas so they can function independently as psychologists:

Psychological Assessments: Interns are expected to develop the skills necessary to complete a diagnostic assessment. By the conclusion of the internship, they should be acquainted with the full range of psychopathology, including personality disorders, thought disorders and affective disorders. Interns also receive training in formal psychological assessments, including neuropsychological testing. Under supervision, interns are expected to work with referral sources to clarify the referral question, select and administer appropriate psychological tests, conduct thorough clinical interviews, integrate the test findings and other data, prepare cogently written reports which can be readily understood by referral sources and provide follow-up consultation as needed.

Psychotherapy: Interns are expected to demonstrate competencies in individual and group psychotherapy. It is expected that they will be able to develop treatment strategies to address issues that were identified in the psychological assessments, write treatment plans, provide the appropriate group or individual therapy, and modify their treatment based on changes in the client's condition.

Consultation: Interns are expected to learn the role of the psychologist as a consultant to other professionals. This consultation typically focuses on especially challenging clients with whom the intern may or may have done a psychological assessment or psychotherapy. The intern is expected to learn what behaviors are most likely to lead to a consultation, how to prepare for a consultation meeting, what other professionals expect from a psychologist, and how to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Crisis Intervention: The intern will learn the skills to handle crisis situations. With supervision, the intern will learn effective strategies for defusing crises and helping the primary client as well as involved others to deal with future crises.

Teaching: Teaching non-psychologists about mental and emotional disorders is one of the most valuable competencies that a psychologist can have. By the end of the internship, the intern will be able to develop lesson plans and provide group and individual instruction to others about a variety of mental health issues.

## **INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES**

The internship will start with a one-week orientation in the DOC Central Office. This will provide an overview of the Department of Corrections as well as an initial exposure to psychology policies and procedures. After this orientation, interns will spend most of their time in their assigned facility. In addition to two hours of individual supervision each week by their facility supervisor all DOC interns will meet on a regular basis throughout the year for didactic training totaling over 100 hours. The training will provide information on a variety of issues relevant to mental health practitioners working within the correctional setting (e.g., confidentiality, malingering, neuropsychological assessment, working with severe personality disorders). So that interns have an opportunity to visit and tour other prisons, the trainings will be scheduled, at least one time, at all of the MN Department of Corrections facilities throughout the state.

Interns are expected to present two cases conferences during the year, highlighting relevant research and theoretical literature. Interns will also attend the quarterly DOC Mental Health Training Sessions and are encouraged to participate in outside workshops.

Interns are permitted, even encouraged to conduct research relevant to the client populations and services in the DOC. The DOC Research and Evaluation staff will need to review and approve any research, however. This encouragement with review and approval also applies to dissertation research.

## **SUPERVISORS FOR PSYCHOLOGY INTERNS**

Kenneth A. Carlson, Ph.D., LP, Psychologist 3, MCF- Oak Park Heights

Scott Hudson, Psy.D., LP Behavioral Health Director, MCF- Shakopee.

Charlotte Johnson, Psy.D., LP, Psychologist 3, MCF – Oak Park Heights

Terry Jorgenson, Psy.D., LP, Correctional Program Director at MCF - Stillwater

Collette Morse, Psy.D., LP, Psychological Services Director at MCF - Lino Lakes

Kathryn Shinnick, Psy.D., LP, Correctional Program Director at MCF – Shakopee

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Graduate students from doctoral programs in professional psychology are eligible. The Minnesota DOC is committed to fostering diversity in its training program; members of minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants should have the following minimum qualifications:

1. Graduate coursework and practicum training in intellectual and personality assessment.
2. Graduate coursework and practicum training in psychotherapy.
3. Graduate coursework in psychopathology.
4. Verification from the Director of Training of the applicant's graduate program that he/she has completed all graduate coursework and any comprehensive examinations required by his or her program before the internship start date.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

If you wish to apply for one of the four pre-doctoral psychology internships at the Minnesota DOC, please send:

1. A completed APPIC Application for Psychology Internship form. You can obtain a copy from APPIC's web site at <http://www.appic.org/>. Please note that the application includes a "Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness" section to be completed by the Director of Training of your graduate program.
2. A copy of a psychological assessment report prepared by you.
3. Three letters of recommendation, including one from the supervisor of your assessment practicum and one from the supervisor of your psychotherapy practicum.
4. A graduate program transcript.

All materials should be directed to:

Terry Jorgenson, Psy.D., LP,  
Psychology Internship Training Director  
Minnesota Department of Corrections  
970 Pickett Street North  
Bayport, MN 55003-1490

Telephone: (651) 779-2780

Fax: (651) 779-5723

[tjorgenson@stw.doc.state.mn.us](mailto:tjorgenson@stw.doc.state.mn.us)

**Applications for internships for internships starting in 2010 should be completed by December 1, 2009.**