



**THE ALLENDALE ASSOCIATION**

**Pre-Doctoral  
Psychology Diagnostic Externship  
Information Packet**

**2016-2017**

## **INTRODUCTION TO ALLENDALE**

The Allendale Association is a private, not-for-profit organization located in Lake Villa, Illinois, 50 miles north of Chicago. Founded in 1897, Allendale serves troubled youth and their families. Allendale's main programs include the following: (1) residential treatment services, (2) educational services, and (3) clinical and community services. In addition to providing services to our residential treatment program clients, Allendale's educational services include a day education treatment program (Stepping Stone) that serves troubled students from the local area school districts. The clinical and community services program consists of specialized foster care, mentoring services, community support program (CSP), and outpatient counseling for children, adolescents, and adults in the community.

The Allendale Association is directed by a distinguished board of trustees comprised of 29 men and women representing various races, religions and creeds. The trustees govern the policies and programs of the Association. They are also responsible for raising private funds to support the capital and operational needs of the Association's programs. The Association is very fortunate to have the support of women's auxiliary groups, as well as the generous support of hundreds of "friends" who financially aid Allendale in providing youth and families with high quality programs and services.

All three main treatment programs serve male and female clients and their families. For the Lake Villa day treatment program approximately 44-48% of the students are African-American, 24-37% are Caucasian, 11-17% are Hispanic, and 8-11% identify as biracial or another race. Ninety percent of the clients in our outpatient program are Caucasian. In our residential treatment program, approximately 48% of the clients are African-American, 35% are Caucasian, 7-10% are Hispanic, and 7-10% identify as biracial or another race. The clients served by Allendale represent suburban, urban and some rural populations and range in pathology from those who are severely disturbed and psychotic to those experiencing family conflicts, marital conflicts, personality disorders, conduct disorder, PTSD, depression, anxiety, ADHD, and adjustment problems.

### **Clinical and Community Services**

All clinical services for the agency (residential, day treatment, outpatient, and community services) are provided by therapists and trainees who are housed in this department.

#### ***Bradley Counseling Center (Outpatient Services):***

This program includes a community-based, outpatient counseling center with locations - Lake Villa and Gurnee, Illinois. Designed to serve troubled children and adolescents, families, and adults, the center employs clinicians and diagnosticians in the fields of psychology, social work, psychiatry, and other allied mental health fields. Individual, group, family, or couple therapy is utilized to provide remediation and relief and to help clients develop more adaptive ways of dealing with personal difficulties. In addition, the counseling center provides anger management groups. Comprehensive diagnostic evaluations and psychological assessments are also provided, as well as community consultation and education.

#### ***Specialized Foster Care:***

Allendale's specialized foster care program serves children with special needs. These children predominantly range in age from 7 to 18 years and have a variety of problems, including emotional and behavioral difficulties. Most of these youth are wards of DCFS and referred by this agency. Therapists, caseworkers, and trained foster parents form a treatment team that addresses the needs of this specialized population. Children are generally in foster care from three months (emergency placements) to three years with one of four outcome goals - return home, adoption, subsidized guardianship, or independent living. This program serves approximately 20 to 30 youth and helps to provide a means of "stepping-down" youth in our residential treatment center to a less restrictive treatment setting.

#### ***Therapeutic Mentor Program:***

The Therapeutic Mentor Program is designed to provide an adult to work intensively with a youth to help develop social skills and/or independent living skills, and to help youth find the necessary structure through healthy activities that can further guide and promote their adaptive functioning. Allendale Mentors work with the youth in their home community to help the youth develop and strengthen skills and to find lasting structure to support skill building and continued adaptive functioning. The goals of developing and strengthening skills and establishing necessary structure to support adaptive functioning are pursued through involvement in activities that are naturally occurring in the youth's own environment; these activities might include, for examples, park district, YMCA, church-based, or athletic programs. These goals include finding activities that provide lasting structure to guide and promote the youth's skill development and adaptive functioning beyond the completion of the mentoring services. Medicaid, sometimes insurance, or other community groups fund mentoring services.

**Community Support Program:**

The Community Support Program is a grant project of the Department of Human Services. This program is designed to prevent residential or other out-of-home placement for children ages 7 to 17 years old. The services are delivered within a model that brings the needed support to the youth in their home or community environment. The program provides aggressive outreach, in-home counseling, and case management. This program currently serves about 90-100 youth and families over the course of a year.

**Residential Treatment Services**

The residential treatment program provides intensive treatment to youth who have severe emotional and behavioral disorders. The residential program is considered "high end" due to the severity of client acting-out behavior (i.e., significant aggression toward self and others). There are nine units on the Lake Villa campus; two group homes located in Waukegan, Illinois; the Benet Lake residential treatment unit, just over the Illinois-Wisconsin border; and a moderate residential unit in North Chicago, Illinois. The total residential capacity is approximately 148.

Clients in the residential program are boys and girls aged 7 to 17 at admission who cannot be maintained, treated, and/or educated in their communities for a variety of reasons. A major contributing factor to the need for out-of-home placement is the existence of severe behavioral dysfunction, acting-out behaviors, and mental illness. Some clients have multiple diagnoses, but only clients with a primary diagnosis of mental illness are considered for admission. Many of the residential clients have significant histories of physical and/or sexual abuse.

The main source of referrals to the residential program includes the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The residential program also receives referrals from the court system, insurance companies, and private pay.

**Stepping Stone Day Education Treatment Program  
(part of Allendale's Educational Services)**

Stepping Stone is an extended-day, education treatment alternative provided to youth from the surrounding communities who have serious emotional and behavioral disabilities. The program emphasizes academic, diagnostic, and instructional intervention, clinical consultation, as well as individual and group psychotherapy. These students are not able to be maintained in the special education program of their local school districts due to their emotional and behavioral problems, particularly due to significant acting-out behaviors such as aggression to self or others. Due to the severity of their problems they require a highly specialized "day only" therapeutic program. This program serves approximately 120 boys and girls from ages 8 to 21. This includes a satellite campus (LINC) in Woodstock. The main source of referrals is the Illinois State Board of Education.

## **THE EXTERNSHIPS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

The clinical psychology externships are 12-month, part-time programs (16-20 hours per week). We offer two externship tracks - one focused on therapy and one focused on diagnostic assessment. The number of students accepted into each track varies. The externship program is dedicated to preparing individuals for the practice of clinical psychology and includes year-long involvement within Allendale's main programs.

### **Program Philosophy and Objectives**

The program has a strong psychodynamic influence. The emphasis of the training program is to provide training in core therapeutic skills essential to the practice of clinical psychology; to teach intervention strategies/skills grounded in theory and research; to promote self-examination as a way to understand one's impact on the therapeutic process and the alliance; and to foster the ability to critically examine the efficacy of interventions. The program encourages externs to continually reflect upon the complex relationship among psychological theory, practice, and individual differences, while paying close attention to their own reactions to the client in order to be a self-reflective clinician.

### **Orientation**

During the first two weeks of the training year, the externs are oriented to the outpatient, day treatment, and residential programs. The goal of orientation is to acclimate each extern to the Allendale Association at the professional and interpersonal level. During this period, the externs are introduced to supervisors, seminar instructors, and staff members, and become familiar with the clinical and administrative functioning of each program, and with the goals and objectives of each training seminar. Particular emphasis is placed upon the role of the extern in each treatment program. Additionally, externs are taught the Allendale Relational Re-Enactment Systems Approach to Treatment (REStArT) model for working with youth in residential and day treatment. This model of treatment was developed as an evidence-based treatment practice built on the four factors (having a coherent conceptual therapeutic approach, family involvement during treatment, stability of post-discharge placement, and availability of aftercare support) for effective residential treatment (Wampold and Malterer, 2007). The REStArT model integrates psychodynamic/object relations, systems, neurobiology, trauma and attachment theories (McConnell & Taglione, 2012). For further information on this model, please see our website ([www.allendale4kids.org](http://www.allendale4kids.org)). Throughout their assignments in these programs, externs are expected to work within the model of the agency while incorporating their own theoretical orientation. Following the orientation training, the externs begin their assignments.

## **THE DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT EXTERNSHIP**

### **Psychological Assessment Assignment**

Each extern is expected to complete a number of full psychological evaluations during the training year. Included in these psychological evaluations may be outpatient anger management assessments. Externs receive individual supervision and consultation on their assessments from a licensed clinical psychologist one hour weekly, and they may receive supervision with an intern regarding anger management assessments when cases are available. Through this supervision, externs receive guidance in selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting assessment measures, organizing test findings, integrating the findings into a written report, and providing feedback and recommendations to referral sources. Further, externs may be required to complete clinical and diagnostic interviews in other programs areas as opportunities arise.

Externs also spend three to five hours per week providing intake services. The primary focus is assessing the client's appropriateness for outpatient services. This involves taking calls from people seeking treatment, identifying the presenting problems, and collecting identifying and background data. Externs may also have the opportunity to manage high priority or "crisis" calls during their intake shift (i.e.

assessing suicidal/homicidal clients or possible abuse cases to determine the appropriate level of intervention). Externs are assigned an intake supervisor who provides supervision on all intake calls.

Each extern attends bi-weekly case staffings in which the outpatient cases are staffed at admission, discharge, and during the course of treatment. The cases are reviewed by the clinical staff, interns, and practicum students to ensure accuracy of diagnosis, appropriateness of treatment plan, and progress toward stated goals as part of the peer review process of our Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI). The externs participate through case presentations as if they have a high-priority intake in which they opened a file. Externs also provide feedback to other presenters. Externs become part of the staff rotation for being notetaker after period of observing the staffings.

### **Training Experiences**

In addition to their individual supervision, diagnostic externs may participate in the following training features:

#### ***CE & CEU Presentations***

The externs attend bi-weekly presentations throughout the training year. These two-hour presentations cover a wide range of topics in the field of psychology, including assessment, treatment interventions, supervision, professional conduct and ethics, specialty topics, and cultural and human differences. The majority of the presentations are provided by outside speakers with an expertise in their topic area.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **Application**

To complete the application procedure, the following materials are to be submitted to the Director of Clinical Training:

- A letter of interest
- A current curriculum vita
- Two letters of reference from professionals best able to provide information about clinical and professional skills and potential. The two letters of reference do not include the letter of qualification provided by schools for those schools that send letters of qualification.
- Official transcripts from graduate programs
- A work sample of a completed diagnostic report with identifying information deleted

### **Selection Process**

The initial screening process will begin upon receipt of all materials requested on the application form. Following receipt and review of this material, eligible applicants will be contacted to set up a personal interview. Offers for externship placement will be made in compliance with the ACEPT match day policies.