Psychology Pre-Doctoral Internship Program

El Paso Veterans Affairs Healthcare System

2018-2019
Internship Training Year

MATCH Number: 240011
Applications Due: November 28, 2017

Emilia A. Campos, Ph.D., ABPP
Director of Training

VA El Paso Healthcare System
5001 North Piedras Street (116)
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http://www.elpaso.va.gov/
Psychology Internship Program

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ACCREDITATION STATUS
The pre-doctoral internship at the VA El Paso Healthcare System is a newly funded VA Internship site with (3) positions. This internship is not yet accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. An application for accreditation will be submitted with the intent of obtaining accreditation prior to the beginning of the 2018-2019 training year. However, it should be noted that APA accreditation is not a guaranteed process.

In accordance with VA Psychology Qualification standards, interns who have successfully completed an internship at the VA, even if the Internship Program at that site is not yet accredited, ARE eligible for VA Postdoctoral Fellowships or VA employment.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS
The El Paso VA Psychology Internship is a one-year, full-time program that starts at the end of July. The current annual salary is $24,014. Interns are eligible for 13 days of paid annual leave (you earn 4 hours every two-week pay period), 13 days of paid sick leave (you earn 4 hours every two-week pay period), paid time off for 10 Federal Holidays, and authorized absence for attendance at professional and scientific meetings (must be approved in advance by the Training Director). Interns who complete the program successfully will be certified for 2080 hours of supervised clinical activity. Three interns will be selected for the 2018-2019 training year. Consistent with VA policy, internship funding can be provided only to students who are U.S. citizens and are enrolled in APA-accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology. In addition, we require that a prospective intern's university advisor or director of training verify readiness for internship on the Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI Online). Only 52-week full-time internships are available.
APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Eligibility Requirements

Consistent with VA policy, internship funding can be provided only to students who are U.S. citizens and are enrolled in APA-accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology. In addition, we require that a prospective intern's university advisor or director of training verify readiness for internship on the Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI Online). Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.

The minimum requirements for entry into our training program are as follows:

1. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.
2. At the time of application, applicants must be enrolled in an APA-accredited clinical or counseling psychology doctoral program.
3. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 450 hours of supervised practicum experience (intervention and assessment) by the time the application is submitted.
4. Applicants must have passed all comprehensive examinations required by their graduate program by the application deadline.
5. It is strongly preferred that applicants complete their dissertation proposal prior to the application deadline.

Application Process

We rely on the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers’ (APPIC) portal for all application materials. VA El Paso does not ask for any other information besides what is requested by the APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI Online). The VA El Paso pre-doctoral internship program is committed to providing access for all people with disabilities and will provide accommodations if we are notified before the interviews. Reasonable accommodation requests for the interview process are readily entertained and expedited by the training faculty. The application deadline is November 28, 2017.

Please contact Emilia Campos, Ph.D., ABPP, Director of Training, for questions or further information at (915) 564-6100 ext. 5086 or by email at Emilia.Campos@va.gov.

MATCH Program Code: 240011

Selection Procedures

Application materials are initially reviewed for completion, eligibility, quality of submitted materials, clinical and assessment experience, letters of recommendation, and
goodness of fit with our program training goals. Applicants selected from this initial review will be invited for interviews. If an applicant is unable to attend the interviews in person, telephone interviews will be offered. Note that telephone interviews will not put an applicant at any disadvantage in the selection process.

**Candidate Interviews**

All personal interviews are conducted individually and by invitation only. Candidates will be informed by e-mail within 2 weeks of the application deadline whether or not they have been invited for a personal interview. We will offer four interview dates in January. Candidates coming on one of the interview dates will hear an overview of our program and then will meet with a number of the staff psychologists. Some time is left over at the end for candidates to meet with additional staff persons who are key to candidates’ interests as well. We adhere strictly to the selection process guidelines established by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).

**Match Process**

We follow the match policies established by APPIC. Consistent with our program’s philosophy of viewing the internship year as likely the last chance for more generalist clinical training before specialization at the postdoctoral level, we have one match number for all 3 positions. The only information that we may communicate to applicants prior to the February Match deadline is whether they are still under consideration for admission. Additional information regarding the match is available through the APPIC National Matching Program at [http://www.natmatch.com/psychint](http://www.natmatch.com/psychint).

**TRAINING SETTING**

The El Paso VA Healthcare System is a Complexity Level 3 facility that provides outpatient behavioral and medical healthcare to Veterans in Southern New Mexico, El Paso, and surrounding cities. The El Paso VA includes two Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in Las Cruces, NM and east El Paso, TX. The majority of training takes place at the main clinic. Our VA is situated on the Fort Bliss military base next door to William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

The city of El Paso is known as the “Sun City” and is located at the westernmost point of the state of Texas. It shares a border with Ciudad Juarez in Mexico, which is accessible by a bridge that links the two cities. El Paso enjoys 300 days of sunshine a year and boasts a low cost of living. Within the city limits is the Franklin Mountains State Park with great options for recreation including taking a ride on the Wyler Aerial Tramway. Also within driving distance is the Hueco Tanks State Historic Site and the White Sands National Monument.
TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Our Psychology Pre-doctoral Training Program at the VA El Paso Healthcare System is committed to close supervision and competency-based training in a collegial setting. Our philosophy is that all practicing psychologists should have a strong foundation in general clinical psychology and the ability to apply empirical data to clinical procedures and assessment. We adhere to a practitioner-scholar model of psychology.

The program follows a traditional one-to-one apprenticeship model in which the intern works closely with her or his supervisor. Primary areas of skills are in clinical assessment and intervention, consultation, scholarly inquiry, and awareness of and sensitivity to professional, ethical, legal, and diversity issues. Although our psychology staff provides a number of specialized services, we believe that training in clinical and counseling psychology at the predoctoral level should be broadly based rather than narrowly focused.

Training Schedule and Rotations

The intern will be assigned to a full-time, major rotation in the General Mental Health clinic for the entire internship year. Interns will also participate in minor rotations that are 6 months in duration. Minor rotation options include Telemental Health, Special Exams Unit (Compensation and Pension evaluation), Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention, Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC), Substance Use Disorders (SUD), Military Trauma Treatment Program (MTTP), Psychological Assessment, and Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM). Additionally, interns are required to learn at least one Evidence-Based Treatment (EBT) during the training year and will rank-order their EBT preferences at the start of internship. Interns will have the opportunity to discuss and develop their individual learning goals within each placement. It is expected that each intern will spend a minimum of 10 hours face-to-face time with patients per week.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching mission of our Psychology Internship Training Program is to train psychology students who will attain general entry level practice competencies and can function effectively as professional psychologists in a broad range of interprofessional settings. The primary goal of our predoctoral program is to train interns to provide a full range of psychological services for a widely diverse patient population and to attain competency for entry-level, independent practice.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In each of the major and minor rotations, interns will have routine, on-site supervision by a licensed clinical psychologist. In the minor rotation for Telemental Health, one hour per week of supervision will be provided remotely via video conference by the licensed psychologist who supervises that rotation. Additional clinical consultation, as
appropriate, will also be available from the disciplines of psychiatry, social work, and physicians from other departments. The major rotations will comprise approximately 22 hours per week and minor rotations approximately 10 hours per week, leaving 4 hours each for supervision and didactics. Clinical supervision will be comprised of 2 individual hours provided by the major rotation supervisor, 1 individual hour provided by the minor rotation supervisor and 1 hour of group supervision provided by the director of training or other psychology supervisors. Supervision methods will include live observation, record review, and video/audio-recording of sessions.

Each intern has four or five primary supervisors throughout the year who are each responsible for the training experiences on their specific rotations. Supervisors assist in selecting patients and making referrals. The degree of responsibility given the intern and the amount of structure provided depends on his or her level of prior experience and grasp of the rotation.

Interns will receive 2 formal evaluations from their rotation supervisors at the midpoint and end of the rotation for a total of 4 formal evaluations by the end of the training year. Ongoing informal evaluation and feedback will be provided throughout the rotations.

**TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

**MAJOR ROTATION:**

**General Mental Health (GMH)- Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)**

The General Mental Health (GMH) clinic provides a range of outpatient mental health services to Veterans and their families including medication management, psychological assessment, individual and group therapy, family and couples’ therapy, and Evidence-Based Therapies (EBTs). All GMH staff are divided into smaller interdisciplinary teams (i.e., BHIPs) and use a team-based approach to facilitate patient care. GMH also provides curriculum-based programming similar to an intensive outpatient treatment model that includes 3 treatment tracks: General, Trauma, and Life Skills. Interns in GMH will serve as a member of one of the BHIP team and will work closely with other disciplines to develop and implement treatment plans. As a BHIP team member, interns will also learn how to provide consultation. Interns will gain extensive experience with a broad range of assessments and interventions, and will be exposed to Veterans with psychiatric disorders across the full diagnostic spectrum. Interns will also have the opportunity to tailor aspects of their training in GMH according to their areas of interest. For example, they will have the opportunity to receive training in health-based interventions, trauma assessment and treatment, or group psychotherapy including intensive interpersonal group psychotherapy. Interns will participate in psychological assessments and EBTs in GMH. Interns will be assigned a total of 2 primary supervisors for the GMH rotation for a duration of 6 months each in order to provide a varied range of supervisory experiences and professional development opportunities.
MINOR ROTATIONS
Military Trauma and Treatment Program (MTTP)
Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)
Telemental Health
Psychological Assessment
Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention
Special Exams Unit- Compensation & Pension (C&P)
Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

At the start of internship, interns will be assessed to determine baseline areas of strengths and weaknesses to facilitate the development of a training program that best meets the specific training needs of each intern. In keeping with our generalist philosophy, a training plan will be developed in collaboration with each intern that will address areas of weakness or gaps in experience.

It is expected that upon completion of the program all interns will demonstrate competence in the following domains:

1. Professionalism
2. Interpersonal Effectiveness
3. Research/Application of Science
4. Cultural Competence
5. Professional Ethics
6. Assessment & Patient Feedback
7. Intervention & Treatment Planning
8. Consultation
9. Supervision

At the beginning of the training year, interns will receive a detailed description of the competency elements including benchmarks and behavioral anchor points. At the completion of each training rotation, the intern is rated on all competency elements that apply to that rotation. In addition to these formal competency ratings, a narrative summary of the intern’s performance over the evaluation period is provided with information about the intern’s progress, strengths, and areas for growth.

All VA pre-doctoral internships are exactly 52-week experiences. To successfully complete the program, each intern needs the combination of supervised professional experience, any educational leave (authorized absence), accrued sick and annual (vacation) leave to total 2080 hours. In the event of extended sickness, time off for pregnancy and child care or other exigencies, the intern may have to be placed on leave without pay (LWOP) status, thereby delaying his or her finishing the internship.
with the cohort class and necessitating the continuation of training into the subsequent training year.

Summary of Requirements for Completion

- Minimum of 150 hours of clinical supervision
- Minimum of 500 hours of direct patient care (10 hours per week)
- 4 formal case presentations (2 assessment cases, 2 psychotherapy cases)
- 6 psychological assessment reports (minimum of 2 must be integrated to include at least one cognitive assessment and one objective personality assessment)
- Achieve competency in at least one Evidence-Based Therapy (must successfully reach competency and completion of the selected EBT protocol with a minimum of 2 patients)
- Attend at least 90% of all didactic trainings
- Achieve acceptable ratings on final intern evaluations of competency elements
- Complete evaluations on didactic trainings and supervision

FACILITY AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Interns are provided with a work space and secure networked computers necessary for patient care and administrative responsibilities. They have access to the VA online databases such as PsychInfo and PubMed as well as VA Intranet and Internet resources for clinical work. Interns will also have access to a wide range of psychological assessments.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The VA El Paso Healthcare System's policy on Authorized Leave is consistent with the national standard. You are welcome to discuss this with the Director of Training.

Privacy policy: We collect no personal information from you when you visit our web site.

Self-Disclosure: We do not require interns to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting an intern's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties.

Due Process: All trainees are afforded the right to due process in matters of problematic behavior and grievances. Due process procedures and policies are reviewed during orientation and are described below.

REMEDIATION PROCEDURES
The purpose of this section is to define problematic intern behavior and outline the process for responding to and correcting deficient performance and/or problematic behavior exhibited by psychology interns in the predoctoral psychology internship program.

**Definition of Problematic Behavior:** Potential problems with intern behavior broadly fall into domains of professional performance and personal management.

a. **Professional performance** includes having an acceptable level of competency and skills, attitudes and ethical behaviors for psychologists. Problems in performance may include one or more of the following:

   1) The problem is not merely a reflection of a skill deficit that can be rectified by further academic/didactic training.
   2) The quality of services delivered by the trainee is seriously, negatively affected.
   3) The trainee does not acknowledge, understand or address the problem once it has been identified.
   4) The problem is not restricted to one area of professional functioning.
   5) A disproportionate amount of attention is required by training personnel in an attempt to address the problematic behavior(s).
   6) The trainee’s behavior does not change as a function of feedback, remediation, efforts and/or time.

b. **Personal Management** includes the intern’s conduct as a VA employee, ability to manage personal stressors or psychological dysfunctions that may interfere with professional functioning. Problems in personal management may include the following:

   1) Failure to faithfully fulfill the duties of their job description. Duties include, but are not limited to, the intern’s responsibility to faithfully fulfill the duties of their job description, to be at work during scheduled tour of duty unless properly excused on leave, to avoid conflicts of interest, to protect and conserve government property, to avoid use of intoxicating substances that may impair duties, and to follow drug free workplace policies. Psychology Interns are appointed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 7405(a)(1)(A) and may be terminated at any time without review.
   2) Inability and/or unwillingness to manage personal stress, strong emotional reactions, psychological dysfunction that interferes with performance or professionally appropriate relationships with supervisors, peers and other facility staff members.
3) The problematic behavior negatively affects the intern class.
4) The problematic behavior has potential to negatively affect the public's view of the VA or has ethical or legal ramifications if not addressed.

**Procedures for Remediation:** Remediation is the process used to address and bring an intern's proficiency to a level that would meet expectations for an average entry-level position in professional psychology by the end of the internship. The level of remediation initiated will be commensurate with the seriousness of the behavior of concern. It is a supervisor’s duty to identify substandard clinical functioning and provide a timely response in accordance with the steps outlined below.

1) **Verbal Warning**—We believe that most problems are best resolved through face-to-face interaction between intern and supervisor as part of an ongoing working relationship. Supervisor and intern discuss concerns, expectations and potential ways to address the matter; no written record of this action is kept.

2) **Informal Mediation**—Supervisor or intern may speak with Director of Training about concerns unable to be resolved in supervision. Director of Training may serve as mediator or help select a mediator agreeable to both parties. Mediation may result in adjustments to learning environment, rotation, or tasks to better promote learning.

3) **Written Warning**—If a problem is observed and informal mediation has not resolved the issue, a written warning by Director of Training in conjunction with the intern’s primary supervisor will be composed. Director of Training at the internship site will forward to both the intern and the intern’s Director of Clinical Training at the intern’s academic program. This letter will be included in the intern’s file and will contain:
   i. Description of the problem and expected corrections
   ii. Actions needed for correction by the intern. Possible actions may involve increase or change of supervisory focus, recommending personal therapy, reducing the intern’s workload, changes to assignments to reduce stress, requiring specific academic coursework or the like
   iii. How the training facility will assist the intern in correcting the problem
   iv. A timeline of expected improvement
   v. What action(s) will be taken if improvements are not made. If improvements are made as a result of this process, they will be noted in the file along with the original Written Warning.
4) Formation of a Remediation Committee—If the Written Warning has not resolved the issue, a committee will be formed comprised of the intern, all supervisors involved with the intern’s work, the Director of Training, and depending on the nature of the problem being addressed, the Chief of Behavioral Health Service. The actions in the previous step will be reviewed (#3), changes may be recommended. [Note that not every situation will require remediation (Section I, b.1).] Documentation of the remediation plan will be mailed/submitted to both the intern and Director of Clinical Training at the intern’s academic program. Outcomes from this committee may involve any of the following:
   i. Probation
   ii. Suspension of Direct Service Activities
   iii. Administrative Leave
   iv. Dismissal from the Internship

GRIEVANCE/DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

Informal Mediation: The discussion of concerns begins in supervision, between intern and supervisor, and may expand to include the Director of Training as part of the consultative process. We view this as part of a mentoring process, professional development, and making use of supervision to improve professional practice. This is not included in the intern’s file.

a. Intern brings concern to their supervisor whenever identified and as part of the expected process for addressing professional complaints or concerns.
   1) Supervisor and intern may agree to recommended changes to the learning environment or behaviors to resolve the concern.

b. Intern brings concern to the Director of Training if the matter has not found satisfactory resolution with the primary supervisor on a rotation, or if the intern feels in any way unsafe to directly address a matter with the rotation supervisor, s/he may present a concern to the Director of Training.
**Formal Grievances**: If resolution of a concern is not reached by informal mediation and/or if the matter to be addressed is more significant than informal mediation is designed to resolve, the Director of Training will determine if formal procedures are required. Intern’s academic program will be informed and included in process steps.

a. **Written Response**—Intern will submit written grievance to Director of Training [See Appendix “Intern Grievance Template”]. Intern grievances may include challenging a performance rating, complaint against clinical faculty or other staff, or challenging a program policy or procedure.

   1) Formal grievances by interns will begin with notification to the Director of Training in writing. If the grievance is against the Director of Training, the intern can file the grievance with the Chief of Behavioral Health Service. The written grievance will include the following:
      i. The grievance and the date the incident(s) occurred
      ii. Suggestion of ways to resolve the problem
      iii. Information regarding any previous meetings to attempt to resolve the problem
   2) A response to the intern’s grievance will be made within 5 business days by the Director of Training or Chief of Behavioral Health Service. The response will include written recommendations for resolving the issue(s).

b. **Review Panel**—If the intern wishes to appeal written recommendations the matter will go to a final Review Committee comprised of the internship training committee and Chief of Behavioral Health Service.

   1) Interns may present their grievance directly to the Review Panel. The intern may invite a staff member of his/her choice to provide advocacy and emotional support.
   2) The body to hear the formal grievance will be assembled as soon as possible and in all cases within three weeks from the presentation of the formal grievance. If the grievance is against the Director of Training or another individual normally assigned to this body, that individual is not involved in the body’s deliberation and may only attend to provide testimony, as indicated.
   3) The Review Panel may involve the Director of Clinical Training from the intern’s academic program.
   4) Any formal grievance and its resolution will be documented and copies forwarded to the Director of Clinical Training from the intern’s academic program.
5) Recommendations by the Review Committee will constitute a final decision by the internship training program to address and resolve the intern’s concern(s).

TRAINING STAFF

AUGUSTUS, Andreana T.
Present VA Position: C&P Psychologist, Special Exams Unit (SEU)
Area of Specialization: Forensic Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., University of Denver, 2013
E-mail address: Andreana.Augustus@va.gov
Licensure: Texas
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral
Clinical/Research Interests: Forensic Psychology, Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations, Competency Restoration Procedures, Malingering Evaluations, Violence Risk/Threat Assessment, Acute Psychiatric Treatment
EBTs Supervised: N/A
Intern Training Rotation: SEU (C&P); Assessment
Brief Bio: Dr. Augustus is a C&P Psychologist at SEU. She is also a Texas Licensed Forensic Examiner. Before joining El Paso VA, Dr. Augustus was Chief Psychologist at North Texas State Hospital’s (NTSH) acute adult psychiatric/forensic admission unit. The unit served patients committed on Emergency Detention Order, Temporary Commitment, and pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 46B – Incompetency to Stand Trial. Prior to that, Dr. Augustus also served as Chief Psychologist at NTSH’s extended care unit. Dr. Augustus completed her post-doctoral fellowship at NTSH in clinical & forensic psychology, and pre-doctoral internship at Northeastern Oklahoma Psychology Internship Program (NOPIP) – Laureate Psychiatric Clinic & Hospital in acute inpatient psychology.

CAMPOS, Emilia A.
Present VA Position: Supervisory Psychologist, GMH; Director of Training, Psychology
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology- Trauma; Substance Use Disorders
Degree: Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2009
E-mail address: Emilia.Campos@va.gov
Licensure: California
Board Certification: ABPP- Clinical
Theoretical Orientation: Interpersonal; Cognitive-Behavioral
Clinical/Research Interests: Trauma/PTSD; Multicultural Competence in Counseling; Training & Competency in Clinical Supervision
EBTs Supervised:
- Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET)
**Intern Training Rotation:** General Mental Health

**Brief Bio:** Dr. Campos is the Supervisory Psychologist for the General Mental Health team and the Director of Training for the Psychology Internship Program at El Paso VA. She specializes in the treatment of trauma and substance use disorders. Dr. Campos is a VA National Consultant and Trainer for MI/MET. Prior to her current position with the El Paso VA Healthcare System, she served as a primary supervisor for postdoctoral fellows, pre-doctoral interns, and practicum students at the VA North Texas Medical Center. She also held a faculty appointment at UT Southwestern Medical Center as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and was actively involved in the training of medical students and psychiatry residents.

**CARMON, Richard**

**Present VA Position:** Staff Psychologist, GMH

**Area of Specialization:** Clinical Psychology- Mood Disorders

**Degree:** Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 2001

**E-mail address:** Richard.Carson2@va.gov

**Licensure:** Alabama

**Theoretical Orientation:** Cognitive-Behavioral

**Clinical/Research Interests:** Mood & Anxiety Disorders

**EBTs Supervised:**
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D)

**Intern Training Rotation:** General Mental Health

**Brief Bio:** Dr. Carson is a Staff Psychologist for the General Mental Health team at El Paso VA. He specializes in the treatment of mood and anxiety disorders. Prior to his current position with the El Paso VA Healthcare System, he completed a Post-Doctoral fellowship at the Stress and Anxiety Disorders clinic of the University of Illinois at Chicago. While there he underwent specialized training for treatment of anxiety disorders based on the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy model. His duties also include serving as instructor for psychiatry residents and supervisory for pre-doctoral interns. Prior to his fellowship he held a faculty appointment at Fisk University as an Assistant Professor of Psychology and served as faculty advisor for undergraduate psychology students and point of contact for university’s chapter of Psi Chi, the national psychological honor society.

**ERWIN, Kyle M.**

**Present VA Position:** Staff Psychologist, GMH

**Area of Specialization:** Counseling Psychology- Trauma; Substance Use Disorders

**Degree:** Ph.D., Texas Woman’s University, 2015

**E-mail address:** Kyle.Erwin@va.gov

**Licensure:** New Mexico

**Theoretical Orientation:** Experiential; Interpersonal; Cognitive-Behavioral

**Clinical/Research Interests:** Psychotherapy Expertise; LGBTQ Issues; Positive Psychology; Couples Psychotherapy

**EBTs Supervised:**
- Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)
Intern Training Rotation: General Mental Health

Brief Bio: Dr. Erwin is a Staff Psychologist for the General Mental Health team at the El Paso VA. He specializes in the treatment of trauma, substance use disorders, couples, and LGBTQ issues. Prior to his current position with the El Paso VA Healthcare System, he served as a supervisor for third year psychiatric residents, pre-doctoral interns, and practicum students at Lexington and Albuquerque VA. He also held a faculty appointment at Texas Woman’s University where he taught cultural competency to undergraduate social work majors.

MARTINEZ, Sandra

Present VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Home-Based Primary Care
Area of specialization: Clinical Psychology,
Degree: Ph.D., New Mexico State University, 2006
E-mail address: Sandra.Martinez@va.gov
Licensure: New Mexico, California
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral
Clinical/Research Interests: Geropsychology; Multicultural Competence
EBTs Supervised:
- Cognitive-Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D)
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain Management (CBT-CP)
- Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy
- Integrated Behavioral Couples Therapy (IBCT)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)

Intern Training Rotation: Home-Based Primary Care

Brief Bio: Dr. Martinez has been at El Paso VA Health Care Service since 2009 serving in different positions, including staff psychologist in Mental Health; team lead and supervisor for the General Mental Health Team; and Evidenced-Based Coordinator. Currently, Dr. Martinez works as a Staff Psychologist for the Home–Based Primary Care Program. Additionally, Dr. Martinez is completing a Master’s Degree for prescriptive privileges in New Mexico. Prior to arriving to El Paso, Dr. Martinez worked at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in the Home-Based Primary Care Program. While in that position, Dr. Martinez supervised doctoral interns and served as champion for multicultural competency training.

MENZIES, Mark

Present VA Position: Staff Psychologist, GMH; EBP Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Psy.D., James Madison University, 2013
E-mail address: Mark.Menzies28@va.gov
Licensure: New Mexico
Theoretical Orientation: Interpersonal; Cognitive-Behavioral
Clinical/Research Interests: Trauma recovery, personality development, anxiety and depression, integrative psychotherapy, provider self-care, spirituality and religious issues.
EBTs Supervised:
• Cognitive-Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT)
• Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

**Intern Training Rotation:** General Mental Health & Telemental Health

**Brief Bio:** Dr. Menzies works as a clinical psychologist providing individual, group and couple’s therapy for a range of conditions. Dr. Menzies serves as the Local EBP Coordinator, a role that supports education and use of evidence-based psychotherapy in the VA. He completed his internship with the Cincinnati VAMC, helping veterans with homeless, substance abuse and trauma issues. Prior to his work with veterans, Dr. Menzies worked with children, teens and families in the child welfare system. He has experience working with individuals across the lifespan, and is trained in dynamically informed and cognitive-behavioral approaches to therapy.

**NESBIT-VELTRI, Donna A.**

**Present VA Position:** Supervisory Psychologist, Special Exams Unit

**Area of Specialization:** Clinical Psychology

**Degree:** Ph.D., Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1990

**E-mail address:** Donna.Nesbit-Veltri@va.gov

**Licensure:** Arizona, New York (inactive)

**Theoretical Orientation:** Cognitive-Behavioral

**Clinical/Research Interests:** Police and criminal psychology, forensic psychology, threat assessment, workplace violence prevention

**EBTs Supervised:** N/A

**Intern Training Rotation:** Special Exams Unit (C&P Evaluation)

**Brief Bio:** Dr. Nesbit-Veltri, Ph.D. is the Supervisory Psychologist for the Special Exams Unit. She supervises psychologists in providing a wide range of disability evaluations, including evaluations of veterans and active duty military for claimed conditions of PTSD, mental disorders, and military sexual trauma. She carries her own caseload of disability evaluations as well as performing occupational evaluations. She has extensive experience in the assessment of suicide risk and crisis intervention, as well as threat assessment, and worked in correctional settings for 20 years prior to employment with the VA healthcare system. She is an Adjunct Instructor for the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas-El Paso.

**OBERLE, Deanna M.**

**Present VA Position:** C&P Psychologist, Special Exams Unit

**Area of Specialization:** Clinical Psychology – Forensic Assessment

**Degree:** Psy.D., Florida School of Professional Psychology, 2015

**E-mail address:** Deanna.Oberle@va.gov

**Licensure:** Florida

**Theoretical Orientation:** Interpersonal; Cognitive-Behavioral

**Clinical/Research Interests:** Forensic Psychology; Violence Risk Assessment; Severe Mental Illness

**EBTs Supervised:** N/A

**Intern Training Rotation:** C&P (SEU); Assessment

**Brief Bio:** Dr. Oberle is a staff C&P psychologist for the Special Exams Unit at El Paso VA. She specializes in providing comprehensive mental health disability evaluations to
veterans and service members referred by the Veterans Benefits Administration. Prior to her current position with the El Paso VA Healthcare System, she worked as a licensed psychologist at a private practice, where she provided psychological and forensic assessment services to a diverse client population including children, adolescents, and adults. In August 2016, Dr. Oberle completed a forensic post-doctoral residency at Northeast Florida State Hospital, where she served as a forensic evaluator and as the primary assessment minor rotation supervisor to pre-doctoral interns.

ROCHO, Courtney A.
Present VA Position: Supervisory Psychologist, MTTP/MHICM
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology-Forensics
Degree: Psy.D., Illinois School of Professional Psychology, 2010
E-mail address: Courtney.Rocho@va.gov
Licensure: Arkansas
Theoretical Orientation: Psychodynamic
Clinical/Research Interests: Paternal Filicide; Group Theory; Assessment; Group relations/ I & O Psychology; Supervision, Training & Competence
EBTs Supervised: N/A
Intern Training Rotation: Military Trauma Treatment Program (MTTP) & Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)
Brief Bio: Dr. Rocho is the Supervisory Psychologist for the Military Trauma Treatment Program (MTTP) and conducts psychotherapy, psychological assessment, and Traumatic Brain Injury specialized care within MTTP. Dr. Rocho is a clinical psychologist with specialized fellowship training in forensic psychology. Prior to beginning her career serving Veterans at the EPVAHCS, Dr. Rocho served as an Expert Witness for the State of Arkansas for fitness to proceed and criminal insanity cases. As a previous faculty member at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences/Arkansas State Hospital, Dr. Rocho trained post-doctoral fellows, pre-doctoral interns, and psychiatry residents.

SANK, Victoria E.
Present VA Position: Staff Psychologist, GMH Telemental Health
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Psy.D., Florida Institute of Technology, 2015
E-mail address: Victoria.Sank@va.gov
Licensure: New Mexico
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral; Behavioral
Clinical/Research Interests: Integrated Behavioral Health Care/Health Psychology and the impact of chronic medical illness on psychological well-being; Trauma/PTSD
EBTs Supervised:
• Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression (IPT-D)
Intern Training Rotation: Telemental Health
Brief Bio: Dr. Sank is a staff psychologist with the General Mental Health team via Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) services. She supervises the Telehealth minor rotation. Dr. Sank completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Oklahoma Health Consortium, gaining advanced training with the physical and psychological needs of individuals with
diabetes and endocrine disorders. She has gained extensive training in integrated behavioral health care, providing clinical services to individuals across the lifespan in various health care settings (primary care, specialty medical clinics, and inpatient medical facilities). Dr. Sank engages in psychotherapy with a patient-centered/whole-person care approach emphasizing the promotion of self-management as a key goal in therapy.

WAZLAVEK, Bernard E.
Present VA Position: Staff Psychologist, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology
Degree: Ph.D., Utah State University, 1989
E-mail address: Bernard.Wazlavek@va.gov
Licensure: New Mexico, Wisconsin
Theoretical Orientation: Psychodynamic
Clinical/Research Interests: Combat Trauma/PTSD; Forensics, Psychopharmacology, Executive Assessment and Development
EBTs Supervised:
- Cognitive-Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT)
Intern Training Rotation: Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention
Brief Bio: Dr. Wazlavek recently accepted the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator at El Paso VA after spending ten years working for the Army as a civilian psychologist. Prior to working the Army Dr. Wazlavek spent most of his career in private outpatient practice and then working with an international firm of psychologists providing management and organizational consulting services to Fortune 500 companies.

TRAINEES
Graduate programs of our current trainees:

2017-2018
Biola University
Fielding Graduate University

LOCAL INFORMATION

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