



Child & Family Mental Health
PROVIDING HELP AND HOPE SINCE 1946

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Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow Training Program
2025-2026 Training Year
Joint Consultation Liaison/Outpatient Track

ABOUT THE AGENCY AND SETTING

The Guidance Center has been providing quality mental health services since 1946. Formerly known as The Greater Long Beach Child Guidance Center, the agency was founded by a group of local, public school teachers and counselors who were concerned about the mental health needs of children with behavior and learning problems in school. A relatively small clinic for many years, the agency became affiliated with the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's and Women's Hospital and moved its offices to the grounds of the Medical Center.

During the past 15 years, the agency enjoyed considerable growth and increased the number of programs, clients served and community-based locations significantly. Between 1995 and 2001, The Guidance Center grew from a relatively small clinic in Long Beach with a satellite office in San Pedro, to a major community mental health service provider employing more than 150 mental health professionals, support staff, administrators, and interns. Today, the Center provides services to children and families at three sites within Long Beach and its surrounding communities. In addition to a large outpatient center in Downtown Long Beach, the Center has operated a satellite clinic in San Pedro since 1977, and a model interagency "System of Care" program in Compton since 1998. The Center also has provided outpatient services in Avalon, on Catalina Island, since 2001.

The Guidance Center is a major contract agency, providing specialty mental health services for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and also works closely with the Long Beach and Paramount Unified School District (providing on-campus mental health services at over 40 schools), and the County Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation. System-wide, clinicians and trainees provide thousands of hours of clinical assessment and treatment services monthly, including diagnosis, crisis intervention, individual, collateral, group, and family psychotherapy, individual and group rehabilitation services, case management, in-home and school-based services, intensive service programs for children and adolescents, psychiatric evaluation and medication services, outpatient substance abuse treatment, and psychological testing. Clients include children from 0 to 24 years and/or parents/caretakers, who are from a broad spectrum of lower and middle-income households, with cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, behavioral, school, and family problems. In terms of ethnicity, TGC clientele are approximately 63% Hispanic, 10% Black, 5% White, 1% Asian and 21% Other. The Guidance Center has a 70-year history of providing full scope mental health services to the most disadvantaged families within the greater Long Beach area.

Approximately 34% of our budget is dedicated to prevention and early intervention services through the State of California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and requires utilizing of evidence-based practice and proven outcomes within our clinic. We have several county funding sources that allow us to provide different levels of specialty mental health services (outpatient care, Field Capable

Clinical Services, Full-Service Partnership) to disadvantaged families. We also receive additional funding through the Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) to provide contracted services with the school district to students whose mental health disorder prevents them from benefitting fully from academics. Additionally, we have funds allotted to provide treatment for unaccompanied minors from Honduras and Guatemala, intervention to parents with children whose mental illness prevents them from working (CalWORKs program), and funds to prevent children and adolescents from being removed from their biological families (Family Preservation program). Together, we offer a wide range of services to disadvantaged families which allows fellows to develop their competencies in diverse settings and with diverse youth.

Multidisciplined clinical staff and trainees work closely with parents, school personnel, allied agencies, and other resources to address each child's difficulties in a professional and coordinated manner. All staff clinicians are state licensed, or otherwise qualified mental health professionals, in one of California's major mental health disciplines. Moreover, The Guidance Center has a robust training department. In addition to doctoral psychology fellowship training, TGC has a well-respected APA-Accredited psychology internship training program, and serves as a training site for doctoral psychology practicum students and MFT/MSW trainees from local programs. The agency is licensed by the State Department of Health Services as a Psychology Clinic.

Miller Women's and Children's Hospital is a not-for-profit, pediatric teaching hospital that treats more than 8,000 children each year and has become a regional pediatric destination for more than 84,000 children, who need specialized care in outpatient specialty and satellite centers. The hospital opened in 1970, with many innovative patient and family centered care features, such as patient rooms to accommodate a parent's overnight stay. Miller Children's opened with 65 active pediatric physicians and surgeons along with services such as an expanded Neonatal Intensive Care Program (NICU), cleft palate program, allergy, ear, nose and throat, endocrine, urology and general surgery. In the United States, there are less than 70 free-standing children's hospitals, including Miller Children's, that provide teaching, research and comprehensive pediatric care. Miller Children's is recognized as one of the eight free-standing children's hospitals in California and incorporates patient and family centered care.

More than 750 pediatric specialists and sub-specialists, as well as nearly 100 OB/GYNs, including 10 high-risk pregnancy specialists (maternal-fetal specialists), ensure that the highest quality, compassionate care is given to each patient and their family. The hospital has seven major inpatient care centers within the hospital and comprehensive outpatient specialty centers that feature more than 40 sub-specialties; and include 16 California Children Services (CCS) approved center of care clinics. These Centers provide specialized care for children with chronic conditions, such as asthma, irritable bowel disease, congenital heart defects, diabetes, autism, cancer and serious blood disorders.

ABOUT LONG BEACH, CA

Located on the coast about 25 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach is the fourth largest city in California, with a population of 444,095 people (2024 census). The City of Long Beach is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the United States, offering all the world-class amenities of a large metropolitan city while maintaining a strong sense of community and neighborhood pride. Long Beach is home to the Queen Mary, Aquarium of the Pacific, several museums and theaters, Long Beach Airport, an award-winning school district and recreation programs, its own Health Department, miles of beaches and bike paths, five golf courses, five hospitals and two historic ranchos. In 2012, the City of Long Beach was designated a Silver-Level Walk Friendly Community for walkability initiatives and programs.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

BACKGROUND. The Guidance Center/Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital offers a one-year postdoctoral fellowship designed to train practitioner-scholars in Pediatric/Clinical Child Psychology. The postdoctoral fellow will provide pediatric psychology services through The Guidance Center’s, The Whole Child (TWC) program. TWC is dedicated to improving the psychological, behavioral, emotional, and social well-being of children, adolescents and young adults with chronic health conditions, medical complexity, and special health care needs. As a specialized program within a Department of Mental Health-funded community mental health center, TWC has a specific emphasis on applying community psychology values (e.g. empowerment, social justice, interdisciplinary partnerships) to the treatment of pediatric patients. These values are emphasized in every aspect of the program. As such, the fellowship program is, in part, designed to build advanced competency in adapting the community mental health model to provide care for underserved youth with complex healthcare needs in the hospital setting.

TWC specializes in assessing and treating the unique emotional and behavioral needs of children and adolescents who are receiving medical treatment for one or more health conditions. In particular, TWC has a focus on recognizing the strengths of youth aged 6-24 and their families; and helps families build upon those strengths to foster improved adjustment and adaptive coping with their specialized health care needs.

The full-time, one-year fellowship offers consultation/liaison training including mental health assessments, intervention and treatment recommendations for underserved youth experiencing a medical event. Postdoctoral fellows liaise with physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, chaplains and child life specialists to address the emotional, social and cognitive impact of illness and injury. In keeping with community psychology values, postdoctoral fellows offer comprehensive treatment aimed at helping patients overcome treatment barriers including field-based and telehealth services. The postdoctoral fellow also provides outpatient therapy services for TWC cases that are typically referred directly from Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital. Presenting problems range from adjustment to illness and barriers with treatment adherence, to chronic pain and disordered eating.

POSITIONS. For the 2025-2026 training year, we will accept one fellow for the Inpatient Consultation and Liaison/Outpatient Therapy Fellowship, which is a partnership between Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital and The Guidance Center. (We will also accept one fellow for the Subspecialty Pediatric Fellowship. Please see our additional posting for details about this training.)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES. Consistent with the agency’s mission, the doctoral psychology fellowship program’s aim is train practitioner-scholars in the advanced application of a community mental health model of care for youth experiencing acute and chronic medical conditions.

Developed based on the work of the Society for Pediatric Psychology Competency Benchmarks Task Force, the following are the program’s expected areas of competence:

1. **Knowledge:** To ensure that fellows have crosscutting knowledge of clinical child psychology and pediatric psychology
2. **Science:** To ensure that fellows utilize scientific evidence and literature to inform practice
3. **Professionalism/Interpersonal Effectiveness:** To ensure that fellows are able to represent psychology in the most appropriate manner
4. **Application of Knowledge:** To ensure that fellows are able to independently apply knowledge

and theory to diverse patients and presenting problems

5. **Supervision:** To graduate fellows who demonstrate a working knowledge of the theories and methods of supervision and ability to provide supervision to develop supervisees

Staff members at all levels of the Center are accustomed to treating fellows as colleagues; they are given responsibilities and opportunities commensurate with their advanced level of education, training, and skill development. Because advanced clinical training in human services involves issues of quality assurance, supervision and training involves ongoing evaluation of the fellow's performance while at the same time providing the freedom, support, and responsibility to grow professionally. Professional development includes integrating the science and practice of psychology, acquiring and demonstrating a broad range of clinical competencies, and transitioning from a student to professional self-awareness.

Fellows are included in all The Guidance Center activities and their input, feedback, and suggestions are responded to and incorporated during program evolution, evaluation, changes, and refinement. Because fellows grow and develop through the supervised experience of working with "real life" problems, situations, and families, their services are appropriately billable and result in some revenue generation for the Center.

CORE TRAINING ELEMENTS.

1. **Supervised clinical experience in all aspects of specialty mental health with children, adolescents, parents, and families.** These services include: intakes and assessment; clinical case management; a range of psychotherapeutic interventions and modalities, including implementation of evidence-based interventions; clinical case consultation with other treatment staff, schools, and allied agencies; crisis intervention; and termination planning and discharge. Services are provided in the office, client's homes, schools, parks, medical clinics, and via telehealth following agency COVID-19 guidelines.

As a community mental health center, providing field-based therapy by meeting clients in settings that are familiar and safe for them (i.e., parks, homes, clinics) is a necessary component of successful treatment for families who may otherwise not access services due to financial barriers. Training in the complexities of specialty mental health allow our fellows a unique perspective and the flexibility necessary for work in all types of integrated care settings. Fellows are expected to become well-versed in brief and long-term interventions that do not fit the traditional 50-minute session, rapid assessment utilizing screening tools (e.g., Patient Health Questionnaire-9, Youth Outcome Questionnaire, PedsQL) and semi-structured interviews (KSADS-PL).

Over the course of the training year, the fellow will deliver services with outpatient clients with whom there are opportunities for fellows to deliver individual, family, and group services in the office and field. As primary therapists responsible for all aspects of direct service delivery to approximately 8-10 ongoing therapy cases (12.5 billable hours per week; average of 45 hours per month) housed either in the TGC Intensive Services program or through TWC outpatient services at the hospital. Fellow caseloads are comprised of children, adolescents, and transitional aged youth who have both a chronic medical condition and one or more mental health conditions that impact one another. Cases are intended to be short to medium-term with most patients discharging (including within-agency transfer to a non-medical program) within 4-6 months.

2. **Consultation/Liaison Services.** In addition to carrying a 50% outpatient caseload of child

clients at The Guidance Center, the pediatric psychology fellow will also provide consultation/liaison services at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. The hospital provides specialized pediatric care for children and young adults, with medical conditions ranging from common to complex. The fellow will 1) participate in interdisciplinary rounds and care/family conferences, 2) provide consultation to interdisciplinary treatment teams serving inpatients, 3) assess harm to self or others and provide behavioral de-escalation of patients, family members, and/or staff as necessary, and 4) evaluate and provide brief, problem-focused treatment of childhood psychological disorders (i.e., adjustment disorder, anxiety, FNSD) and medical treatment adherence while the patient is hospitalized under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

3. **Advanced Consultee-Centered Consultation.** Fellows are expected to provide consultation with agency therapists and hospital staff to offer expertise in treatment planning and/or to determine if a client meets criteria for outpatient mental health services through the TWC program, where relevant. Disposition screenings are often hospital-based and may involve administering psychological measures and conducting brief clinical assessments.
4. **Supervision of practicum students.** As part of the training to become professional psychologists, fellows have the opportunity to supervise doctoral-level psychology practicum students in either a group or individual context, depending on needs for the training year. Psychology practicum students are obtaining experience in therapy (including with Whole Child Program clients) and psychological assessment. Supervision of supervision occurs every other week; and fellows receive formal formative and summative feedback twice per year.
5. **Interprofessional Consultation** to agency staff, hospital personnel, and other individuals within a client's treatment team/system. Fellows are expected to interact with the community at large and with specific allied agencies, other programs, and funding sources.
6. **Teaching.** Fellows are expected to provide at least 4 didactic seminars on relevant therapy and/or testing topics to the doctoral and master level practicum students over the course of the year. In addition, fellows are expected to provide a presentation at least twice per year to medical residents during the hospital noon conference.
7. **Research.** The postdoctoral fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to clinical research or quality improvement projects during the training year. Psychology training faculty are currently involved in research and evaluation projects aimed at improving youth and community outcomes.
6. **Exploration of individual and cultural diversity** through interprofessional consultation/professional development supervision and through case conceptualization. A unique component of the training department includes the exploration of individual values. All supervisors present their morality genograms at the beginning of the year in order to foster conversations regarding diversity and how they impact relationships. By the second or third month of the program, fellows and interns also present to supervisors their morality genograms depicting their core values and how those do or do not impact clinical work and supervision. The program also sponsors a Diversity Fishbowl discussion that fellows are expected to attend. The discussion focuses on one aspect of diversity each quarter and allows all staff to develop a better understanding of one another.

CLINICAL SUPERVISION. Each fellow will have one hour of supervision for every 10 hours worked (10%) each week during the course of the training year. At least two of those hours are individual, face-to-face supervision hours with a licensed psychologist. Fellows also receive 1 hour per week of supervision of supervision by a licensed psychologist and 1 hour per week of group supervision focused on interprofessional consultation and professional development. Bilingual fellows will have the opportunity to participate in Spanish language supervision.

SEMINARS & IN-SERVICE TRAINING. Several forms of didactic training are offered over the course of the training year. These didactic opportunities are as follows:

- 1) *In-service Training:* Clinical In-Service trainings are provided on a monthly basis for all outpatient clinical staff and fellows on topics related to the child therapy and intervention. Fellows are expected to make the decision regarding attendance based on their own professional growth needs.
- 2) *Hospital-based Trainings:* Throughout the training year, fellows are required to attend Grand Rounds at Miller Children’s Hospital, Pediatric Noon Conference, Family Medicine Noon Conference and/or various neuropsychological seminars, interdepartmental child abuse meetings, and topical conferences. Fellows are expected to attend a didactic training on each day they are at the hospital.
- 3) *Community-based Trainings:* Fellows are able to identify and attend community-based trainings, as relevant to the work conducted by the agency. Fellows may utilize their continuing education funds and time to attend such trainings or conferences. All conference attendance must be pre-approved by the Director of Training.

Additional meetings attended by fellows include:

- 1) *All-Staff Meetings,* held on a quarterly basis: These meetings provide opportunity for the fellows to interface with staff from all agency locations. Executive staff provide overviews of agency functioning from a larger state, federal, and local perspective, providing information regarding funding, law, and the impact on mental health service delivery.
- 2) *Integrated Care Team Meetings,* held on a monthly basis. These meetings allow for the team to communicate regarding any programmatic issues related to integrated care work and to do case consultation. Clinical staff outside of the TWC program who are carrying TWC cases also attend this conference in order to obtain clinical case consultation.

TYPICAL WORK WEEK AND EXPECTATIONS.

General weekly schedule (subject to change based on agency need):

Activity	Hours per week
Intake assessment, therapy, consultation @ TGC & hospital	20-25 hours
Total Clinical Activities	Approximately 20-25 hours per week
Individual/group clinical supervision	4 hours
Didactics, Grand Rounds, Family Medicine Lectures	2 hours
Team Meetings	0-1 hour
Documentation, Travel, Other	4 hours
Supervision of Practicum Students	1 hour
Provision of Didactic Seminar to Practicum Students	3 hours (includes preparation time)
Total Other	15.0 hours
Total time per week	40 hours

There is a large degree of flexibility for fellows to determine their own schedule and training plan. Fellows are considered to be salaried, exempt employees so may work more than 40 hours in the week in order to complete clinical care and documentation. On average, the work week is 40 hours.

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS. This weekly schedule is approximate and may change based on the needs of the clients and agency. Fellows are expected to spend a majority of their time in direct experiential activities. Fellows are expected to provide at least 12.5 hours of billable services per week, which is a productivity expectation. Fellows will not fail the training if the expectations are not met due to factors outside the fellows’ control. If other competency areas are defined as the reason for not accruing sufficient hours, then it is possible that the fellow will not successfully complete the program.

PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING COMMITTEE AND FELLOWSHIP CORE TRAINING STAFF

Amy Morse, Psy.D., ABPP Director of Training & Innovation, Supervision of Supervision
 Areas of Interest: Pediatric psychology, treatment adherence, healthcare worker resiliency, mental health access

Lisa Fasnacht-Hill, Ph.D. Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Supervisor/Consultant
 Areas of interest: Pediatric rehabilitation, traumatic brain injury, school re-integration, integrated care

Laura Gabriella Guajardo, Psy.D. Inpatient Psychology Supervisor, Primary Supervisor
 Areas of Interest: Consultation/liason, bilingual services, trauma-informed care, health access

Tatyana Lark, Psy.D. Outpatient Psychology Supervisor, Primary Supervisor
 Areas of interest: Pediatric psychology, bilingual services, mental health access

Stipend and other benefits:

Fellows are considered exempt employees and are provided all the benefits of that status

Annual stipend/salary for full-time fellows	\$65,480 Fellows who are fluently bilingual in Spanish and English (and pass a verbal test) will receive an additional \$5,000 annual stipend. *Salaries are not finalized until adoption of that year’s budget	Paid on the 7 th and 22 nd of every month
Program provides access to medical insurance for fellow	Yes, fellow is fully covered for medical, dental, and vision if the HMO plan is chosen.	The first day of the month following 30 days of employment.
Trainee contribution to cost required?	No, not for HMO plan. Fellow has the option to purchase a PPO plan for additional out of pocket cost.	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes, at cost to fellow.	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes, at cost to fellow.	
Coverage of domestic partner available?	Yes, at cost to fellow.	
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	120 hours per year	Accrued per pay period
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	64 hours per year	Accrued per pay period

Other Benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 40 hours per year for pre-approved continuing education 2. \$150 towards continuing education workshop reimbursement 3. Work related mileage reimbursement (\$0.53.5/mile) 4. Fellow contribution to 403b retirement plan 5. Employee Assistance Program 6. Employee Discounts through Fun Express 7. Work space 8. Personal laptops 9. One-way mirror therapy rooms 10. \$75 towards therapy supplies 11. Secretarial and record-keeping support 12. Internet access 13. Mobile phone for agency calls
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Training Dates:

The 2025-2026 training year will begin Monday, August 18, 2025 and end Friday, August 14, 2026. The training year consists of 52 weeks and provides approximately 2,000 supervised pre-doctoral hours towards licensure. Note: hours will be less if all holiday, sick and vacation time are taken during the year

APPLICATION PROCESS

Multicultural and bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply, as Los Angeles County and the greater Long Beach region are areas of great ethnic and cultural diversity; and TGC strives to recruit and retain diverse staff at all levels.

To apply, please submit the following application materials directly to Stephanie Castellanos, scastellanos@tgclb.org. Applications will be accepted until December 13, 2024 by 11:59pm PST. Candidate review and screening will take place until the position is filled.

- 1) A cover letter that specifies the unique reason(s) for applying to this particular fellowship program and how your previous experiences are a good fit for our program. Please tell us which aspects of the program or agency set us apart from other community mental health/pediatric psychology fellowship programs, and what specifically prompted you to apply to our program.
- 2) CV
- 3) Graduate Transcript
- 4) Letter from your DCT stating that you are expected to have your degree conferred by 8/18/2025 (Starting date of training year)
- 5) 3 Letters of recommendation from individuals who know your direct clinical skills and, if applicable, your supervisory and teaching skills. Letters of recommendation should be sent directly from your letter writers.

INTERVIEWS & SELECTION

Interviews will begin in December and continue until the position is filled. Interviews generally include an overview of the program in a group format, followed by a 90-minute individual interview with members of the training faculty. Applicants also will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the current fellows. All interviews will take place via zoom. Offers will be made following candidate interviews. Candidates offered a position will have 48 hours to respond to the offer by email.

Our program emphasizes a broad conceptualization of diversity and strongly encourages applicants with a desire to work with diverse, and in particular underserved, populations to apply. To the extent that applicants and fellows are comfortable, questions regarding values and how they may help or hinder work with underserved minority populations will be addressed in the interview and during the fellowship.

Please note: Due to agency insurance policies and DMV requirements, and because fellows are expected to deliver mental health services in the field (requiring driving), fellows who come to The Guidance Center must obtain a valid California driver's license prior to the start of the intern training year. Further, to ensure that safe driving is a priority, interns must maintain the following: a valid driver's license that is neither suspended nor expired; have no more than 3 minor driving violations and/or accidents combined within the last 3 years; no major driving violations within the last 5 years. Fellows must also have sufficient vehicle insurance coverage and pass a background/fingerprinting check. All employees (including fellows) must be vaccinated against Covid-19 in accordance with applicable law. TGC will evaluate requests for exemption in accordance with applicable law. Fellows must also pass the hospital required drug screening, physical exam and present immunization titers.