



TIES: Foster-Care, Adoption, Early Childhood Therapy and Psychological Evaluation

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Nature of Setting and Population Served

TIES for Families South Bay is a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health clinic located within a mile of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in an office setting. The population of children served includes children (0-18 years) with a history of Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) involvement, either currently or in recent past. Most children are in foster or adoptive placement and present with special needs, including prenatal substance exposure and histories of neglect or abuse. The program is affiliated with and based on the community-defined practice, UCLA TIES Transition Model (TTM), which promotes the successful adoption of foster children when return to their biological parents or a relative is not possible. Externs will gain experience in working with children within a system of care that includes DCFS, Regional Center, and schools. Externs learn about clinical issues related to trauma, attachment, foster care, and adoption as well as legal and systems issues related to children who are wards of the court. Additionally, externs will have opportunities in infant mental health (ages 0-5), and exposure to several evidenced-based practices through didactics and treatment.

Direct and Indirect Services

Psychotherapy: Trainees will have the opportunity to conduct individual, family, and group therapy interventions with children and their families. Caseloads at TIES-South Bay are generally between 3-5 clients per week (approximately 8 hours of direct client care). This includes a significant amount of family work, possibly school and home visits, and collaboration with various systems involved in children's lives. Trainees will also be exposed to (though not certified in) several evidenced-based practices, including: ADAPT, PCIT, CPP, TF-CBT, RPP, and FOCUS.

Psychological Testing and Integrated Report Writing*: Externs will have opportunity to administer, score, and write test reports for 1-2 standard batteries of psychological tests (cognitive, academic achievement, personality, social emotional, and neuropsychological screening) per year. Additionally, externs will have exposure to the Bayley Scales of Infant Development-III and possible opportunities to administer and score infant/toddler assessments.

**Ability to complete psychological evaluation batteries is dependent upon CDC and local public health guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TIES has had limited capacity to complete in-person assessments but will pursue as safety guidelines permit.*

Supervision and Training

Externs receive a minimum of two hours of supervision per week. Dr. Salas provides one hour of weekly individual face-to-face supervision, and TIES training staff provide one hour of weekly interdisciplinary group supervision. Trainees will have the opportunity to receive extensive didactic training in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (assessment, diagnosis, and treatment), Group Therapy, as well as Play Therapy Strategies. Externs will have opportunities to learn about several Evidenced-Based Practices, including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Child Parent Psychotherapy, Adoption-Specific Therapy, Reflective Parenting Program, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Families Overcoming Under Stress.

Required Days

Trainees are required to be on site* for 16 hours a week; however, time spent preparing and writing test reports will be additional (approximately 4 hours a week). All externs are required to attend practicum on Wednesday; the second required day will be either Monday, Tuesday or Thursday based on the TIES' need and student's availability.

**Ability for trainees to be onsite is dependent upon CDC and local public health guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Onsite access is based on approval from your respective learning institutions.*

Site location: 21031 S. Western Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501