

**TREASURE COAST FORENSIC
TREATMENT CENTER
(Forensic Psychiatric Center)**

PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP



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Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center

Overview

Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center (TCFTC) is a 175-bed forensic psychiatric hospital operated by GEOCare, Inc. Residents of TCFTC are adults who have been adjudicated by the court as Incompetent to Proceed to Trial (ITP) or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI).

Nearly all mental disorders are encountered at TCFTC, though the most frequent diagnoses include schizophrenia, mood disorders, substance abuse or dependence, and/or some type of malingering. TCFTC serves and is sensitive to a multicultural population.

A number of forensic and clinical services are provided by the professional staff to facilitate the residents return to court or to the community. Such services include psychological assessments and testing, functional assessments of behavior, various psychotherapeutic groups, rehabilitation programs, competency groups, individual competency sessions and individual therapeutic sessions when deemed appropriate, and competency evaluations. In addition, the department of forensic services is responsible for providing advisory reports to the court, as well as expert witness testimony.

Interns are responsible for completing Psychological Assessment Reports, Functional Assessments of Behavior, HCR-20 Risk Assessments, and Functional Assessment Rating Scales (FARS). They also participate in conducting clinical and forensic psychological tests including those used to assess for malingering. Furthermore, interns are trained to conduct both psychotherapeutic and competency groups as well as individual competency sessions. Interns may assist their supervising psychologist in assessing competency using the Competency Assessment Tool (CAT), as well as preparing other types of status reports to the court. Interns may also have the opportunity to go to court with their supervisor for Competency Hearings and Medication Court.

Philosophy

The pre-doctoral psychology internship program at TCFTC is designed to encourage each trainee to further develop his/her identity as a professional, in accordance with the intern's individual capabilities and personal style. Key aspects of training include: exposing interns to the diverse diagnostic and therapeutic demands of daily professional life and prompting interns to test their skills and reappraise their theoretical orientations in a supervised training environment, while participating as a vital member of the multidisciplinary recovery team.

The major focus of the internship is to enhance the intern's skills in brief psychotherapy and psychological and behavioral assessment, with special attention paid to forensic

considerations. Throughout the internship, the intern will be exposed to various theoretical orientations as they will have exposure to different supervisors.

Experience

The internship program is individually tailored to meet the intern's specific needs. The psychology staff offers a broad array of theoretical orientations. TCFTC is committed to program evaluation at various levels. Interns are encouraged to study and contribute to this process.

The full time pre-doctoral internship at TCFTC is one year, from October 1 to September 30 of the next year. The internship requires each intern to complete a minimum of 2000 hours during the year. At the end of the year, and upon successful completion of all internship requirements, each intern is awarded a certificate of completion.

Martin County and the South Florida Community

Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center is located in Indiantown, a rural community located approximately 19 miles from Stuart and 23 miles from Port St. Lucie, all of which are in Martin County. Although TCFTC is located in a rural area, there are many recreational activities available including fishing, hiking, kayaking and canoeing. The facility is approximately 20 miles from the beach. Most staff members commute to work from all over Martin and Palm Beach counties. South Florida, which includes Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, the Palm Beaches, and their respective suburbs, is a major metropolitan center of over 3 million people. South Florida offers a multitude of educational, cultural and recreational opportunities in an area well known for its superb climate.

Resident Population

The residents at TCFTC are committed by the criminal justice system as either incompetent to proceed to trial (ITP) or not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI). All 175 Residents are male. One unit is designated as a Multicultural Unit, one unit is designated as a Special Management Unit, and one unit is designated for Residents who have been found NGRI. The Residents are a diverse group of individuals, paralleling the population of South Florida (Caucasian, Hispanic, African American, Haitian, Caribbean, and, on occasion, immigrants from other countries).

Clinically, the majority of residents have serious mental illness, mostly schizophrenia and delusional disorders. However, other clinical conditions are also represented. Affective disorders are common, so are borderline disorders and other personality disorders. Issues of anti-social personality disorder, malingering, developmental disorders and neurological symptoms are frequent. Many residents suffer from substance abuse and are most commonly dually diagnosed. While every resident has criminal/legal involvement in her/his situation,

they mirror many conditions that are found in residential programs in the community and in psychiatric hospitals.

Supervision and Training

Each intern participates in two hours of individual supervision per week with a Psychologist. In addition to individual supervision, each intern participates in group supervision, staff seminars, and in-service training sessions. Each intern can expect to receive approximately 4-6 hours of supervision and training per week.

Interns may also participate in regularly held psychology and psychiatry case seminars as well as attend in-service training with outside consultants. From time to time, other agencies or professional groups sponsor workshops or seminars in the South Florida area. Interns are customarily granted time to attend such relevant training outside the facility.

Personnel Policies

The internship is considered a full-time position. It assumes a minimum of forty hours of service and supervision per week. Trainees are given time off all holidays observed by the holidays and also receive ten (10) personal days of leave during the year. A small stipend is available for those interns accepted to the program. The title used for trainees during their internship is Psychology Intern.

Application Procedure

Doctoral candidates in clinical and counseling psychology who have met all requirements required by their graduate are invited to apply. Prior training or experience in a forensic setting is not required. Applicants should have finished their practicum training but are eligible for admission to the internship before they complete their doctoral dissertation.

The complete application consists of the following information:

- 1) APPIC Internship Application Form
- 2) Current Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- 3) Official transcript(s) of all graduate education
- 4) Three letters of recommendation from psychologists, one of whom must be from the director of graduate training at the applicant's institution of higher learning
- 5) A cover letter briefly describing: professional goals, experience with particular client population(s), experience with specific treatment modalities and theoretical orientation

Personal interviews are preferred but not required for out-of-town applicants. Telephone interviews may be arranged. Applications should be postmarked by December 15 of the year prior to internship. Late applications will be considered under certain circumstances. There is no application fee. Applicants will be informed of internship decisions according to the

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guidelines of notification and acceptance of the Association of Post-doctoral and Psychology Internship Centers (APPIC). Application materials and other correspondence concerning the internship should be sent to:

Jennifer Vanderberg, Psy.D.
Director of Internship
Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center
96 SW Allapattah Road
Indiantown, Florida 34956

Telephone: (772) 597-9400
Fax: (772) 597-9498

Applicants must follow the APPIC internship matching procedures for application.

This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

Preliminary Requirements upon Acceptance

Upon acceptance to the internship, each intern is required to make arrangements through TCFTC for the following:

- 1) Fingerprint background check (on site)
- 2) Drug screen (on site)
- 3) Physical Examination (on site)
- 4) Provide proof of immunization for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
- 5) Provide results from a current PPD antigen test for tuberculosis (on site)

TCFTC provides the above-mentioned services during the week prior to the official internship start date. New interns must make arrangements with Human Resources at the beginning of August in order to satisfy these requirements.

Program of Training

Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center (TCFTC) is a forensic hospital operated by GEOCare, Inc. It is one of five such hospitals in the state of Florida. The Center provides treatment for 175 residents in eleven separate units.

The goals of internship training are:

- 1) To develop clinical skills for assessing and treating forensic residents
- 2) To develop skills in behavioral assessment and specialized treatment planning
- 3) To develop skills necessary in dealing with forensic cases

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- 4) To work with patients suffering from severe, persistent mental illness as well as co-occurring substance abuse disorders
- 5) To develop the ability to conceptualize a resident's conditions from various perspectives
- 6) To develop skills necessary in dealing with a multicultural population

The objectives of training include developing a knowledge base in clinical, behavioral and forensic psychology, treatment planning and teamwork in mental health, working in an institutional setting, and learning about the interface of psychology, the criminal/legal systems and community agencies.

Interns who select TCFTC as their internship site frequently have specialized tracks in forensic psychology in their graduate program.

The plan for the internship program is to prepare the interns to gain the skills that they need to function as an independent psychologist, while at the same time acquiring a basic understanding of the institutional and community systems for the delivery of services. The interns spend on average six (6) hours per week in didactic training that can include case conferences, seminars, group supervision, and psychiatric rounds.

Areas covered in the training are:

1. Forensic and clinical assessment
2. Competency restoration training
3. Clinical and forensic case presentation
4. Group therapy (DBT, Anger Treatment, Cognitive Therapy for Psychosis)
5. Individual therapy by referral
6. Working with the seriously mentally ill
7. Working as member of an interdisciplinary treatment team
8. Understanding of the public mental health sector
9. Writing psychological reports
10. Documentation and charting
11. Record review and data collection
12. Recovery planning
13. Behavioral observation
14. Functional behavioral assessment and specialized treatment planning
15. Understanding the relationship of mental health and the law
16. Understanding of the mental health systems in South Florida
17. Ethics and professional behavior.
18. Token Economy

At the beginning of the internship year each intern completes an assessment of his or her needs relevant to the learning opportunities at TCFTC. This assessment is repeated every three months. The intern's direct supervisor does a parallel evaluation each quarter, and the progress toward the intern's goals can be assessed (see attached questionnaires).

Training of interns at TCFTC involves two distinct phases:

The first phase includes two weeks of orientation. The first week involves a general orientation in which the interns learn about TCFTC. In addition, psychology interns learn about safety and health issues related to working in this environment. All TCFTC employees are required to attend orientation.

In the second part of the orientation process, the interns attend specialized psychological services training with the staff psychologists at which time the specifics of the intern's responsibilities are taught. At this time, the interns have an opportunity to meet with all psychology staff members.

The next phase of training has two major components:

1. Formal and informal training sessions, seminars and case presentations.

The psychology department provides monthly training on issues with direct bearing on issues relevant to forensic psychology. In addition, the interns meet for group supervision with the Director of Internship Training once a week. This supervision session is a general meeting that is used to discuss clinical and administrative issues brought up by the interns. It is often used as a tool for educational and the assessment of training needs.

Interns are also included in any formal training that is provided at TCFTC. Additionally various sponsors provide presentations and training on the most current psychopharmacological treatment of psychiatric disorders.

2. Direct clinical training by the intern's clinical supervisor. This supervision may involve in-vivo supervision, mentoring, and/or modeling.

In this phase the intern has the opportunity to learn skills for the delivery of services. The clinical supervisor directs the "hands on" clinical experience of the intern and meets with the intern for two hours per week for supervision. Moreover, each intern functions as a member of an inter-disciplinary treatment team, which provides the intern with an opportunity to broaden his/her knowledge within a setting rich with other mental health professionals. All services that are provided by the intern are monitored and his/her documentation co-signed by the supervisor.

As the intern gains more knowledge and ability in the delivery of services (as reflected on the assessments and evaluations), he/she is provided more independence. However, the intern's performance is always reviewed, and relevant documentation is co-signed by the direct clinical supervisor. At this stage the intern also begins a series of case presentations for which he/she is responsible.

Every three months the intern provides input on his/her training needs. The intern is also assessed formally by her/his clinical supervisor. The intern provides services in a primary site (unit), and the unit psychologist is her/his primary supervisor.

By midyear the intern begins a program of site visits including community programs and jail or court hearings in order to gain a better understanding of the interface between TCFTC and other institutions in the community that provide services to this resident population.

Training Staff and Supervision

The Department of Forensic Psychology and Program Services consists of two (5) doctoral level psychologists, and two (2) doctoral level psychology residents.

Each psychologist who supervises interns is responsible for between 48 and 64 residents. All psychologists work full time. The intern works directly with the supervising psychologist. Each intern receives at least two hours of direct formal supervision from the supervising psychologist. The supervising psychologist and the intern work with the same residents. The intern receives ongoing and immediate feedback on his/her work. The supervising psychologist is responsible for all the work that the intern produces and co-signs all intern documentation. The interns will also work closely with the Psychology Residents.

The interns meet with the Director of Internship once a week for one hour for group supervision. This supervision time is designed to review internship administrative issues and informal training sessions. This time can also be utilized for case presentation by the interns, and at times, for formal training on issues related to forensic psychology.

Performance Expectations of the Psychology Internship

Each intern at Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center is assigned to at least four units. His/her learning experience is under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist. The intern is assigned to be part of a recovery team and participate in the care and treatment of each assigned resident and will also be supervised under the direct supervision of a psychology resident (in addition to the weekly, two hours of supervision by a licensed psychologist).

Each intern will provide the Director of Internship and his/her direct clinical supervisor with the assessment of his/her learning needs and plans. This assessment will be performed quarterly, to evaluate the extent to which the intern thinks that the internship training meets her/his needs.

Each intern spends at least twenty (20) hours per week in direct face-to-face service delivery. Additionally, each intern is expected to provide:

1. A minimum of four (4) groups (therapy and competency) per week as a co-facilitator, and as experience is gained, as a primary facilitator of each group.

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2. No more than three (3) individual therapy cases at a time, as recommended by the Recovery Team but assigned by the supervisor.
3. Attend Recovery Team two days per week (average of 8 Residents per day)
4. Attend two (2) hours of individual supervision per week with a Psychologist.
5. Attend two (2) hours weekly group supervision with the Director of Internship.
6. Perform a minimum of two (2) full battery assessments during the course of the internship.
7. Write Psychological Assessment Reports (to include the HCR-20 and CAT), as directed and supervised.
8. Conduct functional assessments of behavior as assigned, using the FARS.
9. Complete case presentations on at least 4 residents.
10. Attend various required seminars and trainings as assigned.
11. Present on a multicultural topic of his/her choice at one of the seminars or trainings.
12. Choose, present and critique a research article with an experimental design during one of the seminars or trainings.
13. Write and revise Specialized Behavior Plans

Formal evaluations of the intern's performance are made two times a year. At each evaluation, the intern and her/his supervisor assess the intern's progress toward training goals. The evaluations are performed by the supervising psychologist and shared with the intern.

Due Process Procedure

It is the policy of the internship program and Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center to provide an environment that is conducive to learning, which helps interns to achieve their professional goals. To this end, this grievance and due process procedure has been instituted.

Interns will be informed of the training expectations and the due process procedure at the beginning of the internship. The procedure will be reviewed again with them and their supervisors at midyear.

Grievances

The Internship Program at Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center encourages interns and supervisors to try to work out disagreements, complaints and grievances with an informal discussion between interns and the supervisors.

In cases in which an intern is dissatisfied with his/her supervision or some conditions of the internship, he/she is invited to approach his/her supervisor with any grievance. The grievance can be presented verbally or in writing. If this initial review process does not resolve the situation, the intern should approach the Director of Internship to seek resolution.

If the intern feels that the Director of Internship has not been able to resolve the grievance, the intern then may request, in writing, that a committee involving the Corporate Director of Clinical Programs, the Director of Internship, the Medical Executive Director, your supervisor, the Director of Training of your graduate program, and HR may be formed to address the issue. The Committee will be created within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the written request. The decision of the Committee will be by vote, with a simple majority. This decision will be handed to the Director of Internship for follow up if the recommendations involve actions relevant to the supervising psychologist. This committee will be the highest level for the resolution of grievances.

However, if a grievance or a complaint involves violation of Equal Opportunity regulations and policies, or any claims of abuse, the Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center office of EEO will be notified.

Evaluation Process

At the start of the internship year, every intern fills out a form entitled, "Interns Skills Self-Assessment" (attachment 1). This form provides baseline information. The intern discusses his/her self-assessment with his/her supervisor, to determine his/her self-perceived knowledge base.

This self-assessment is completed after six months and at completion of internship. The supervisor also completes a parallel evaluation entitled, "Supervisor's Intern Assessment" (attachment 2). These two forms allow for a discussion of the intern's progress and for a comparison of the intern's self-perception and the supervisor's report. It gives an opening for discussion of the intern's progress.

If the intern's school has a specialized assessment that is required bi-annually, often the intern's school-required assessment will be used instead of the supervisor's assessment form.

A Final Note

This year will be full of new opportunities and challenges. Please keep your supervisors aware of your questions and concerns as they arise. In addition to your scheduled supervision

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sessions, internship supervisors are available on a daily basis for consultation, support, and advice as you develop your professional identity and clinical skills. Welcome to GEO Care, Inc. /TCFTC. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable year with you.

Attachment 1

INTERN SKILLS SELF-ASSESSMENT

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

DATE _____

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SKILL AND NEEDS FOR TRAINING

In the rating scale score 1 when the assessed skill is low and the need is high, 5 when the skills is high and the need is low 2, 3, 4 score will indicate intermediate levels of need

1	<p>Skill in individual therapy</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Very Low 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Marginal 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Adequate 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Good 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Very High 5</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments (what population, type of experience etc.)</p>	Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5		
2	<p>Skill in group therapy</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Very Low 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Marginal 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Adequate 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Good 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Very High 5</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments</p>	Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5		
3	<p>Assessment experience</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Very Low 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Marginal 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Adequate 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Good 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Very High 5</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments (what testing tools, how many done, etc.)</p>	Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5		

<p>4</p>	<p>Forensic assessment experience Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Competency groups Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Working with the severely mentally ill Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Working in a multidisciplinary recovery team Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Making case presentations Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Working in a public agency Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Writing clinical reports Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Documentation and charting Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Gathering clinical information from records Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Treatment planning Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>

<p>14</p>	<p>Behavioral observation and monitoring</p> <p>Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Behavioral planning</p> <p>Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Knowledge of the relationship between the mental health system and the law</p> <p>Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Knowledge of the mental health services in South Florida</p> <p>Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>

<p>18</p>	<p>The professional role of the psychologist in the public mental health system and legal/ethical issues associated</p> <p>Very Low Marginal Adequate Good Very High 1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Comments</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>List areas of training that are of primary interest to you</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>In what areas do you want to become more proficient during your internship?</p>

Attachment 2

SUPERVISOR'S INTERN ASSESSMENT						
DATE _____						
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST _____						
INTERN'S NAME _____						
EVALUATION PERIOD _____						
1	Number of hours of supervised experience					
2	Number of hours of group therapy per week					
3	Average number of individual therapy sessions per week					
4	Number of assessments done during this period					
5	Number of test batteries during this period					
6	Number of hours of individual supervision per week					
On a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) rate the performance of the above intern during this period						
1	Ability to conduct individual therapy					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
2	Ability to conduct group therapy					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
3	Ability to conduct a psychological assessment					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
4	Ability to conduct a forensic assessment					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
5	Ability to conduct competency groups					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	Working with the seriously mentally ill					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	Working as a team member					
	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	NA
	1	2	3	4	5	

8	Making case presentations	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
9	Working in a public agency	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
10	Writing clinical reports	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
11	Documentation and charting	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
12	Reviewing a collecting data from records	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
13	Treatment planning	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
14	Behavioral observations	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
15	Behavioral planning	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
16	Knowledge of mental health and the law	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
17	Knowledge of the mental health system in South Florida	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
18	Professional behavior	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
19	General Comments on questions 1-18						

20 General comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the individual and the improvements in skills since the start of the internship

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Intern's Signature: _____ Date: _____