



2325 Clement Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
www.alamedafs.org

December 2023

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Alameda Family Services. If you want to experience community-based work with diverse families from a strength-based and collaborative perspective, then this may be the agency and training experience for you. Attached you will find an overview of the organization, information about our training program, as well as the application and interview timelines.

Please note that the application deadline is February 23, 2024 11:59PM PST for practicum students. Email your applications with the subject line: BAPIC application and your name. If one or more of our programs interest you more than others, specify your preferences in your letter of introduction. Knowing what draws you to community and family-oriented approaches would also be helpful.

Again, thank you for considering Alameda Family Services for the 2024-2025 training year. If you want to learn more about our divisions and programs, please visit our website at www.alamedafs.org. If you have additional questions about the training program, email me at jwu@alamedafs.org. Our Training Program will host an Open House via Zoom in early February to answer questions you may have about the training program.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wu, Psy.D.
Division Director – Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division

THE AGENCY

Alameda Family Services (AFS) is a non-profit community agency serving Alameda and the East Bay since 1969. The components of AFS are 1) Early Childhood and Family Support Division, which includes: a) Early Head Start, reaching out to families with children 0 to 3 years of age via therapy, groups, and home visits; b) Head Start, which provides comprehensive services to preschool children and their families; c) Family Support Resource Center, which supports and empowers individuals, families, and seniors (50+) by assisting them with accessing resources in the community; 2) School-Based Services, which offers medical, therapy, and health educational services in the public high schools of Alameda as well as therapy in various elementary and middle schools; 3) Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division is comprised of the Clinical Training Program and counseling services. Behavioral Health Care Services trains therapists from a variety of clinical programs in the Bay Area and offers therapy to families, children, youth, and adults as well as crisis intervention and group work. Therapy is offered in the clinic as well as other community-based sites. Psychological assessment services are also offered through the Clinical Training Program. Other counseling staff provide therapy in schools, the home, and the community.

THE CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM within CLINIC AND COMMUNITY BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE DIVISION

Alameda Family Services provides training for practicum students, doctoral interns, and post-doctoral fellows through the Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division. The year begins with a week-long orientation, which includes time for practical matters, introductory didactic trainings, and a chance to become acquainted with one another. Ongoing didactic seminars are conducted by staff members as well as outside consultants throughout the year. Overall, trainings emphasize cultural and systemic issues relevant to the community we serve.

The clinical staff includes licensed psychologists, LMFT, LCSW, psychologist associates, MFT and MSW interns and associates, as well as other talented counselors and staff with various backgrounds and training. Supervisors are licensed psychologists and a LCSW who utilize traditional supervision meetings, reflecting teams / narrative case conferences, video recording, and group supervision (for doctoral interns, post-doctoral fellows, as well as trainees who provide assessment services) to support trainees. Supervisors and trainees are matched according to training requirements, schedules, and areas of interest. Some areas of interest of supervising staff are:

narrative therapy, trauma, family therapy, multicultural issues, parenting, psychological assessments, gender issues, working collaboratively with schools, adolescence, supporting new parents, parent-infant/child therapy, and social justice, among others.

Narrative training: The Clinical Training Program features an emphasis on narrative work. We begin the year with didactic and experiential training in narrative approaches, including some initial reflecting teams. Thereafter, the training cohort participates in weekly narrative groups and case conferences, taking turns bringing in clients for reflecting teams. Staff participate in the narrative groups by taking part on the reflecting teams, offering didactic trainings, and serving as consultants for clients.

Practicum Students, including doctoral-level, advanced Master's students, and post-Master's students, commit to 20 hours per week, with the possibility of up to 24 hours per week, including one to two evenings until 8pm. Practicum students also cover occasional weekend on-call hours. Those interested in pursuing assessment / psychological testing experience must have completed one year of assessment coursework and commit to 24 hours per week. Practicum students receive one hour of individual supervision and two hours of narrative case conference each week in addition to a staff meeting and didactic training. Those providing assessment / psychological testing services will receive an additional two hours of group supervision and didactic training. Practicum trainees carry a caseload of six to eight clients and facilitate one or two groups during the year.

Practicum placements begin in mid to late August and end in late June or early July. The 2024-2025 training year will *likely* run from August 28, 2024 through June 28, 2025. No stipends are available at this level of training.

SAMPLE DIDACTIC TOPICS

working with families
brief therapy
trauma-responsive telehealth with adolescents
documentation trainings / Medi-Cal paperwork
vicarious trauma
race-based trauma
risk assessments, suicide assessment and intervention
trauma-informed systems of care
adult protective services
working with substance use (adults as well as children and families)
working with young children
working with Black LGBTQ+ youth
working with LGBTQ+ parents
intimate partner violence
eating disorders and body image
cultural diversity
working with disabilities
couples therapy
Willow Rock site visit
peer consultation
narrative expressive arts therapy
telehealth art techniques
co-occurring disorders

grief and loss issues
mindfulness & meditation
as well as other various site visits and training topics

Doctoral Interns and Post-doctoral Fellows are required to provide one didactic training of their choice during the Spring. Practicum Students have the option to present on a topic of their choice if interested.

HOW THE CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM FITS INTO THE AGENCY

Through the Clinical Training Program of the Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division, trainees have opportunities to work in various programs at Alameda Family Services. Depending on interests, schedules, and the needs in the agency and community, trainees are able to choose amongst numerous types of clients and services.

The core of the training program is in the Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division, which offers brief therapy to clients residing in Alameda and neighboring cities. A large focus of the training is on supporting families. Partially funded by the Delinquency Prevention Network/Probation Department, the program supports children, youth and families to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system or to facilitate their transition out of the juvenile justice system. The program also provides crisis intervention and family reunification services with a focus on youth in temporary custody. Community outreach and engagement, parent and caregiver support services, as well as issue-based groups are also offered to families. Other opportunities include therapy with individual adults, adult families, couples, and families with younger children at our clinic site. There are also opportunities to run various groups based on needs in the community. Clients are able to use eligible Alameda County Medi-Cal or pay a fee based on a sliding scale. Due to our commitment of serving children and families, individual adults can only be seen during daytime appointments. Clients come from a wide variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Therapists within the Clinical Training Program spend the bulk of their time providing these services within the agency's community clinic. Therapists interested in providing psychological testing services also offer this service at our clinic site. Depending on interest, schedules, as well as agency and community needs, therapists also have the opportunity to be involved in some of the community-based services offered through the division. These opportunities include therapy provided at other community agencies as well as school-based work in private and charter schools located in Alameda. Additionally, outside the Division are other agency services and programs that one may have the opportunity to take part in:

School-Based Services: provides therapy at the public schools in the city of Alameda. There will be opportunities to provide individual and family therapy to youth referred by this Division.

Early Head Start: provides childcare and comprehensive services through center and home based programs to families with low income and who have children birth to three years of age. Trainees may have the opportunity to screen for postpartum depression and child development,

facilitate developmental play groups, and provide parent-infant and parent-child therapy services.

Head Start: refers children and their families for counseling services. Trainees may also work as mental health consultations to support teachers, family advocates, other Head Start staff as well as families. In addition, trainees observe students and provide milieu therapy in the Head Start classrooms. Trainees have also facilitated groups for children and caregivers connected to Head Start with various parenting groups as well as socialization groups for children.

THE APPLICATION for a Practicum Placement

Your practicum application is for the Clinical Training Program within the Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division.

To apply, please email applications with the Subject Line: BAPIC application and your name. Please include:

- Cover letter, including a brief description of your interest in community work with multicultural families and which of our programs and services appeal to you most.
- Current resume / curriculum vitae
- Two letters of recommendation

Please note that if you are interested in the assessment / psychological testing experience at Alameda Family Services, you must have completed a year of assessment coursework. A copy of a redacted assessment report will be requested at time of interview. You do not need to send it with the initial application.

For 2024, interviews will be held in group format and on Zoom.

Application timelines for 2024 follow the BAPIC calendar. For more information from BAPIC: www.bapic.info

Practicum Students:

Application due: *February 23, 2024 11:59PM PST*

Interviews: *February 26 – April 5, 2024*

Match and Notification Date: *April 19, 2024*

Email applications to:

Jennifer Wu, Psy.D.

Division Director – Clinic and Community Based Behavioral Health Care Division

jwu@alamedafs.org