

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
*Oklahoma City VA Health Care System*

# **OKLAHOMA CITY VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

## **DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY**

### **ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024**

**APPIC Program #: 2579 Match #: 257911**



## **Program Contact Information**

Bryan Stice, PhD  
Training Director & Assistant Chief, Psychology Service  
Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System  
[Bryan.Stice@va.gov](mailto:Bryan.Stice@va.gov)

## **Link to current version of internship brochure**

<https://www.va.gov/oklahoma-city-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/#learn-more-about-the-psycholog>

## **Link to program on APPIC directory**

<https://membership.appic.org/directory/display/3008>

## **About VA Oklahoma City Healthcare System**

[VA Oklahoma City Healthcare System](#) serves more than 66,000 Veterans in 48 counties in Oklahoma and 2 counties in north central Texas. The population of enrolled Veterans includes 14.3% Women Veterans, 44.3% aged 65+, and 44.1% rural or highly rural Veterans. Our enrolled Veteran population is 79.51% White, 13.84% Black or African American, 3.28% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1.94% Multiracial, 0.73% Asian, and 0.70% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. In addition, 95.27% of enrolled Veterans are Not Hispanic or Latino, and 4.72% are Hispanic or Latino. Our anchor facility, the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center (VAMC) is a 192-bed teaching hospital within the 325-acre Oklahoma Health Center campus just outside of downtown Oklahoma City. Additionally, the Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System includes 14 Community-based Outpatient Clinics. Our psychology internship program is based out of the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center with all but two available rotations occurring at this location.

## **Training Aims**

The fundamental training aim of the Oklahoma City VA internship program is to provide high-quality adult generalist training, clinical experiences, and supervision in health service psychology, such that upon completion of internship, interns have attained the profession-wide core competencies for psychologists as identified by the American Psychological Association: Research; Ethical and legal standards; Individual and cultural diversity; Professional values and attitudes; Communication and interpersonal skills; Assessment; Intervention; Supervision; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. Upon successful completion of the internship program, interns will be functioning at the level of competence and independence expected at the postdoctoral level and developmentally ready for entry-level practice in psychology (i.e., employment or postdoctoral fellowship). As we know that many VA interns intend to continue their careers working with Veteran and/or military populations, there is an emphasis on understanding military culture, providing psychological services to the Veteran population, and familiarization to working within the VA culture and organizational structure.

## **Admission Criteria**

Eligibility for the Oklahoma City VA psychology internship program includes the following:

- Doctoral student in good standing at a program accredited (full or on contingency) by APA, CPA, or PCSAS in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology.
- Completion of at least three years of academic training and all required academic coursework (excluding dissertation) prior to attending our internship program.
- Successful completion of comprehensive/qualifying examinations by the application deadline.
- Successfully proposed dissertation/doctoral research project by the application deadline.
- Completion of practicum training required by doctoral program, including a minimum of 250 supervised intervention hours and a minimum of 30 supervised assessment hours.
- A cover letter to highlight your interests and experiences specifically as they relate to our program.
- **Please review the following four websites which list the VA-wide requirements to be appointed as a VA Health Professions Trainee:**
  - Eligibility information for applicants: <https://www.va.gov/oaa/hpt-eligibility.asp>
  - Eligibility Checklist for applicants: <https://www.va.gov/OAA/docs/2021HPTInstructionsv4.pdf>
  - VA Drug-free Workplace Guide: [https://www.va.gov/OAA/onboarding/VHA\\_HPTsDrug-FreeWorkplaceOAA\\_HRA.pdf](https://www.va.gov/OAA/onboarding/VHA_HPTsDrug-FreeWorkplaceOAA_HRA.pdf)
  - A Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL) is required prior to all initial and subsequent health professions trainee appointments. <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>
- Highly desirable characteristics include those who have had high quality practicum training experiences in terms of amount and quality of intervention/assessment/supervision experiences, experience working with a military/Veteran population, experience working with diverse clientele, and demonstrated goodness of fit.

## **Our Accreditation Status**

The Oklahoma City VA internship program is not currently APA accredited as of the date of publication of this brochure. Our program is not new to psychology training, as Oklahoma City VA was a member of an APA-accredited consortium program with the University of Oklahoma-Health Sciences Center, ending with the 2021-2022 academic year. We are currently in the process of standing up our own independent VA psychology internship program, admitting our first class during the 2023-2024 academic year. As of the publication date of this brochure, we have submitted our accreditation self-study to APA. Per APA, the next round of reviews for initial applications for new internship programs will occur during Spring 2023. Please be advised that there is no assurance that we will be able to successfully achieve accreditation for the 2023-2024 internship year.

*\*Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:*

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

American Psychological Association  
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org)  
○ Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

## **Training Program Structure**

The Oklahoma City VA psychology internship program is a full-time (40 hours per week), 52-week internship from 8/1–7/31 of each year. To meet the goals of the training program, interns will be exposed to a broad range of supervised clinical experiences and didactic education. Clinical experiences include 13 possible major rotations available and 17 possible minor rotations available (this number includes major rotations which may be instead taken as a minor). During the year, interns will complete two major rotations and two minor rotations. The list of program faculty may be found in Appendix A, and full descriptions of rotations may be found in Appendix B.

### **Major rotations available include:**

- Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic
- South Oklahoma City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) Mental Health Clinic
- Geropsychology Program (inpatient/outpatient)
- Health Psychology Clinic
- Primary Care-Mental Health Integration
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center
- Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)
- Trauma Recovery Services
- Affirmative Care/LGBTQ+ Program
- Chronic Pain Rehabilitation
- Neuropsychology Clinic
- Telemental Health

### **\*Minor rotations available include:**

- Suicide Prevention
- Inpatient Psychiatry Unit
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Administration & Leadership

**\*Each Major Rotation above can usually be taken instead as a Minor rotation**

### **Additional training opportunities (does not comprise a full rotation):**

- Intensive Community Mental Health Recovery Services
- Family Mental Health
- Research

### **Didactic Activities**

Interns will spend 2 hours per week in didactic activities from our training staff, covering a range of subjects pertinent to trainees' competency development, e.g., Military Culture,

Research, Ethics, LGBTQ+ Veteran Mental Health, Suicide Risk Assessment & Intervention, Recovery-Oriented Mental Health, Peer Support, Measurement Based Care, Supervision, etc.

#### Diversity Competency Development

Our program approaches interns' achievement of diversity competency through multiple modalities. These approaches include incorporation of diversity throughout didactic programming; offering clinical opportunities to work with diverse clientele; exploration of client diversity in clinical supervision; and training/use of culturally-informed approaches to treatment. Interns will be exposed to quarterly experiential activities to promote cultural awareness and self-reflection. After each experiential activity, the intern will participate in a follow up discussion as an opportunity to reflect on the experience as well as identify clinical applications.

#### Assessment Competency Development

Our program is structured for interns to develop competence in psychological assessment. Each week, the interns will attend group supervision with two of our training staff on administering tests, scoring and interpreting test data, and writing assessment reports. Additional assessment opportunities may be available dependent on the major or minor rotation selected. Furthermore, some didactic presentations may include content on conducting assessments specific to that population and/or diagnosis.

#### Evidenced-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) Training

During the training year, interns will receive intensive training in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Six months will be dedicated to each EBP, each beginning with a two-to-three-day intensive training, and six months of weekly group supervision from two of our training staff. Interns will be expected to have at least two active EBP cases at a time. Group supervision will provide the opportunity to review/rehearse/sharpen skills and receive ongoing group supervision in utilization of each EBP with clients during the training year. There will be additional opportunities to be trained in other EBPs dependent on the major or minor rotation selected.

#### Research Competency Development

Interns will achieve an understanding of the scientific foundations of clinical practice during their internship year. This will be obtained from various means such as clinical supervision within rotation, EBP group supervision, and didactic education. Those interested in discussing and receiving consultation on active or future research projects are invited to attend the bimonthly Research Rally. Furthermore, Interns will be required to obtain LEAN white belt certification in order to have a fundamental understanding of the LEAN methodology of organizational process improvement. If interested, interns may pursue LEAN Yellow belt certification, volunteer to participate in others' active LEAN yellow or green belt projects, and/or volunteer to participate in research endeavors or performance improvement projects being conducted by program faculty.

#### Supervision

Interns will receive a total of four hours of regularly scheduled supervision per week. Each week, interns will receive one hour of supervision from their major rotation supervisor and one

from their minor rotation supervisor (total of 2 hours of regularly scheduled, individual supervision per week). Additionally, interns will receive one hour of group supervision devoted to assessments and one hour of group supervision devoted to EBP. Interns' evaluations are in part, based on live or electronic direct observation. Additionally, evaluations may be derived from other sources such as feedback from professionals in other disciplines within the interdisciplinary treatment team; review and co-signature of documentation in the electronic health record; review of recorded psychotherapy/assessment sessions; review of raw test data/assessment reports; and conceptualization/discussion of clinical interaction in supervision.

Weekly Schedule

The expected weekly intern schedule consists of:

<b>Activity</b>	<b># Hours/week</b>
Major rotation (including one hour of regularly scheduled, 1:1 supervision)	20*
Minor rotation (including one hour of regularly scheduled, 1:1 supervision)	12*
Didactics	2
Assessment Group Supervision	1
EBP Group Supervision	1
Other internship/training-related meetings; scholarship; miscellaneous activities (e.g., meeting with TD, research, program development)	4*
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>40*†</b>

*\*Minor variations may occur, depending on individual intern needs and goals.*

*†At least 25% of each intern's time must be spent in face-to-face psychological services to patients (i.e., 10 hours per week).*

**Evaluation of Interns' Expected Competencies**

It is expected that interns will start their internship at the developmental level *readiness for internship*. Interns will complete a competency self-assessment at the beginning of the year, to identify their own identified strengths and growth areas.

Interns will be evaluated on the following profession-wide competencies: Research; Ethical and legal standards; Individual and cultural diversity; Professional values and attitudes; Communication and interpersonal skills; Assessment; Intervention; Supervision; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. Interns' competencies will be assessed throughout the year, twice per rotation by each major and minor rotation supervisor and quarterly by assessment and EBP supervisors. A written evaluation will be provided to the intern's graduate training program twice per year.

If during the year, an intern fails to meet competency expectations or has other performance or conduct related problems, remediation steps would be implemented. During orientation, interns will receive a copy of our procedures to remediate unmet competency expectations, as well as our grievance and due process procedures.

### **Requirements to Complete Internship**

To complete internship, all the following requirements must be met:

- A minimum of 2080 total hours, including all allowable leave and holidays
- A minimum of 520 hours providing direct service delivery
- A minimum of 3 integrated psychological reports
- A score of 4 (Performance at the *Exit Level for a Doctoral Intern*) or higher on 100% of ratings on all competency evaluation forms completed at the end of the year.

### **Application Process**

Applicants for our internship must submit their application using the AAPI Centralized Application Service (AAPI CAS), using APPIC Program ID: 5279, Match ID 257911. Applications are due 12/15/2022 at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time.

Qualified applicants with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation for the application process by contacting the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator(s) assigned to Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System listed here: [Reasonable Accommodations - Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion \(ORMDI\) \(va.gov\)](#) then click the link for *Veterans Health Administration*.

### **Our Commitment to Diversity Equity, and Inclusion**

- Our internship program values Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Our goal is to identify all possible ways that we can manifest our values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) throughout our training program. These approaches include, but are not limited to, review of all policies/procedures with DEI, including, e.g., our approaches to recruitment, selection, and retention; incorporation of DEI throughout didactic programming; supervisor education; clinical opportunities to work with diverse clientele; and training in use of culturally-informed approaches to care. We only offer virtual interviews given the substantial cost of interview travel may disproportionately affect groups/individuals with less access to resources.
- We respectfully acknowledge that the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center is on the traditional, ancestral lands of the [Kickapoo](#), [Osage](#), [Kiowa](#), [Wichita](#), and [Comanche](#) Nations; and on land ceded by treaties to the [Choctaw](#), [Muscogee](#), [Osage](#), [Chickasaw](#) and [Seminole](#) Nations. The process of knowing and acknowledging the land where our internship program operates is a way of honoring and expressing gratitude for the ancestral peoples who were on this land before us or who were ceded this land by the US government. Our interns will receive didactic education and be exposed to an experiential activity in order to bring attention to the histories of Native populations,



the impact of historical trauma on Native mental health and suicide, and increase cultural competence in working with Native individuals.

- Effective clinical care requires an understanding the histories, backgrounds, cultures, and communities of the persons served. Interns will be expected to participate in quarterly diversity experiential activities, exposing them to local communities/populations. Furthermore, the experiential activities will provide an opportunity for self-reflection and identifying applications to clinical practice.
- Our training program adheres to the EEO policy of the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), specifically our:  
*“commitment to equal employment opportunity, maintaining a workplace free of unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation and creating a workplace that promotes equity, diversity and inclusion. All employees, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity, transgender status and sexual orientation), pregnancy, age (40 or older), disability, genetic information, marital status, parental status, or political affiliation, will have an equitable and inclusive workplace, free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation.”*
- As an equal opportunity training program, our internship welcomes and strongly encourages applications from all qualified candidates of all backgrounds and identities.

## **Salary & Benefits**

The current stipend for a psychology intern at Oklahoma City VA for academic year 2023-2024 is \$33,469. VA psychology intern salaries are set by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations, and we are not able to adjust or increase interns’ salaries at the local/facility level. It is noteworthy that Oklahoma City is a relatively affordable city compared to other major cities nationwide. We recognize the financial hardship of traveling for internship interviews, and there is no requirement to travel to Oklahoma City for interviews. We also have developed the intern schedule based on a 40-hour workweek (i.e., it is not expected that interns would be routinely working beyond 40 hours per week).

Per the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations, interns earn a total 13 days of vacation/annual leave and 13 days of sick leave throughout the year. An intern’s sick leave may be used for family care or bereavement purposes under [certain conditions](#). VA interns also receive [11 paid federal holidays](#).

Interns are allowed to take up to three days of paid Administrative Leave. This time can be used for professional, developmental and/or educational activities such as presentation of research/dissertation or attending a relevant conference that is not a part of the internship program. These days can only be used with prior approval of rotation supervisor(s) and Training Director.

OKC VA psychology interns meet the eligibility requirements for [Federal Employee Health Benefits \(FEHB\)](#). Our interns can enroll in FEHB on their first day at VA and be covered by the first pay period. If there are additional questions, please contact the Training Director who can get you in contact with our HR Benefits Department.



Interns have access to a secure space, telephone, computer, internet access, an online library including access to books/journals, and webcam when needed for virtual meetings or telemental health services. Interns may have a single office or shared office/hub depending on the rotation. There is a [mamava lactation pod](#) available for nursing mothers in an accessible location on the Ground floor.

### **Due Process, Remediation of Problematic Intern Performance, and Grievance Procedures**

In the event there are concerns about an intern's performance and/or conduct, or if an intern has a concern about training, our program ensures interns have due process including proper notification, hearing, and the ability to appeal decisions. The program has procedures for identifying, assessing, and, if necessary, remediating problematic intern performance. Interns will receive a copy of our grievance and due process procedures during orientation.

**\*Copies of our intern handbook and policies are available to applicants upon request by contacting the training director**

## Appendix A:

### Internship Training Faculty

†[Chauncey Atterberry, MD](#), Psychiatrist & Medical Director, Psychiatry Consult & Liaison  
\*[Kristi Bratkovich, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Geropsychology (Home Based Primary Care)  
\*[Kimi Carson, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology Clinic  
\*[Anna Craycraft, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Health Psychology; LGBTQ+ Coordinator  
†[Tracy Dickens, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, TeleMental Health  
†[Deanna Diekhoff, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Wichita Falls Outpatient Mental Health Clinic  
†[Alan “Dutch” Doerman, Psy.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)  
\*[Jessica Duffel, Psy.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, South OKC Outpatient Mental Health Clinic  
†[Linda Duthiers, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, TeleMental Health  
†[Bill Dycus, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Program Manager, TeleMental Health  
\*[Sean W. Ferrell, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Program Manager, Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)  
\*[Stephani Granato, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Services; MST Coordinator  
\*[Peggy A. Hudson, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Whole Health Clinical Director/Health Behavior Coordinator  
\*[Aaron Jennings, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Geropsychology (Palliative Care Patient Aligned Care Team)  
\*[Deborah, Larson-Stoa, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Services  
†[Shamiria Lindsey, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, TeleMental Health  
†[Jessica M. Martin, Psy.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)  
\*[David Adrian Maxey, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic  
\*[Travis Mitchell, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Geropsychology (Geropsychiatry Unit)  
\*[Mary Mohon, Psy.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Geropsychology (Home Based Primary Care)  
†[MiKeiya Morrow, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Veterans Recovery Center  
\*[Julie Nelson, PhD.](#), Staff Psychologist, Geropsychology (Community Living Center/Palliative Care)  
\*[Sarah Newman, Psy.D.](#), Psychologist, Chief, Psychology Service  
\*[Emily Peters, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)  
\*[Samantha Price, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic  
†[Omar Rashidzada, LCSW](#), Staff Behavioral Health Social Worker, Trauma Recovery Services  
†[Bryan Rich, AAS](#), Peer Specialist  
\*[Meredith Shish, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Program Manager, Veterans Recovery Center  
†[Stephen Snider, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)  
\*[Kristen H. Sorocco, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Program Manager, Geropsychology  
\*[Bryan Stice, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist, Training Director & Assistant Chief, Psychology Service  
\*[John Tassej, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Program Manager, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration & Health Psychology  
†[Fawn Thompson, LCSW](#), Program Coordinator, VHA Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
†[Lee Thrash, Ph.D.](#), Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Pain Rehabilitation Program  
†[Jerri Turner, Ph.D.](#), Program Manager, Trauma Recovery Services  
\*[Laura E. Yamamoto, Ph.D.](#), Psychologist & Coordinator, Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring; Administrative Director, Outpatient Pain Rehabilitation Program  
†[Kelly White, LCSW](#), Local Recovery Coordinator, Peer Specialist Supervisor

---

\* Training supervisors

† Other contributors (e.g., didactic presenters)

## **Appendix B:**

### **Clinical Rotation Descriptions:**

#### **Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR)**

The Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR) program provides a continuum of specialized substance abuse treatment services within a comprehensive treatment program for veterans with active substance use disorders. The STAR program is targeted for the veteran at a high risk for substance relapse and in need of a structured and supportive therapeutic milieu to provide ongoing stabilization and psychosocial rehabilitation. The intern has the opportunity for a variety of clinical experiences, and follows selected cases from initial contact/triage, engagement in treatment, continuing care, and discharge. The intern will also provide inpatient consultation to hospitalized veterans. STAR provides several special treatment tracks and/or groups, including medication-assisted therapy in addition to groups for women, PTSD, Co-Occurring Disorders, CBT for Sobriety, Affect management, SMART Recovery, MI/MET/Stages of Change, and Contingency Management. Attention is given toward utilizing social and community support systems to bridge patients from formal treatment into extended recovery within the community. By the end of the STAR rotation, the intern will sharpen assessment, individual, and group therapy skills in the area of specialized substance use disorder treatment.

#### **Health Psychology Clinic**

The Health Psychology Clinic is a multidisciplinary treatment setting established to provide a psychological treatment interface to Medicine and Surgery Services. Four psychologists comprise the Health Psychology Clinic faculty. Five interrelated components can identify the activities of the Health Psychology Clinic: patient diagnosis, patient treatment, patient education, staff education, and research. Consultation/liaison and Primary Care Mental Health is not a specific component of this Clinic. Rather, we place emphasis on effective and timely intervention following the diagnosis. Typically, we provide this on an outpatient basis.

Brief, goal-oriented therapy is the intervention mode most often employed in this setting. Knowledge of general psychology is important, as applied behavioral techniques across a variety of settings and circumstances require creativity, initiative, and understanding of developmental and interpersonal, as well as medical, contributors to the clinical picture.

Major and minor rotations of the psychology intern reflect an interface of the intern's interests and the clinic's opportunities. The intern can arrange emphasis with special populations or procedures. However, the intern should expect a general introduction to the wide arena of behavioral medicine. Participation in applied research activities is also an opportunity for a psychology intern on this rotation.

#### **Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic (AMHC)**

The Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic (AMHC) serves as the general mental health clinic for the OKC VA Medical Center. It is the largest mental health clinic on site providing interdisciplinary mental health services including approximately 20,000 total visits per year. It is a busy, productive, active setting in which to hone psychotherapy and diagnostic skills.

The AMHC consists of 22 full-time staff including psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed social workers, RNs, and a psychology technician specializing in biofeedback. Staff are structured within 4 smaller teams known as BHIPs (Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Programs), to provide a team-based, interdisciplinary, and well-coordinated approach to care. Theoretical orientations of the staff are varied. Evidence-based psychotherapies are practiced and taught to trainees. The AMHC is a rotation where interns are encouraged to extend themselves to learn new skills while the clinic staff provides a supportive base out of which to function.

Experiences available for the intern selecting this rotation include several options from which to choose:

- a. Providing outpatient mental health consultation services for patients referred from other clinics, the intake clinic, and the Emergency Department. These patients' diagnoses range the spectrum of the DSM and allow the intern an opportunity to hone their skills of interviewing, diagnosing, and making appropriate case disposition with feedback to the referring provider.
- b. Intensive psychotherapy with a variety of cases including individual, groups, couples, and family treatment. In-depth psychotherapy supervision is a hallmark of this rotation, providing interns an opportunity to polish existing psychotherapy skills and acquire new approaches to understand and treat a multiplicity of patients.
- c. Psychodiagnostic assessment experiences are available.
- d. Experience with our psychoeducational classes and psychotherapy groups providing a wide range of services for patients with different diagnoses.
- e. Biofeedback/Relaxation Training/Stress Management program experiences. Patients referred to this program include not only the more usual anxiety-based disorders but also many patients with physical disorders exacerbated by stress (headaches, GI disorders, etc.).
- f. Additional information in the theories and practice of the use of psychotropic medication is available from AMHC psychiatrists.

#### *South Oklahoma City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) Mental Health Clinic*

The South OKC CBOC provides only outpatient services and the South OKC CBOC Mental Health Clinic (South OKC MH Clinic) provides mental health services to veterans assigned to the South OKC CBOC. Similar to the AMHC, the South OKC MH Clinic functions as a general mental health clinic, but on a smaller scale. Currently, the South OKC CBOC has five full time, interdisciplinary staff who provide approximately 7,000 mental health visits per year. Being part of a smaller team, in a smaller location, brings about its unique advantages as well as challenges. The South OKC MH Clinic, being a general mental health clinic, serves veterans of all mental health diagnoses and needs. Interns are able to provide a wide range of clinical services in the South OKC CBOC including intake assessments, individual/group/family psychotherapy, and (limited) psychological assessments.

#### *Clinical Neuropsychology*

The Clinical Neuropsychology rotation is comprised of one neuropsychologist (with approval to hire a second neuropsychologist) and two psychology technicians/psychometrists. Referrals for evaluation, including both outpatient and inpatient requests for services, are generated by

providers throughout the hospital, with the most frequent requests coming from Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic (both psychology and psychiatry), neurology, primary care, medicine, and inpatient psychiatry. The clinic completes assessments on patients with brain injuries, suspected dementia, and a number of other central nervous system pathologies affecting neurocognitive functioning. The Neuropsychology Clinic is well equipped with a broad assortment of assessment instruments and an assortment of measures assessing effort/motivation. A personal computer is available in the laboratory for use in administering and/or scoring some assessment instruments as well as for writing reports.

Interns can expect to be involved in completing the clinical and collateral interviews, test administration and scoring, integrative report writing, consultation, patient feedback, treatment planning, and brief supportive therapy involving adjustment to disability and/or cognitive rehabilitation. Interns on this rotation are encouraged to attend the weekly Neuropsychology Case Conference and Neurology Grand Rounds at OUHSC. Interns with only limited exposure to neuropsychology are invited to select this rotation, which will be individually tailored to meet their needs.

Note that with the ability to only complete one major or minor rotation in the neuropsychology clinic, this experience is not intended to meet INS/Houston guidelines for specialized training in neuropsychology.

#### Trauma Recovery Services (TRS)

##### **Pre-requisite skills:**

Experience in treating trauma is always beneficial, but it is not a prerequisite for choosing this rotation. We have had interns in the past with a variety of levels of experience and interest in treating trauma. We structure the experiences on rotation to fit with an intern's training goals and needs.

##### **Restriction on Intern participation (i.e. number, specific rotation, time of year, Number of interns simultaneously):**

We offer major and minor rotations during all three rotation periods. We can have 1 major and 1 minor rotation at the same time (or 2 minors).

##### **General Description:**

The Trauma Recovery Services (TRS) Clinic provides evidence-based treatment for Veterans of all eras who have experienced military-related trauma (military combat, sexual assault, natural disasters, or serious accidents) and who are experiencing Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms. PTSD treatment, particularly for Veterans suffering from acute, severe, or complicated PTSD is optimally delivered by PTSD specialized teams. Treatment services offered within PTSD outpatient specialty care focus primarily on the following: time-limited evidence-based treatment addressing PTSD symptoms, complex presentations of Veterans with PTSD including comorbidities, and measurement-based care to monitor progress and treatment planning. The TRS Clinic is comprised of Psychologists, Social Workers, and Psychiatrists who work collaboratively as a team. Treatments options are discussed with patients using a shared decision-making approach. This allows the provider and Veteran to work collaboratively to help determine an informed treatment choice based on evidence-based practice, treatment

expectations, and the patient's personal values and goals. Our goal is to assist Veterans in gaining an improved quality of life through evidence-based treatments. Based on availability, our interns can take part in a variety of services in our clinic in hopes of building a strong foundation in the treatment of trauma.

**Training opportunities include:**

- Conducting a thorough new patient intake to determine diagnosis and plan for treatment
- Coordinating the treatment for TRS Veterans
- Providing evidence-based therapies for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE)
- Utilizing measurement-based care to monitor progress and treatment planning
- Co-facilitating groups with supervisors as well as interdisciplinary staff
- Participating in interdisciplinary team meetings and consultation

**Required activities/Days/times**

We require interns to complete 1-2 new patient intakes per week. We also require that interns take part in at least one class or group in order to gain the experience of co-facilitating treatment with another staff member.

*Inpatient Psychiatry Unit*

The primary purpose of the inpatient psychiatry unit is to treat veterans who have significant psychiatric issues and require brief, inpatient stabilization utilizing a biopsychosocial approach. Our goal is to individualize each intern's training experience, within the framework of a supportive and nurturing environment, in order to maximize growth in areas of weakness and refine areas of strength. The experiences offered on this rotation are directly applicable to crisis intervention, work with acutely psychotic patients, the chronically mentally ill, traumatized veterans, geriatric populations, and patients with personality and substance abuse disorders. The expectation is that by the end of the rotation the intern will be competent and comfortable in providing state of the art psychological services on any inpatient psychiatric unit.

*Geropsychology*

The purpose of the Geropsychology Rotation is to offer training and experience in meeting the mental health needs of older adults. There are experiences in both inpatient and outpatient Geropsychology settings that can be tailored to meet individual training goals. The inpatient settings include the Community Living Center, Palliative Care Unit, and Geriatric Inpatient Mental Health. Geropsychology outpatient programs include Home Based Primary Care, Geriatric Patient Aligned Care Team, and Palliative Care Patient Aligned Care Team. Across all care settings trainees participate on an interdisciplinary team designed to assist the veteran in developing an Age Friendly Care Plan. The interdisciplinary care team helps the Veteran meet their healthcare goals specific to what matters to them most through the implementation of Age Friendly Care.

The rotation offers the following activities:

- Assessments (neuropsychological screenings, Mental Status Exams, biopsychosocial evaluations, some formal testing).
- Individual therapy (brief Cognitive Behavior Therapy, problem solving, adjustment to illness, change in lifestyle, behavior modification, pain management, relaxation training, etc.).
- Group psychotherapy (cognitive rehabilitation, stress management, problem solving, etc.).
- Home visits (Home-Based Primary Care Program) and Home telemental health services.
- Geropsychology Didactics

### Primary Care-Mental Health Integration

In the OKC VA, Primary Care is the patient's first point of entry into the health care system and the place patients typically look for treatment for most of their health care needs. In fact, research indicates that over half of all visits to primary care settings have a psychosocial component. The Primary Care Mental Health Clinic is an integrated program consisting of a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and an RN Case Manager located on site in the Primary Care Clinics. We provide "front line" triage and assessment for patients referred by PCPs and/or those who screen positive for depression, PTSD, anxiety, and alcohol misuse. We provide some short-term behavioral counseling as well as provide several psychoeducational groups for patients wanting to learn to manage their anxiety, depression, and sleep problems. We also work with the Diabetes Education Team in educating patients about the psychosocial aspects of managing their disease and provide the behavioral health component for the Express Care Medical Clinic. Interns who rotate in PCMH will learn how to provide abbreviated clinical services in an integrated model, consult daily with Primary Care Providers, and develop basic knowledge necessary for working in a medical setting including basic medical terminology, common medical disorders, psychological comorbidities, and frequently prescribed medications.

### Veterans Recovery Center (Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery Center)

The VA is continually at the forefront of providing innovative mental health services, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Centers (PRRC) highlight VA's commitment to quality care. The Veterans Recovery Center (PRRC) is an intensive outpatient treatment program that serves Veterans living with severe mental illness that significantly disrupts their daily functioning. Services at this supportive learning center are based on the core components of psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery-oriented care. The concept of recovery is founded on the understanding that people with significant mental health disabilities can and do overcome the limitations of their illnesses and successfully fill self-chosen, valued roles in the community.

The focus of the VRC includes 1) the client being actively involved in their own care, 2) services being individualized and person-centered, 3) identifying and utilizing personal strengths, 4) treating the whole person, not just symptoms, 5) empowerment through education and support, 6) respect, and 7) creating a sense of hope. At the VRC, Veterans living with significant mental health challenges can build skills that aid in creating and pursuing goals for leading a meaningful, fulfilling life. The VA has determined that all of its mental health services will eventually move to recovery-oriented care, but the VRC was the first to transition to this progressive approach.



The VRC staff is comprised of a psychologist, psychiatrist, two clinical social workers, and a peer support specialist. Other disciplines who participate in providing VRC services are nutrition, therapeutic recreation, and chaplain services. Treatment is provided using a multi-disciplinary approach with a high level of collaboration among staff and with our veterans. The intern experience in the VRC allows for involvement at all levels. Treatment delivery is primarily through the offering of interactive psychoeducational classes, including a number of evidence-based curricula, with learning experiences taking place in the classroom and out in the community. There is also ample opportunity for providing assessment, development of initial and comprehensive recovery plans, and individual therapy. The intern is considered one of the staff and as such is involved in ongoing program development, providing input that shapes the program as it grows. Major and minor rotations are available.

### Telemental Health (TMH)

The Telemental Health (TMH) Rotation is a multidisciplinary team comprised of clinicians (psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatrists, and advanced practice psychiatric nurse specialist) who work with veterans living in rural Oklahoma. OKC began using TMH services on a regular basis in 2008, with one psychologist. Our program was one of the first standalone TMH programs in VA. Today TMH has 13 providers (5 psychiatrists and 8 therapists). Our experience with telehealth enabled us to assist the Oklahoma City VA staff with the transition to telehealth in 2020 during the COVID-pandemic.

Veterans receive TMH services through two options: 1) Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), which are local VA clinics providing diverse medical care and a private room for veterans to participate in TMH services using Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) technology; or 2) VA Video Connect (VVC) in the privacy of their home using a smart phone, tablet, or computer.

Each mental health provider is assigned up to two CBOCs, ensuring providers develop relationships with medical providers so the same excellent care is delivered locally, as would be experienced at the main hospital.

Theoretical orientations include: cognitive-behavioral therapy, interpersonal, gestalt, psychodynamic, existential, strength perspective, person-centered, family systems, and feminist. These valuable perspectives are shared through evidenced-based interventions: CPT, ACT, DBT, Prolonged Exposure, somatic experiencing, mindfulness, substance abuse and gambling recovery, and couple's therapy.

Providers offer groups in the following areas: Race-based Stress and Trauma, Anger Management, Pain Management, Healthy Relationships, Women's group, Problem Solving, Stress Management. Spirituality and Moral Injury. Groups offered vary based on veteran interest and staff availability.

Interns with TMH will learn skills and ethics relevant to TMH. Additionally, they will learn the unique challenges and benefits of working with veterans living in rural areas. Supervision in this rotation will be conducted via telesupervision; thus interns participating in TMH must be mindful to select their other rotation where on-site supervision is being provided (barring

continued flexibility around telesupervision due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Additional information about telesupervision parameters is provided in the *Supervision* section.

### Chronic Pain Rehabilitation

**Supervisor(s):** Laura Yamamoto, Ph.D., Robert Trombley, Ph.D., Lee Thrash, Ph.D.

**Location:** N May CBOC and OKC VAMC

**Restriction on Intern participation (i.e. number, specific rotation, time of year, Number of interns simultaneously):** None currently, based on space availability; interns may participate in this major rotation during first or second rotation.

### **General Description of Rotation:**

The goal of the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Rotation is to offer training and experience in meeting the needs of patients with chronic pain through a behavioral health perspective. Interns will participate in interdisciplinary treatment teams designed to assist veterans with chronic pain through a biopsychosocial approach. Interns are expected to gain a foundational knowledge regarding chronic pain, including common conditions and treatments. Additionally, interns will be exposed to the role of a psychologist in treating chronic pain and acting as a mental health consultant for multidisciplinary teams.

Opportunities on the rotation include:

#### **1) Participation in the Outpatient Pain Rehabilitation Program:**

This is an 8 week multidisciplinary program aimed at treating Veterans with chronic pain from a whole person or biopsychosocial perspective. Veterans in the program attend a weekly didactic/psychoeducation seminar, an hour long therapeutic recreation/exercise clinic, and hour of group physical therapy, and an hour long session of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain group. Interns would typically participate in the CBT-CP. Intake assessments for potential participants in a round robin style with the Physical Therapist and PM&R physician are also a training opportunity.

**2) Individual pain therapy:** Pain patients are also available for interns to work with in individual therapy. CBT-CP is typically the modality offered, however supervisors are flexible should an intern like to try a different approach.

#### **3) Pain Board/Pain Committee:**

Pain Board is an interdisciplinary panel of pain providers that completes high level opioid safety risk reviews for patients deemed at risk for adverse outcomes and to give recommendations for risk mitigation to the patients' care teams. Interns will be active members of the Board and will learn how to serve as a mental health consultant for an interdisciplinary team. The Pain Committee is the Pain leadership committee for the hospital and helps guide hospital policy on chronic pain care by reviewing performance data, implementing new programs, and reviewing national action items. Biofeedback training is also generally available.

**4) Additional Opportunities that may be available:** In addition to the opportunities above, interns completing this rotation might also be able to participate in a women's CBT for pain group, the Orientation to Pain Management group, and the Perioperative Pain Team. Please reach out to Dr. Yamamoto for current availability of these opportunities.

**Required activities/Days/times:** Participation in at least one group therapy and individual therapy. Participation in at least 1 interdisciplinary team.

#### Affirmative Care/LGBTQ+ Program

**Description:** The OKC VA HCS Affirmative Care clinic provides clinical services for LGBTQ+ veterans who are enrolled at OKC VA HCS. The Affirmative Care clinic offers psychoeducational groups, support groups, and groups tailored for gender-diverse patients, along with individual therapy for LGBTQ+ patients, including Trans-Affirmative Narrative Exposure Therapy (TA-NET). This clinic also offers evaluations for gender-affirming hormone readiness, along with initial evaluations for treatment and services. Additionally, Dr. Anna Craycraft and Neeley Snyder, LCSW, in their roles as LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinators (VCCs), receive referrals from a wide range of OKC VA HCS providers for LGBTQ+ patients seeking services. In their roles as LGBTQ+ VCCs, Dr. Craycraft and Ms. Snyder provide staff training and education, organize LGBTQ+ special observance celebrations, coordinate outreach to OKC-area LGBTQ+ community providers, advocate for specific LGBTQ+ patient needs, and ensure that OKC VA HCS is following national VHA guidelines for affirmative care and best practices to LGBTQ+ patients. Practicum experiences can be tailored to meet the training goals of its students. The intern will have the opportunity to work in tandem with Dr. Craycraft, with increasing responsibility for records review, interviews, support group and psychoeducation group co-facilitating, and monitored individual psychotherapy as the student progresses.

#### **Opportunities for this rotation include:**

- Clinical Interviews
- Outpatient Individual Psychotherapy, including initial training in TA-NET (Trans-Affirmative Narrative Exposure Therapy)
- Outpatient LGBTQ+ Support Group Observation and Co-facilitation
- Outpatient LGBTQ+ Psychoeducation Group Observation and Co-facilitation
- Gender-Affirming Hormone Readiness Evaluation Observation and Monitored Interviewing
- Program Administration: Staff Education Material Co-Development, Community Outreach Planning, LGBTQ+ Observation Celebration Coordination
- Multidisciplinary Team Meetings
- Interdisciplinary clinic observation (e.g., HIV clinic, Endocrinology clinic)
- Directed Readings (Required)

#### Suicide Prevention

**Description:** The Oklahoma City VA has a dedicated suicide prevention team with 8 full time mental health social workers plus one part-time psychologist. The OKC VA suicide prevention team is primarily responsible for case management of approximately 90 Veterans deemed to be high suicide risk, following up with callers to the Veterans Crisis Line, community engagement, and OKC VA staff education/training. Close supervision is provided for trainees interested in this experience.

#### **Opportunities for this rotation include:**

- Cofacilitating outpatient suicide prevention psychoeducational group

- Safety planning
- Suicide risk assessment
- Crisis management
- Care coordination
- Follow-up calls with Veterans or concerned friends/family who have contacted the Veterans Crisis Line
- Involvement with/exposure to community suicide prevention coalitions and public awareness-raising events/fairs
- Suicide postvention
- Suicide prevention gatekeeper training with OKC VA staff

### Military Sexual Trauma

Military sexual trauma, or MST, is the term used by VA to refer to experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during military service. More concretely, MST includes any sexual activity that a veteran experienced with against their will. The MST coordinator helps to connect MST survivors to VA resources including, but not limited to, Mental Health. During this minor rotation the intern will be expected to contact and discuss MST-related services to individuals who have recently discussed their MST. There are also opportunities to discuss MST services to other community and government services. Currently this position is primarily administrative, however if you are interested in providing clinical services we can discuss possible group treatments for Survivors of MST. Given the limited opportunity to obtain direct service hours in this rotation, sufficient direct services hours will need to be obtained in major rotation and intern will need to be on target with their total hours.

### VA Psychology Administration & Leadership

**Supervisor:** Sarah Newman, PsyD

**Location:** OKC VAMC 8<sup>th</sup> floor

**Pre-requisite skills:** Interns do not need prior administrative experience but do need a strong interest in pursuing a career involving administration.

**Restriction on Intern participation (i.e. number, specific rotation, time of year, Number of interns simultaneously):** Minor Rotation, 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation only. No more than one intern per rotation. Given the limited opportunity to obtain direct service hours in this rotation, sufficient direct services hours will need to be obtained in major rotation and intern will need to be on target with their total hours.

**Required activities/Days/times:** Specific days/times for required activities are variable and will be negotiated with the supervisor.

- 1) Complete an administrative project to be determined with supervisor, consistent with intern's interests and current issues.
- 2) Participate in administrative meetings with supervisor.
  - a. The intern will assist the faculty supervisor in preparing documents, presentations, and other materials for designated meetings
  - b. The intern will be assigned follow-up tasks for completion pending meeting decisions
- 3) Participate in weekly supervision meetings with faculty supervisor

- a. Supervision will provide training in psychology clinical management, leadership, and policy formation
- b. The intern is expected to bring in assigned tasking to review with supervisor

**Optional Activities/Days/times:** Specific days/times for optional activities are variable and will be negotiated with the supervisor.

**Internship Requirements met:** The intern will primarily acquire skills in psychology and hospital administration, including aspects of policy formation, documentation, and staffing facilities that incorporate psychological practice. Clinical skills should be supplemented through additional training cases on major rotations.

**General Description of Rotation:** The goal of this rotation is for interns to gain exposure and experience with administrative and hospital-wide issues.