

Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center
197 Half Hollow Road
Dix Hills, New York 11746
(631) 370-1701

**Psychology Extern
Training Program**

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| Executive Director: | Tom McOlvin, Licensed Clinical Social Worker- Registered (LCSW-R) |
| Clinical Director: | Frantz Moise, Medical Doctor (MD) |
| Director of Psychology: | Darrin W. Gerson, Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) |



Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center is a facility of the New York State Office of Mental Health facility. Sagamore has treated severely, chronically mentally ill children and adolescents since its opening in 1969. Sagamore is an intermediate-care psychiatric facility for children and adolescents in Long Island, New York.

Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center provides individualized treatment for each child with an emphasis on family involvement. Treatment is carried out by multi-disciplinary teams of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, recreational therapists, creative arts therapists, and specialized child care staff.

Hospital Description

The Inpatient and Day Hospital facilities are located in Dix Hills, situated near the boundary of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Clinic and Day Treatment programs are located throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Mission statement: Sagamore strives to provide high quality behavioral health care services to the children and families residing in the two counties. Sagamore aims to individualize the services so they respect the integrity, cultural differences, and autonomy of the people that are served in all of our programs. There is a continued emphasis on developing collaboration with all stakeholders through a family-focused, child-centered behavioral health care system that reduces the use of inpatient care, develops and utilizes community based services, decreases the barriers to accessing the most appropriate level of services, and promotes interagency collaborations.

Accreditation: Sagamore is accredited by The Joint Commission. The Psychology Internship Program is a training site of the Queen's Children's Psychiatric Center's American Psychiatric Association approved Psychology Internship Program.

Patient population: The population averages 69 inpatients, 18 day-hospital patients, and more than 250 outpatient patients. Seriously emotionally disturbed children up to the age of 18 are eligible for treatment. Admissions are generally on a voluntary basis, with patients referred from Suffolk and Nassau counties by community hospitals and psychiatric emergency rooms. The facility also receives referrals through the Family Court system.

Clinical services: The comprehensive program of care includes complete medical, psychiatric, and psychological evaluations; individualized treatment plans; education in a full-day school; supervised group experience to develop social skills; family counseling; and the development of community linkages for follow-up support.

The Sagamore Inpatient Services Division provides treatment for children and youth up to the age of eighteen. The Sagamore Community Services Division includes the Day Hospital program, two outpatient clinics, and four Day Treatment programs. Sagamore also provides parent education, crisis services, and a variety of clinical support services.

Sagamore is committed to the participation of family members in all aspects of treatment planning. Family therapy is strongly encouraged and supportive services are provided. This includes support staff who may conduct school and home visits. Parents or guardians are asked to meet with the children's therapists regularly, to attend planning conferences and to participate in all phases of treatment and discharge planning. *Common Sense Parenting* classes are offered regularly for all parents.

Externship Training and Educational Goals

Externship training is coordinated by Darrin W. Gerson, PsyD

Philosophy: The philosophy of the Externship is one of balancing supervision and training with intense involvement in assessment, treatment team activities, and clinical work with severely disturbed children and adolescents.

The Externship provides in-depth training in assessment, treatment, and treatment planning for psychology students who are enrolled in accredited graduate programs in Clinical, School, and Counseling psychology. The orientations of the Psychology Department staff are varied, and include Cognitive-Behavioral, Psychodynamic, and Client-Centered perspectives.

Training by licensed staff psychologists in psychological testing and diagnostics is provided through case seminars, supervision, and through presentations at diagnostic conferences. Under close supervision, externs are expected to do family treatment in addition to seeing children and adolescents in individual and group therapy. Training in individual, group, and family therapy, crisis intervention, and treatment planning is provided through seminars, Grand Rounds, case consultations, and supervised experience.

Goals: The educational goals of the Externship are to develop emerging skills in assessment and treatment, to familiarize trainees with the complexities of severe psychopathology and the role of the psychologist in interdisciplinary treatment teams, and to encourage and provide opportunities for professional growth. Clinical work with families is considered a crucial aspect of the training. Sensitivity to both cultural diversity and ethical standards is considered essential.

Responsibilities: Externs typically see a minimum of two patients and families; co-lead psychotherapy groups; complete ten to fifteen psychological assessments per year; participate in treatment team activities; and attend hospital Grand Rounds, diagnostic conferences, case conferences, and training lectures.

Supervision: Externs are provided with at least two hours per week (or more, depending on the extent of the extern's responsibilities) of individual supervision by a supervising psychologist. Supervision and training is provided by experienced, licensed psychologists. The supervising psychologist directly oversees the Externs' work on the units where they are assigned.

Externs' duties: Depending on the University's requirements, the time commitment is usually at least two and a half days per week from September through June. After a brief period of orientation, externs are expected to be Primary Therapists for assigned patients on inpatient, outpatient, or day hospital units. Under supervision, they conduct treatment and discharge planning, psychological assessment, individual, group, and family therapy. Externs participate in a variety of unit meetings and make presentations at Diagnostic Conferences. They see assigned patients once or twice per week in individual therapy and conduct family work with each of the patients' families. Externs typically conduct group therapy with an experienced co-therapist.

Training sites: Externs are assigned to training sites, and efforts are made to accommodate their preferences in regard to patient characteristics. Sagamore psychologists provide supervision for Externs' responsibilities in all training sites. The following are available for Extern training:

Boys inpatient units: Externs who work in this service participate in intensive treatment of hospitalized boys from ages ten through seventeen years old. Family, individual and play therapy, and group therapy approaches are used with these patients.

Girls inpatient units: Externs who work in this unit do intensive treatment with hospitalized girls, generally from ages ten through seventeen. Individual, family, play, and group therapy approaches are also used with these patients.

Prerequisites: Students will be considered who are full time, matriculated candidates enrolled in clinical, school, and counseling psychology programs whose Externship or Clinical Practicum will be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Students who are selected for the Externship must have completed at least one year of full-time graduate study and have had courses in cognitive assessment and projective testing by the beginning of the Externship year.

Selection criteria: Requirements for acceptance as an extern include 1) the University's written approval for Externship, 2) submission of a curriculum vitae or resume, and 3) a personal interview. Applicants are asked to submit copies of a sample psychological evaluation and treatment summary if available.

Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center (CPC) uses the guidelines set forth by the Psychology Directors of New York State. Please forward these materials no earlier than January 17, 2012.

Application process: Interested students should contact:
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