

UT Southwestern / Metrocare Center for Education and Research

Public and Community Psychiatry Fellowship

Recognizing the immediate and ongoing need for the development of a psychiatric workforce capable of supporting and serving in public mental health systems in Texas, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Metrocare Services jointly developed the Public Psychiatry Fellowship (PPF).

This is a one year non-ACGME accredited post-graduate year five level training program with academic auspices under the UTSW Department of Psychiatry and support from the Metrocare Center of Education and Research in community mental health. Fellows who are motivated to enhance competency in ensuring the provision of recovery-oriented, evidence-based and systems-informed services and who have the potential for leadership in public sector psychiatry are selected.

Mission

The mission of the PPF is to train emerging public sector psychiatrists to become leaders in the field, to provide state-of-the-art services and to contribute to the academic literature through evaluation and research. With supervision and support, graduates of residency training programs who enter into the PPF will acquire the knowledge and skills not just to "survive" but thrive, enjoy and improve upon the provision of care in the public mental health system.

Goals and Objectives

1. The program will offer advanced training that affords sufficient opportunities for the resident to develop the knowledge, skills, clinical judgment, and attitudes essential to the practice of public psychiatry.

2. Clinical experience complemented with managerial, administrative and research experiences will be sufficient to prepare the psychiatrist to:
 - a. Establish strong therapeutic alliances with consumers of services
 - b. Formulate systems-based analyses of a variety of clinical problems
 - c. Effectively use managerial skills to resolve program-level incongruences to improve patient care with efficient resource utilization
 - d. Advance the field's empirical evidence base, policies or general practice

Activities

The program has used the Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Public and Community Psychiatry Training Fellowships as described by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists and the Columbia Public Psychiatry Fellowship Program. We will incorporate the core elements either conceptually, directly or with modifications. As such our program components include:

1. Field placement. The site will be chosen by the fellow according to their future career goals. Fellows will spend about 50% of their time in clinical services. The rest of the time will include site-based administrative activities and off-site based activities including what is described below.
2. Didactic curriculum. Lecture topics will be drawn from the following modules: Psychiatrist Administrator, History and Structure, Recovery and Rehabilitation, Housing and Homelessness, Early Intervention and Prevention, Community and Culture, Substance Abuse, Forensics, Research and Evaluation.
3. Management Practicum Series. Psychiatric Medical Directors in practice will present current issues they are facing as managers. Together with the fellows, we will prioritize and analyze problems, managerial styles and offer solutions and support. In future years, former fellows will be asked to provide this series as a means of receiving faculty and fellow advice and consultation.
4. Applied Seminars. Fellows will present six seminars through the course of the year incorporating the Congruence Model to describe their residency training program, their site at the beginning of the year and again revisiting their site at the end of the year. They will do a Fiscal presentation, a Systems-Based Clinical presentation and a Program Evaluation/Quality Improvement presentation. They will be encouraged to develop their projects for scholarly presentation or publication.
5. Site Visits. Typically chosen according to the guest speakers or faculty, the fellows will be encouraged to analyze the background, development and organization of the various sites. Sites may include mental health, social service, governmental, and non-profit entities.
6. Guest Speakers. These individuals are selected for their expertise, community stature or ability to provide mentorship, inspiration or connection within the system.
7. Supervision. In addition to a clinical supervisor at the field placement site, the academic supervisor will focus the fellow on understanding the system in which they practice. They will help them to understand and resolve issues as they arise and to prepare and present their applied seminars.
8. Professional Development. These activities includes networking with outside groups not limited to professional psychiatric associations, i.e., participation with community and advocacy groups. We will encourage clinical skills development through elective experiences, knowledge base development through continuing education activities, and organizational skills development through officership.

Those interested in finding out more about the Fellowship may contact:

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