



# ***The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC)***

**Intern Brochure  
2017-2018**

Revised April 15, 2016



***Mission:***

***The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium's (AK-PIC) mission is to prepare and retain psychologists to provide culturally competent collaborative health care for Alaska's unique and diverse people.***

The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC) represents the collaborative effort of five Alaska agencies to share resources and faculty for the purpose of providing a diversified educational program for doctoral psychology interns. The consortium was designed to prepare interns to meet the unique challenges of practicing psychology in rural and remote settings and to ensure clinical competency in working with Alaska's various cultural groups.

**Accreditation Status**

The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC) is accredited by the APA. Accreditation was awarded beginning June 2012, and is effective for 7 years.

Questions about AK-PIC's training may be directed to either of the Training Co-Directors, Dr. Sarah Dewane: [Sarah.Dewane@providence.org](mailto:Sarah.Dewane@providence.org) or Dr. Seth Green: [Sgreen@NSHCorp.org](mailto:Sgreen@NSHCorp.org). However, questions specifically 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*

*Email: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org)*

**APPIC Membership Status**

AK-PIC is a participating member of APPIC.

**Program Structure and Rotations**

The Consortium offers one-year, full-time internship placements beginning and ending in July of each year. The Consortium is comprised of treatment centers throughout Alaska and will provide a range of clinical and didactic experiences that represents the necessary depth and breadth required for future professional practice with Alaska's diverse communities. Interns will have a primary placement at one site and will complete mini-rotations at other sites within the consortium. Across training sites, interns will complete an average of 10-15 hours per week of face-to-face direct service delivery.

## Major Training Emphases

All sites will offer three major training emphases:

### **Psychotherapy**

Each consortium site provides opportunities for interns to work in inpatient or outpatient settings to provide individual, group, family and/or couples therapy to people from a diverse range of age groups, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic levels within a variety of therapeutic modalities.

### **Psychological Assessment**

Assessment experience is provided at each consortium site. Interns at every site will be expected to administer, interpret, and provide written synthesis of psychological test batteries. Assessments may include intellectual, achievement, personality, and competency-based measures. Interns will have opportunities to write reports and make recommendations that convey meaningful information to clients. While each site varies on the number and type of referrals, most interns will complete 5 or more batteries throughout the course of the year.

### **Addictions**

All interns will have experience working with clients with drug and alcohol comorbidities, as well as the misuse of prescription medications. The clinical experiences within this major training emphasis will vary from site to site and may involve: outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, brief screening/intervention, referral, assessment, consultation, psychoeducation, and/or work within a court setting.

## Required Minor Rotations

Every intern, with the exception of API placed interns, will complete a minor-rotation at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute in Anchorage in order to gain clinical exposure to an inpatient setting. Every intern will additionally complete a minor-rotation at Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome and one of its 15 outlying Native communities in order to gain village-based experience with Alaska Native people. These minor-rotations are intended as opportunities for exposure and shadowing and may or may not involve the opportunity for provision of clinical services. Finally, all interns will complete a Transcultural Medicine minor-rotation at the Alaska Family Medicine Residency in Anchorage, in order to learn about the role of culture in medicine and the application of interventions within specific cultural groups.

## Elective Training Opportunities

All sites offer elective opportunities, which differ across sites. Please refer to the individual site descriptions for more information. Elective opportunities will be determined based upon supervisor approval, the site- specific needs, and the resources available within each training site, and the specific interests and experience of the intern.

### **Supervision**

One licensed psychologist will serve as primary clinical supervisor for each intern. Interns receive a minimum of two (2) hours of individual supervision each week from a licensed psychologist. Supplemental weekly individual supervision may be provided by other appropriately credentialed professionals at the training site. Weekly group supervision will be required and conducted with all interns across consortium sites via distance technology. Group supervision may focus on legal/ethical issues and clinical topics. All interns will receive a total minimum of 4 hours per week of supervision.

### **Research**

Research opportunities will vary across consortium sites.

### **Stipend, Benefits, and Resources**

The annual stipend across all of the consortium sites will be \$28,352 with the exception of Alaska Psychiatric Institute. The stipend for the interns placed at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute will be \$32,000. This difference is due to the ineligibility of API interns to receive health benefits or paid time off through their employer. The value of these benefits has been estimated at approximately \$3,700, which has been included in the stipend for the API interns in order to achieve equity across all training sites.

All interns are required by the consortium to have current health insurance coverage. Access to health benefits will be provided to all interns but may vary across sites. Annual vacation, professional, and sick leave will be available to all interns. Due to the differential stipend, health insurance benefits at API will be unpaid and are considered to be covered by the increased wage. API Interns are responsible for ensuring they secure medical coverage by the beginning of the internship year (note some insurance companies have more lengthy review and approval processes prior to approving coverage). API interns are required to submit proof of health insurance coverage to the API site training director on a monthly basis.

AK-PIC interns have access to numerous resources. Funding for travel within the state of Alaska is provided in order for interns to complete required training experiences. Assessment and other training materials are provided by each training site, and additional materials that may be needed can be purchased using consortium funding with Training Committee approval. Additionally, each intern has access to administrative and IT support through their primary training site.

## Application Process and Selection Criteria

The Consortium will offer eleven full-time positions during the 2016-2017 internship year. Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium will be inactive this year and will not offer a position.

Students interested in applying for the internship program should submit an online application through the APPIC website ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org)). Applicants may apply to as many or as few training sites within AK-PIC as they choose. Applicants designate the training sites by selecting the appropriate Match Number when submitting the application. Please note that the Alaska Psychiatric Institute has two tracks, and applicants may choose to apply to one or both tracks. Finally, only one complete application is required for consideration to any of the sites in the Consortium.

### **A complete application package consists of the following materials:**

1. A completed On-line AAPI (APPIC's standard application)
2. Cover letter (part of on-line AAPI) stating your preferred training site(s) and why you are interested in those sites specifically
3. A current Curriculum Vitae (as part of the on-line AAPI)
4. Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from persons who have directly supervised your clinical work (as part of the on-line AAPI). ***Please submit no more than three letters***
5. Official transcripts of **all** graduate coursework
6. All applicants are required to include work samples as part of the application package. Applicants should upload two items as supplemental materials: 1) one integrated psychological evaluation report and 2) a one-page clinical (therapy) case summary/conceptualization. Please submit no more than the requested documents. All samples must be **de-identified**, removing all identifying client information. Breaches of confidentiality within the submitted samples will disqualify your application for further consideration and your program's Director of Clinical Training will be notified.

All application materials must be received by November 8, 2015 in order to be considered. If applicants are invited to interview, they will be notified by email on or before December 11, 2015. At that time, they will also be informed of the sites for which they have been selected to interview. AK-PIC will conduct in-person interviews. For those applicants who are selected to interview with one or more of our sites, the interviews will be conducted at a central location in Anchorage, with the opportunity to interview with faculty from each of the selected sites. They may also have the opportunity to tour sites and meet the staff at the local sites and to tour locations outside of Anchorage on a separate day. AK-PIC prefers interviews to be done in-person; however, if traveling for the interview would present a significant hardship, the applicant can request a web-based interview using Skype. These requests will be discussed with faculty members and granted on a case-by-case basis.

AK-PIC will base its selection process on the entire application package noted above; however, applicants who have met the following qualifications prior to beginning internship will be considered preferred:

1. A minimum of 500 intervention hours;
2. A minimum of 50 assessment hours;
3. A minimum of 7 integrated assessment reports;
4. Dissertation proposal defended;
5. Some experience or special interest in working with diverse populations;
6. Current enrollment and good standing in an APA-accredited doctoral program.

In addition to the preferences noted above, AK-PIC takes into consideration the potential commitment or interest of any prospective intern to remain in Alaska following internship. Developing a strong behavioral health workforce is an important consideration for the state, and an interest in remaining in Alaska to join the workforce will be considered a benefit in a potential intern.

Questions regarding the application or interview process may be directed to either of AK-PIC's Training Co-Directors, Dr. Sarah Dewane: [Sarah.Dewane@providence.org](mailto:Sarah.Dewane@providence.org) or Dr. Seth Green: [Sgreen@NSHCorp.org](mailto:Sgreen@NSHCorp.org)

### **Training Model**

AK-PIC's training is based in the Practitioner-Scholar model. AK-PIC trains doctoral interns who are effective consumers of research and who utilize scholarly inquiry to inform their practice. AK-PIC offers generalist training, with the opportunity for specialized elective training that varies across training sites. More information about each training site and the resources and opportunities offered by each is provided below.

### **AK-PIC Training Sites**

The consortium includes the following sites: Alaska Family Medicine Residency, Providence Alaska Medical Center; Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC); Hope Counseling Center; Norton Sound Health Corporation; and Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). Each site is described below. Please note that the **SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) was INACTIVE for 2016-2017 and is expected to be inactive for 2017-2018.**

## **Alaska Family Medicine Residency, Providence Family Medicine Center**

### **3 Full Time Funded Positions**

#### **General Information**

The Alaska Family Medicine Residency (AKFMR) at the Providence Family Medicine Center (PFMC) in Anchorage was developed to train family physicians to practice in any part of the state of Alaska, including remote and isolated Alaskan communities. Professionals in this program place a major emphasis on cultural diversity and working within an interdisciplinary, patient-centered medical home approach. It is the belief of the residency that preparing professionals across disciplines for this type of practice also prepares them for practice in virtually any other setting, such as urban or suburban outpatient practice, urban underserved practice, or third world/international medicine. Interns are placed in the Behavioral Health Program of the residency. This program provides integrated behavioral health and mental health services to primary care patients. Providence Family Medicine Center is the continuity care clinic for the Alaska Family Medicine Residency. PFMC is a primary care clinic providing complete medical treatment with open access for every member of our community.

PFMC offers the full range of primary care services including: preventive care; acute and chronic disease treatment; same day “urgent” appointments; procedures and minor surgery; psychological, behavioral health, and social services; maternity, pediatric, and geriatric care; and medical intensive case management. PFMC has been awarded recognition as a Level 3 Physician Practice Connections® Patient-Centered Medical Home™ by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. The Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of health care delivery that aims to improve the quality and efficiency of care. The standards emphasize the use of systematic, patient-centered, coordinated care that supports access, communication, and patient involvement.

PFMC functions as a “safety net” clinic for underserved individuals in Anchorage. The primary care clinic utilizes an integrated health psychology focus in its treatment of individuals of all ages from newborn to geriatric. The medical clinic completes over 35,000 visits per year, and psychology trainees including practicum students and doctoral interns complete approximately 3,500 visits per year. The population served by PFMC is multicultural and reflective of the population of Anchorage, which is the second most diverse city in the nation. Services such as psychological consultation, as well as individual, couples, and group therapy, are provided to those served in the primary care clinic by the behavioral health staff.

#### **The Internship Experience**

Behavioral health experiences available to psychology interns at Providence Family Medicine Center are broad, comprehensive, and involve an interdisciplinary approach. Numerous medical staff, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists and social workers, are available to consult with interns as needed. A staff psychiatrist is also available and may provide consultation. The focus of treatment is often chronic disease and psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress, and addiction. Interns at AKFMR are provided with training opportunities that become more challenging and with

greater expectations for autonomy over the course of the year. The primary age group served by the site is adults; however, interns have the opportunity to serve adolescents and families. Interns provide services, such as individual/family/group outpatient therapy, consultation with medical providers, crisis intervention, substance abuse screening and brief treatment, and psychological assessment.

Interns are full-time employees of the AKFMR and are expected to work minimally 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. During the year, interns will be expected to maintain weekly therapy clinics, weekly behavioral health consultation clinics, co-facilitate groups, provide consultation to interdisciplinary team, and conduct outpatient psychological assessments.

### **Special Requirements of Applicants**

PFMC is a drug- and tobacco-free workplace. All interns must pass a drug screen which includes screening for substances and nicotine. PFMC does not employ individuals who use tobacco products. The nicotine test is highly sensitive, detecting nicotine use as much as six months prior to the test. A positive test for tobacco or other drugs will constitute a fail in the review process. In addition, PFMC conducts a full background check. The history of a felony or misdemeanor will constitute a fail in the review process. The drug screen and background check occur after the Match decision as part of the employee orientation. If an intern fails either of these, they will not be able to work at the site.

### **Staff**

Sarah Dewane, PhD- Director of Behavioral Health, Clinical Psychologist, AK-PIC Training Co-Director, Primary site supervisor

Virginia Parret, PhD- Behavioral Scientist, Clinical Psychologist, AK-PIC Faculty

Anne Musser, DO- Family Medicine Residency Director

Teresa Bormann, MD- Providence Family Medicine Center Medical Director

### **Contact Information**

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## **Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association**

### **1 Full Time Funded Position**

#### **General Information**

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA), provides Health Services (Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Community Wellness and Prevention) in four communities across the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. The four communities include Atka, Nikolski, St. George, and Unalaska. Behavioral Health services are also provided in the Anchorage office, which will be the principle location of the AK-PIC training site. The mission of APIA Behavioral Health Services is to increase the quality of health in the service area by providing effective, continuous, integrated, and empathic treatment. Services include continuum of care from prevention to intervention. APIA provides individualized, culturally congruent treatment, utilizing a recovery model as a basis for treatment.

APIA's treatment philosophy is one of assisting individuals to develop an awareness of their strengths and using their identified strengths to succeed with the treatment plan. Interventions are not only diagnosis specific, but they are also specific to the phase of recovery and stage of change. All services are provided in an outpatient setting, both in-person and via telemedicine.

Behavioral health services include individual, couple, family, and group psychotherapy to address mental health concerns, substance abuse difficulties, and co-occurring disorders. Substance abuse treatment services include alcohol and drug information school (ADIS), evaluation and risk measurement/prevention, and individual and group therapies. Psychological testing is provided to geriatric, adult, children, and adolescent clients dealing with a broad range of issues from mental competency, learning disabilities, personality, emotional, and behavioral diagnostic issues. Psychiatric services involving medication assessment and evaluation are also provided through contractual partners. In addition to providing outpatient behavioral health services, Behavioral Health staff work with Primary Care staff to provide holistic, integrated care in four APIA service communities. Behavioral health staff members also assist with community outreach and education events.

#### **The Internship Experience**

Interns will be exposed to a variety of treatment modalities (i.e., individual and group), across different media (i.e., in-person and telemedicine). Furthermore, interns will become familiar with administering a variety of psychological assessments in a culturally-sensitive manner dealing with diverse referral issues. Another distinctive component of APIA's training site is that all interns will be exposed to village travel and working with community-based treatment providers in the context of remote communities. This will ultimately prepare them for working in the mental health and substance abuse field in rural and remote Alaska. Interns will be full-time employees of the APIA. Interns will be based in Anchorage and will travel to one of APIA's regional service communities on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, for approximately one-week in duration per trip. Travel expenses for these trips are covered by APIA, while travel for

consortium requirements such as orientation, required minor rotations, and graduation will be covered by AK-PIC.

### **Special Requirements of Applicants**

APIA is a drug-free workplace. APIA conducts a full background check. The history of a felony or misdemeanor may constitute a fail in the review process. See State of Alaska Barrier Crime Matrix for a full listing of barrier crimes (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/BarrierCrimeMatrix.pdf>). Please note, additional barrier crimes may constitute a fail in the review process. The background check occurs after the Match decision as part of the employee orientation. If an intern fails the background check, they will not be able to work at APIA.

### **Staff**

Tara Ford, PhD – Community Health Services Regional Administrator

Cody Chipp, PhD – Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Site Supervisor

### **Contact Information**

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## **Hope Counseling Center**

### **1 Full Time Funded Position**

#### **General Information**

Hope Counseling Center is a faith-based outpatient mental health center located in Fairbanks, Alaska providing services for 44,000 people living in Fairbanks and the greater North Star Borough. The North Star Borough includes two military bases. Hope Counseling provides therapeutic and assessment services to the outlying communities of interior Alaska on an “as requested” basis.

Therapeutic services provided by Hope Counseling include individual, family, couples, and group counseling to address a variety of mental health issues. Our dual diagnosis substance abuse program provides entry level as well as level I and level II interventions for adults and adolescents. Hope Counseling Center also provides a complete range of psychological assessments for individuals, other social service agencies, The Alaska Office of Children’s Services, the North Star Borough School District, and the Alaska State Court System.

#### **The Internship Experience**

The primary goal of the internship program is to provide a rigorous clinical training opportunity that readies program participants to provide high quality mental health care addressing the wide variety mental health needs experienced in our community. Interns gain specific experience working with families doing individual and family interventions, marriage counseling, trauma and grief therapy, as well as multi-level substance abuse treatment for individuals with Dual Diagnoses. Interns will also gain experience working with individuals who have Axis II disorders. Interns also receive significant training and experience conducting psychological assessments for a variety of mental health and governmental agencies in the Fairbanks area. Hope Counseling Center is strongly invested in training mental health professionals who are interested in continuing to provide services in Alaska.

Interns have the opportunity to participate as co-counselors with other clinical staff to augment their training experience when appropriate. As co-counselors they work with selected clients to learn a variety of intervention styles and techniques practiced by our clinical staff. Interns are expected to be on site by 9:00 AM on days that the clinic is open. Their work day generally ends about 5:00 PM; however interns may be expected to participate in evening group sessions while working with the dual diagnosis substance abuse program. Depending on the specific area of focus, interns conduct between 10 and 20 individual therapy sessions each week and complete at least 2 full psychological evaluations each month. While interns are completing their assessment rotation they will complete at least 1 psychological assessment each week in addition to a reduced therapy load.

The clientele served by Hope Counseling Center reflects our extremely diverse community. The rich ethnic diversity represented by those we serve, as well as the significant range of mental health

needs addressed by Hope Counseling place significant demands on the time and expertise of our clinical staff. Interns are expected to be full participants in that process.

Interns meet one-on-one with their primary supervisors twice each week for supervision. Individual supervision addresses all aspects of the intern's clinical work including specific interventions, ethical issues and considerations as well as transference/counter transference concerns. Interns participate in group supervision with other staff counselors once each week. Group supervision is conducted by the Clinical Director and is generally conducted in a "Grand Rounds" format. Interns are expected to make periodic presentations on topics of interest during weekly staff didactic training.

### **Special Requirements of Applicant**

Hope Counseling Center is a Faith Based mental health center organized as a private, not-for-profit corporation with a 501 (c) (3) designation by the IRS. Intern applicants are not required to hold any specific religious beliefs or affiliations to be considered for this training site or the AK-PIC program as a whole. Hope Counseling Center also does not require that staff hold any specific doctrinal perspective, and does not have formal hiring practices that limit employment based on religious affiliation. However, Hope Counseling Center does give preference in their hiring practices for staff that are willing and comfortable incorporating their spiritual beliefs into their clinical work as requested by clients, and thus has invoked Footnote 4 of APA's Guidelines and Principles. Because faith-based counseling is one of the services provided by Hope Counseling, the ability of interns to speak to their own experience of faith and spirituality within their clinical work will serve as a strength if placed at this training site, but again, is not a requirement.

### **A Description of Footnote 4**

*This requirement does not exclude programs from having a religious affiliation or purpose and adopting and applying admission and employment policies that directly relate to this affiliation or purpose so long as: (1) Public notice of these policies has been made to applicants, students, faculty, or staff before their application or affiliation with the program; and (2) the policies do not contravene the intent of other relevant portions of this document or the concept of academic freedom. These policies may provide a preference for persons adhering to the religious purpose or affiliation of the program, but they shall not be used to preclude the admission, hiring, or retention of individuals because of the personal and demographic characteristics described in Domain A, Section 5 of this document (and referred to as cultural and individual diversity). This footnote is intended to permit religious policies as to admission, retention, and employment only to the extent that they are protected by the U.S. Constitution. It will be administered as if the United States Constitution governed its application*

### **Staff**

Dr. John DeRuyter, Psy.D.- Clinical Psychologist, Executive Director, Primary Site Supervisor  
Anne Brainerd, M.A, LPC –Therapist, Deputy Director  
Valerie Gifford, Ph D. - Clinical Psychologist  
Dan Curns, PhD – Clinical Supervisor/Clinical Psychologist

Shayle Hutchinson, LCSW - Therapist  
Matt Sena, M.A., LPC – Therapist  
Racheal Bolton M.A. LPC – Therapist  
Rebekah Burket M.A. LPC - Therapist  
Frank Ponziano, MA, CDC-I

**Contact Information**

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## **Norton Sound Health Corporation- Behavioral Health Services**

### **4 Full Time Funded Positions**

#### **General Information**

The Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) in the Bering Strait Region of remote northwest Alaska operates the Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome. The Bering Strait Region encompasses a vast pristine 44,000 square-mile area extending to the Russian border in the Bering Sea. Nome is the central community of the Bering Strait Region with 4,000 residents. NSHC operates clinics in 15 outlying Alaska Native villages on the coast, including the islands of St. Lawrence and Little Diomed in the Bering Sea. About 81 percent of the Bering Strait Region's 10,900 people are Alaska Natives, composed of Siberian-Yupik, Central Yupik and Inupiat. NSHC has a workforce of 464 employees, 339 stationed in Nome and 125 living and working in the outlying Native communities. The Behavioral Health Services (BHS) program of NSHC includes a staff of 52 in Nome coupled with its village-based counseling programs in the outlying Native villages.

The Behavioral Health Services program provides diverse mental health services to adult, children and adolescents, including inpatient and outpatient programs, within a culturally-sensitive milieu.

- Outpatient mental health services include individual, couple, family and group psychotherapy including interactive and observational play therapy.
- Psychological testing is provided to geriatric, adult, children and adolescent clients dealing with a broad range of issues from mental competency, learning disabilities and personality, emotional and behavioral diagnostic issues.
- Psychiatric services involving medication assessment and evaluation are also provided.
- Outpatient substance abuse services include alcohol and drug information school (adolescent and adult), evaluation and risk measurement/prevention, individual and group counseling (Matrix).
- Village-based counseling programs offer first-line therapeutic services through community-based paraprofessionals supported by itinerant mental health clinicians based in Nome.
- BHS has several memorandums of agreement with other agencies (e.g., Office of Children's Services, Nome Youth Center, Kawerak Children's and Family Services) in Nome to promote therapeutic services throughout the region.

#### **The Internship Experience**

Each intern will have an individualized learning plan developed by the intern and his/her primary supervisor. Quarterly reviews will be conducted to insure that learning plan goals are being met. Doctoral psychology interns are expected to become familiar and comfortable with state regulations governing the execution of routine mental health and substance abuse assessments. Interns will be exposed to a variety of treatment modalities (i.e., individual, group) that promote the well-being of

individuals suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse problems. Further, interns will become familiar with administering a variety of psychological assessments in a culturally-sensitive manner dealing with diverse referral issues. Another exciting aspect of NSHC's internship is that all interns will be exposed to village travel and working with village-based counselors in the context of a Native community. This will ultimately prepare them for working in the mental health and substance abuse field in rural Alaska. Finally, each intern is expected to become familiar with the integrated care model at the primary care clinic with possibilities for experience with acute care and emergency department.

Interns are full-time employees of the Norton Sound Health Corporation and are expected to work minimally 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. Interns co-leading a Matrix outpatient substance abuse group with their supervisor and/or staff clinician/intern throughout the year. At least 8 hours per week will be devoted to working within the Norton Sound Regional Hospital on its primary care clinic as a behavioral health consultant. Every 4 weeks, interns will travel to an outlying Native village for minimally 2 nights and 3 days in the Bering Strait Region where they will work with a village-based counselor in the context of a Native community. Monthly tele-med trainings will also be provided through the consortium.

### **Special Requirements of Applicants**

An important asset for all interns will involve being flexible since the Bering Strait Region historically carries one of the highest suicide rates in the nation. Crises are common and interns must be able to address different issues as they arise. Supervisors, however, will insure that exposure to crises is conducted in a manner that facilitates a productive learning experience.

Norton Sound Health Corporation is a drug-free workplace. Norton Sound Health Corporation conducts a full background check. The history of a felony or misdemeanor may constitute a fail in the review process. See State of Alaska Barrier Crime Matrix for a full listing of barrier crimes (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/BarrierCrimeMatrix.pdf>). Please note, additional barrier crimes may constitute a fail in the review process. The background check occurs after the Match decision as part of the employee orientation. If an intern fails the background check, they will not be able to work at Norton Sound Health Corporation.

### **Staff**

Seth Green, PhD – Director of Psychological Services, Licensed Clinical Psychologist,  
AK-PIC Training Co-Director, Primary Site Supervisor

Lauren Albinson, PsyD - Licensed Psychologist, Program Director: Rural Health Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Ray Droby, PhD – Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Director of Psychological Services: Sub-Regional Clinic

Edward Zeff, MD - Psychiatrist

### **Contact Information**

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## **Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API)**

### **2 Full Time Funded Positions**

Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) provides acute, inpatient mental health services for Alaska's metropolitan, rural, and tribal communities. The 80-bed state hospital is located in Anchorage and is the only public psychiatric institution in the state of Alaska. Patients at API come from all over the state and are treated on two adult civil units, one adolescent unit, and two adult forensic units.

API provides acute psychiatric stabilization and brief therapeutic services to individuals who are in crisis, have decompensated, or otherwise are unable to remain in their home communities due to a serious mental illness. The hospital also is the one location in the state where individuals who have been found incompetent to stand trial receive restoration treatment, so they can re-engage with the legal process. Traditional psychiatric inpatient services are complimented by evidence-based therapeutic practices, psycho-education, and traditional healing practices. Because patient stays on the civil units at API are short, mental health treatment for civil patients focuses on crisis stabilization, assisting patients in developing an awareness of their mental health needs, and then transitioning them back to their communities or to other appropriate longer term programs for the more in-depth work they may require.

### **The Internship Experience**

Interns work full-time employees at API and are expected to work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. During their time at API, interns are active members of the multidisciplinary treatment teams and develop skill in collaborating with professionals in psychiatry, medicine, social work, occupational therapy, recreational therapy and nursing. Because of API's commitment to helping develop competent professionals to work in the field of mental health, psychology interns will serve as clinical supervisors to graduate-level psychology students from area programs, will work directly with doctoral-level occupational therapy interns, and interact with social work and nursing students. API offers two training tracks for doctoral interns in psychology, the inpatient track and the forensic track.

*Inpatient Track:* Interns on the inpatient track will complete rotations on the adult civil units and the adolescent unit, where they will be active members of an interdisciplinary treatment team, plus provide group treatment for the forensic patients. The Inpatient track Intern will complete psychological evaluations with adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients; conduct individual and family therapy sessions; develop treatment and behavioral plans; and facilitate a wide range of therapeutic and psycho-educational groups. The intern on this track also interacts with forensic patients by facilitating a Dual Diagnoses group for the forensic patients. Interns also complete psychological assessments with the forensic patients and provide intensive individual therapy for them.

*Forensic Track:* Interns on the forensic track complete formal court assessments for defendants involved with the criminal justice system. Most evaluations are for competency under State of Alaska statutes. These evaluations are usually conducted at one of the Department of Corrections facilities in

the Anchorage area. Skill will be developed in assessing a defendant's understanding of the legal changes, decisional capacity and ability to work with an attorney. Evaluations will also address cultural, economic and environmental factors that can impact competency and suggest or provide remediation for these factors. The forensic intern will not only observe court testimony related to competency issues but also may be called to testify regarding his or her professional opinion based on an evaluation completed during this rotation. As a member of the treatment team on the forensic units, the intern will assist in the development of treatment plans for all assigned cases and of individualized behavioral plans on an as-needed basis. All of the forensic work will be done under the supervision of the Chief Forensic Psychologist for the State of Alaska. The forensic intern will have the opportunity to interact with members of the legal profession, collaborate with personnel from the Department of Corrections, observe Mental Health Court, and attend competency hearings. The intern on the forensic track will also be asked to facilitate an ongoing Dual Diagnosis therapy group on either the adolescent or an adult civil unit.

Interns on both the inpatient and forensic tracks complete standardized psychological assessments with patients who have a wide range of mental health or cognitive issues upon request by their unit treatment team. Interns meet individually with their primary supervisors twice each week for supervision which addresses all aspects of the intern's clinical work. The intern is also expected to meet weekly with the psychology practicum student he or she is supervising. Additionally, group supervision for interns and psychology practicum students is held weekly. Further opportunities for mentoring from members of other disciplines are readily available.

In addition to the primary internship positions, API will provide a minor rotation to all other AK-PIC interns with an intensive overview of the role of a psychologist in a State Psychiatric Hospital. Every intern, with the exception of interns primarily placed at API, will rotate through API. During this time, AK-PIC interns will have exposure to an inpatient population, may observe therapy groups, and may observe mental health court.

### **Special Requirements of Applicants**

Prior to beginning internship, all interns must pass a background check per Alaska Statutes 47.05.300-47.05.390 through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Background Check Unit. The background check occurs after the Match decision as part of the employee orientation. If an intern fails either of the background check, they will not be able to work at API.

### **Staff**

#### Administration

Melissa Ring, Ph.D., CEO

Michael Alexander, M.D., Director of Psychiatry

Tamara Russell, Psy D., Clinical Director

### Psychology Staff

Tamara Russell, Psy D. – Psychologist, Clinical Director, & Primary Site Supervisor, AK-PIC Faculty

Kristy Becker, Ph.D. – Chief Forensic Psychologist, State of Alaska

Kaichen McRae, Ph.D. – Forensic Evaluator

Ruddy Taylor, Ph.D. – Post-Doctoral Resident

Dianna Rehn, Psy.D

Jeff Heuseveldt, MA, MHC III

Anne Nell, MA, MHC III

Susan Whitefeather, Ph.D., MH III

### **Contact Information**

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Website: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/DBH/API/default.htm>

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Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4677

## **AK-PIC Goals, Objectives, and Intern Expectations**

Overarching Goals: The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC) represents the collaborative effort of five Alaska agencies to share resources and faculty for the purpose of providing a broad and general educational program for doctoral psychology interns. The program will prepare professionals to successfully meet the unique challenges of practicing psychology in rural and remote settings and to ensure clinical competency in working with Alaska's various cultural groups.

Our program offers one year, full time internship positions at treatment centers across the state of Alaska. It is expected that by the conclusion of the internship year, interns will have accomplished the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Assessment and Diagnosis.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Measurement and Psychometrics,
- Evaluation Methods,
- Application of Methods,
- Diagnosis,
- Conceptualization and Recommendations,
- Communication of Findings,
- Program Evaluation

Goal 2: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Intervention.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Knowledge of Interventions,
- Intervention Planning,
- Therapeutic Skills,
- Intervention Implementation (including using Evidence Based Practices), and
- Evaluation of Treatment Progress

Goal 3: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Substance Abuse/ Co-occurring Disorders.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Knowledge of Interventions,
- Intervention Planning,
- Intervention Implementation,
- Evaluation of Treatment Progress, and
- Case Conceptualization

Goal 4: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Distance Delivery.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Technology Skills,
- Cultural and Relational Understanding
- Implementation of Distance Delivery, and
- Consultation and Coordination

Goal 5: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Scientific Knowledge and Methods.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Scientific Approach to Knowledge Generation,
- Application of Scientific Method to Practice,
- Scientific Mindedness,
- Scientific Foundation of Psychology, and
- Scientific Foundation of Professional Practice

Goal 6: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Supervision (participation as supervisee).

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Understanding Expectations and Roles,
- Understanding Processes and Procedures,
- Skills Development through Supervision,
- Awareness of Factors Affecting Quality,
- Participation in the Supervision Process, and
- Knowledge of Ethical and Legal Issues pertaining to Supervision

Goal 7: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Management-Administration.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Understanding Processes of and Responding Appropriately to Management,
- Understanding Processes of and Responding Appropriately to Administration,
- Understanding Processes of and Responding Appropriately to Organization Leadership, and
- Evaluation of Management and Leadership

Goal 8: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Advocacy.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Empowerment, and

- Systems Change

Goal 9: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Reflective Practice & Self-Assessment.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Reflective Practice,
- Self-Assessment, and
- Self-Care

Goal 10: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Professional Skills and Development.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Integrity,
- Deportment,
- Accountability,
- Concern for the Welfare of Others, and
- Professional Identity

Goal 11: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Professional Relationships and Consultation.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Interpersonal Relationships with Clients, Co-Workers, Supervisors, and Peers,
- Affective Skills,
- Expressive Skills, and
- Consultation

Goal 12: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Diversity and Cultural Effectiveness.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Understanding of the Self as Shaped by Individual and Cultural Diversity,
- Understanding of Others and Shaped by Individual and Cultural Diversity,
- Understanding of the Interaction of Self and Others as Shaped by Individual and Cultural Diversity,
- Knowledge of Research and Applications Based on Individual and Cultural Context

Goal 13: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Ethical & Legal Standards and Policy.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Knowledge of Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards and Guidelines,
- Awareness and Application of Ethical Decision Making, and
- Ethical Conduct

Goal 14: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of Case Conceptualization.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Case Conceptualization Skills,
- Integration of Feedback,
- Translation of Conceptualization into Techniques and Procedures, and
- Process Evaluation and Adaptation of Conceptualization

### Consortium Contact Information

For more information about AK-PIC, feel free to contact:

Seth Green, Ph.D, AK-PIC Training Co-Director- [Sgreen@NSHCorp.org](mailto:Sgreen@NSHCorp.org)

Sarah Dewane, Ph.D, AK-PIC Training Co-Director- [Sarah.Dewane@providence.org](mailto:Sarah.Dewane@providence.org)

or

Debra Kupfer, MHS, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education- [dkupfer@wiche.edu](mailto:dkupfer@wiche.edu)

Or go to [www.ak-pic.org](http://www.ak-pic.org)

Support for the Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC) is a collaborative effort between the internship hosting organizations, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Mental Health Program. WICHE has an extensive history of expertise working with systems to address behavioral health workforce planning and development, and has contracted to provide ongoing consultation and technical assistance to the internship program.

