



Internship/Residency Program

SITE DESCRIPTION AND CLIENT POPULATION:

Psychological Counseling Services, Ltd. is a group private practice that specializes in intensive outpatient treatment. The outpatient intensive process can be utilized to replace inpatient treatment in some cases. PCS believes that focusing on the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and relational dimensions of an individual is critical. The professional staff represents a diversity of orientations and can address treatment with a variety of modalities. The Intensive Therapeutic Program lasts from 1-3 weeks and includes an average of six therapists for each client. A wide range of issues are focused on, including childhood trauma, sexual offenders, eating disorders, sexual addiction, domestic violence, chemical abuse, as well as depression, anxiety, and marital and family issues.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SITE:

Psychological Counseling Services requires a 3-6 month commitment to provide continuity of care and to complement the advanced course work for the Master's or Doctoral Degree Program. Mature students who have excellent counseling skills and are self-starters are ideal candidates. It is expected that students work approximately 20 hours per week, attend a Wednesday afternoon staffing from 12-2 PM, and weekly one-hour supervision with Dr. Marcus Earle, the Training Coordinator. Interns may also be asked to participate in the intensive program which entails shadowing a particular client throughout their intensive experience. Interns are also expected to participate in one Psychodrama group per week on either Monday or Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 PM. Dr. Earle asks that each interested student call the front office and arrange for a half-hour intern interview with him. Final intern selection is at Dr. Earle's discretion.

SITE TRAINING:

Training begins when the intern attends the initial Wednesday staff meeting. The treatment approach at PCS is both multi-dimensional and multi-modal providing the intern an opportunity to participate in an eclectic and powerful combination

of treatment modalities. Initially interns have the opportunity to do co-therapy, as well as being a co-facilitator in a number of groups. As the style and work of the interns becomes known, clients will be referred to them. In addition to the supervision hours offered, interns are encouraged to ask questions of the therapists as needed.





DIRECT CLIENT CONTACT:

Students accepted by Dr. Earle at Psychological Counseling Services will have an opportunity to do individual, marital, family, and group therapy. This is an ideal site for the practicum because staff members are always available. Training is structured to ensure that interns learn to conceptualize, integrate and apply various theories in practice. Skill will be demonstrated in assessments, taking psychosocial history, developing treatment plans, as well as in direct client service. This would be an ideal site for those specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Ralph Earle is past national president of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and is an Approved Supervisor for the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. A national authority on sexual addiction and author of several books on that subject he has a committed team who offer excellent preparation to those who intern at this site.

Letter to Victoria Gamber, Ottawa University, from an intern who completed her internship at PCS.

RE: 380 hr Internship for Marriage, Family, and Addictions Recovery Therapy specialty

Dear Victoria,

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide for you a summary of my experiences at Psychological Counseling Services, Ltd. in Scottsdale under the expert guidance of both Dr. Ralph H. Earle and Dr. Marcus R. Earle. Right from the beginning of my internship program, I was warmly welcomed and treated as a professional by each of the therapists as well as the office staff. This comfortable, at home type of feeling continued for the six months I was to spend at PCS.

I was extremely honored to sit in and co-facilitate with various therapists following the consent of each individual patient. From these sessions I had the opportunity to learn new interventions, observe many different styles of counseling, watch change and catharsis happen, and be continually encouraged to share my own thoughts and intuition. At various times, several of these patients went on to do more of their work as part of an intensive and I was privileged to be chosen to work as part of the intensive treatment team. In addition, I had a small case load of my own which allowed me the freedom to experiment, practice, and process with my supervisor, Dr. Marcus Earle, and my intern peer group. I found my weekly supervision to be a most rewarding and educational adjunct I could not have done without.





I was involved in two morning groups, a compulsivity group and a co-dependency group, both of which became most meaningful for me. I enjoyed so much observing the growth, courage, risk-taking, and challenges exhibited by each group member and found it quite overwhelming to say my goodbyes to the co-dependency group I had sat in with for the entire time. These patients taught me what willingness, courage, and support are all about and I can honestly say that I will miss the patients at PCS as well!

Part of my feelings of comfort were connected with the 12 Step orientation and spirituality I experienced at PCS. With my background in addiction work at Charter Hospital-East Valley and Glendale sites, PCS revealed to me methods to offer the 12 Steps and spirituality in private practice and how this could be successful. I learned a great deal about working with sex offenders and expanded my addition base to include sexual addiction.

I had the pleasure of participating in a Body Image Workshop and an Eating Disorder Training Session, both of which have added to my knowledge base and personal growth. Additionally, there were many interesting and knowledgeable professionals who attended our staffings as an in-service educational component and helped create a broader spectrum of treatment possibilities, professional relationships, and referrals for me in our community.

Lastly, I want to mention that I had numerous opportunities to attend and participate in psychodrama groups and discovered that this is an area I would be most interested in further study. I also had the privilege of sitting in with and co-facilitating with Marilyn Murray. I have begun to get familiar and comfortable in using Marilyn's incredible theory and have observed many patients working with her techniques.

I am taking away from PCS hundreds of gifts, both professionally as well as personally. It was with much sadness that I left, but I know in my heart that our relationships are far from over. I feel I have established some very important professional relationships as well as personal friendships which I hope will continue for an indefinite period of time. My advisor at Ottawa, Dr. Ron Frost, indicated to me last February that I would come out of this experience a very changed woman, and I truly believe he was correct! I am eternally grateful PCS choose me as an intern and feel privileged to have worked along side each and every one of the staff. My life is truly changed!

Thank you Victoria for your support, encouragement, and suggestions. I value our continuing professional relationship and friendship.

Warmly,

Terrell Spiller Smith

