

Greetings!

This year Delaware Guidance Services for Children and Youth, Inc. (DGS) celebrates 70 years of providing clinically excellent behavioral health care to children, youth, and families in the First State. DGS operates offices in Wilmington, Newark, Dover, Lewes, and Seaford, and we are the only statewide not-for-profit outpatient behavioral health organization for children and adolescents accredited by JCAHO. In 2020, we were honored as a Compassionate Champion for our dedication to serving youth and families using a trauma-informed approach.

Through DGS, clients and families have access to outpatient counseling, group therapy, parent-child interaction therapy, and school-based services. Our community-based service lines serve youth and families who require a more intense therapeutic protocol. DGS' 24-hour statewide Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) dispatches skilled crisis intervention clinicians to provide immediate care to children experiencing behavioral health crises. Therapeutic options are available for a wide range of diagnoses including depression, anxiety, mood disorders, eating disorders, traumatic stress-related disorders, and suicidal ideation. In 2021, DGS clinicians provided over 54,000 direct care hours to children, youth, and families in Delaware. Over 93% of clients report improvement in their level of functioning following treatment, and therapeutic benefits derived from trauma-informed care extend to clients' siblings, caregivers, classmates, and peers.

Over the past 8 years, DGS has provided unique clinical training opportunities for university students as well as those who have already earned their graduate degree. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you and your faculty about the opportunities available to your students through DGS and how we may help them as they grow professionally.

DGS internships offer students the chance to build and reinforce skills necessary for matriculation and professional development. DGS has hosted many masters level students from schools of Social Work and Clinical Counseling. At the associates and bachelor's level, Human Services students have benefited from placement in our Operational Support Service department as they acquire valuable skills related to medical records management, clinical scheduling, client relations, and development of policies and procedures. The following feedback from previous DGS interns indicate that their experience with DGS prepared them for positions in their respective fields:

"Interning in DGS' outpatient position could not have prepared me more for starting my career as an ACTP Outpatient Clinician. I was able to comfortably ease into the work field, being guided and mentored each day while building my personal and professional confidence in my own therapeutic approaches. I continue to draw from my internship experience daily in the work that I do now, readily equipped to serve my families."

"I was able to develop confidence in utilizing modalities with clients and families and learn strong practice management skills to stay on top of documentation. I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and grow within each day and I look forward to continuing my growth as an individual and clinician".

DGS' Advanced Clinical Training Program (ACTP) launched in the Summer of 2014 and provides relevant and practical clinical training for those graduates seeking professional state licensure. This two- year program prepares clinicians to utilize clinical skills in the outpatient and community settings. Clinical supervision aligns with clinical licensing requirements and supports growth in the areas of knowledge, competency, and self.



BUILDING RESILIENT FAMILIES
Building resilient families for over 60 years

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues and students who may be interested in pursuing an opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience with DGS.

I am available to discuss any questions you may have regarding our programs, and I welcome the opportunity to connect.

I hope this finds you having a peaceful day.

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