

# Department of State Hospitals-Napa MSW Clinical Social Work Internship Program:

- **Agency Name:** California Department of State Hospitals-Napa (DSH-Napa).
- **Agency Contact:** Please contact MSWII Internship Director, David Muchin, Clinical Coordinator of Social Work Services,
  - [David.Muchin@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:David.Muchin@dsh.ca.gov), (707) 253-5943.
- **Agency Social Work Department Phone:** (707) 254-2656
- **Agency Website:** <http://www.dsh.ca.gov/napa/>
- **Agency Address:** 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558
- **Regions Served:** North Bay (Marin-Sonoma-Napa), East Bay (Oakland-Berkeley-Richmond), Near East Bay (Concord-Martinez-Walnut Creek), North East Bay (Solano-Vallejo-Fairfield-Sacramento), Peninsula (Palo Alto-San Bruno-San Mateo), SF/Metro (San Francisco-Daly City), South East Bay (Fremont-Hayward-San Leandro), South Bay (Santa Clara-San Jose), DSH-Napa serves individuals from all 58 counties in California and Department of State Hospitals and serves the largest group of individuals with mental health challenges in the state of California, in the entire US, and the entire world.
- **Populations Served:** Individuals with mental health challenges from the following groups: Transitional Aged Youth (18-25 years old), Adults (25-65 years old), Older Adults/Seniors (65 years or older, living independently or assisted), Macro-level groups (organizations, communities, systems, etc.). DSH-Napa is categorized as a Forensic Inpatient Mental Health Treatment Hospital because many of the individuals we serve have had their lives intersect with the legal justice system and have current Mental Health challenges.
- **Types of Social Work:** Addiction/AOD, Advocacy, Aging, Behavioral Health, Clinical Case Management, Community mental health, or mental health, Community Development/planning, Community Organizing, Corrections/criminal justice, Dementia, Displaced persons, Diversity/DEI/Equity/Inclusion/Belonging, Elders, End of Life, Evaluation, Facilitation, Forensic social work, Formerly incarcerated, Gerontology, Grief/loss, Group therapy, Health/hospital, Individual Therapy, Integrative behavioral health & mental health/IBH,

Leadership/leadership development, LGBTQ, Medical Social Work, Mental health/behavioral health, Occupational social work/mental health rehabilitation, Palliative care, Policy development, Policy advocacy, Program development, Psychiatric social work: inpatient, Recidivism, Substance use/substance abuse, Transgender/Trans, Training, Women

- **Disciplines Present:** Social Work, Psychiatry, Psychology, Rehabilitation Therapists (Dance, Music, Occupation, Recreation, Art Therapists), Primary Care Providers, Nursing, Psychiatric Technicians, Dieticians.
- **# of Full-Time MSW/LCSW Staff:** Approximately 70 Clinical Social Workers
- **Clearance Requirements:** All clearance requirements are provided free of charge at DSH-Napa as part of the Hiring and New Employee Orientation process.
  - Live Scan/Fingerprints, General Health Screening/Physical Exam, COVID-19 Vaccine & Boosters, Criminal Background Check, N95 Mask Fit, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers, CPR, First Aid, Seasonal Influenza vaccine, TB Screen, Weekly COVID Testing.
- **Agency Pays for these Clearance Requirements:** DSH-Napa pays for and provides all the clearance requirements. Prior to the internship start date DSH-Napa provides a week-long training which includes first aid, CPR, BLS, and training that allows clearance to enter a forensic hospital setting and gain access privileges to confidential clinical treatment information.
- **Agency Information:** DSH manages the California state inpatient psychiatric hospital system, providing mental health services to patients admitted into DSH facilities. This is the largest inpatient psychiatric hospital system in the country and the world. The department strives to provide effective treatment in the safest environment possible.

DSH oversees five state hospitals – Atascadero, Coalinga, Metropolitan (in Los Angeles County), Napa and Patton.

Patients admitted to DSH are mandated for treatment by a criminal or civil court judge. More than 90 percent of our patients are forensic commitments. These individuals are connected to DSH-Napa through the criminal court system and have committed or have been accused of committing crimes linked to their mental illness.

- **MSW Internship Program:** The DSH-Napa MSW Internship Program is a student-centered program designed to enhance clinical skills through experience and exposure to a multidimensional transcultural practice.

The DSH-Napa Social Work Department is a vibrant group of patient-centric clinicians who strive to provide gender-affirming services with a focus on anti-ableism, cultural humility, and anti-racist practice. Social Workers serve an incredibly vulnerable group of individuals with the emphasis on dignity, recovery, and bringing hope to some of the darker spaces of humanity. The patients we serve include ages 18-80+ years old. DSH-Napa Internship Director was awarded 2021 Field Instructor of the Year from SJSU, and 2022 Field placement of the year amongst 230 internship placements, which speaks to the quality of experience our student interns receive and are awarded. Most of our graduate students are from the following schools, whom we have current contracts with:

- Sacramento State University
- CSU East Bay
- San Jose State University
- San Francisco State University
- UC Berkeley
- CSU Long Beach/Sonoma State
- USC

DSH-Napa is open to expand the program to accredited Social Work Schools who establish MOUs with our Social Work Department, have local Field Faculty Liaisons to support their students and meet our standards for 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSW practicum placements

The DSH-Napa Social Work Department is a group of approximately 70 Social Work clinicians, with more than half of the department former interns, who we have had the opportunity to hire post internship.

The internship program supports MSWII students to further develop the embodiment of an ethical clinician, through actively engaging in micro, macro, and mezzo practice in an effort to advance human rights through social justice advocacy, networking, and policy development. In addition to working directly with Social Workers who serve as Task Supervisors, interns are provided weekly

clinical supervision, as well as a weekly 3-hour clinical supervision group with other social work MSWII students.

Students have the opportunity to gain peer support from a weekly clinical consultation group, which is a best practice model for individual psychotherapy. Based on availability and interest, students are offered work in specialty areas that include DBT focused treatment units, Intensive Substance Recovery Program, Trauma Informed Care Units, Polydipsia Units, Geropsychiatric Units, Skilled Nursing Facility, Sexual Offender Unit, Conserved individuals in the lanterman petris short (LPS) Program, Competency to Stand Trial Program, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI), and medical focused treatment units.

Students are rotated to various specialty units throughout the year to grow their skills and exposure. Students have the opportunity to work on an annual Institutional Change Project, where they gain the exposure and skills necessary to make lasting systemic change that embody social work principles, values, and ethics.

The primary goal of the internship program is to create a platform that encourages the development of critical thinking necessary for the growth of an experienced and highly effective social work practitioner. A secondary goal of the internship program is to create a pathway to employment and licensure for students who have the opportunity to work at this placement and are interested in continuing on post-graduation.

The DSH-Napa Social Work Department provides ongoing continuing educational (CE) opportunities for our students and employees, which include clinical CE trainings, weekly clinical supervision, as well as support through licensure with a post-hours LCSW test-prep group.

Students carry a small caseload, provide individual psychotherapy, as well as group therapy to the individuals we serve with a focus on learning and skill acquisition. Rather than utilize students as "workers", the goal of the DSH-Napa Social Work Internship Program is geared toward developing the quality of character of an ethical clinician who will have the skills to be effective in their future as an LCSW that has the potential to make great contributions to this incredibly important discipline.

DSH-Napa operates approximately 1,255 beds. The commitment categories of patients treated at DSH-Napa are described below:

- **Civil Commitment under Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act**

The majority of civilly committed patients are on Conservatorships, even though we have some patients that are admitted for evaluation and treatment under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150. Conservatorships are for gravely disabled individuals who represent a danger to themselves or others due to mental illness. They have not been charged with crime, but are instead referred by local community mental health programs through involuntary civil commitment procedures pursuant to the LPS Act, typically because they cannot be treated in community facilities. LPS patients are discharged when either their county places them in a different facility or they have met their discharge criteria for a lower level of care. In some cases, patients are discharged because they have successfully petitioned the court to remove the Conservatorship.

- **Incompetent to Stand Trial IST (PC 1370)**

Felony defendants found incompetent by a court are placed in a State Hospital where the focus of treatment is to stabilize their condition and establish trial competency, so they can return to court to adjudicate their pending charges. Individuals who are determined to be unlikely to regain competency are returned to court to determine their future Conservatorship status.

- **Offenders with a Mental Disorder OMD (Penal Code Section 2974/2972)**

Parolees who committed one of a specified list of crimes and who were treated for a severe mental disorder connected to their original crime can be committed to a State Hospital as a condition of parole for a period not to exceed the length of their parole term. If the person still requires treatment at the end of their parole term, they can be civilly committed under PC2972, providing it is determined that they are a substantial danger to themselves or others. These commitments last for one year and may be renewed annually by the court.

- **Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity NGRI (PC 1026)**

Patients judged by the court to be not guilty because they were insane at the time of the felony crime are committed to a State Hospital for treatment for a period equal to the maximum sentence of their most serious offense. Treatment efforts focus on addressing their current symptoms, diagnosis and treatment participation, as well as preventing aggressive behavior with a goal of developing socially responsible behavior and independent living skills, while treating their underlying mental illness.

- **HOSPITAL STAFF**

Approximately 2,335 employees work at DSH-Napa, providing care and services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The clinical staff includes psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, psychiatric technicians, and registered nurses to name a few. Administrative staff classifications include hospital police officers, dietetics, custodial, warehouse Information Technology staff, as well as many other positions that serve to support the large hospital infrastructure.

- **Potential Tasks and Projects:** Students will spend their time interacting with different forensic populations and rotate through intake, long term, and discharge units. Students will be given increasing responsibilities for documentation such as intake evaluations and for intervention based activities such as individual therapy and group therapy. Initially working side by side with one of our unit social workers and eventually being provided with more autonomy as they attain task mastery.

On a typical day, students will attend a treatment team meeting each morning to help orient them to the issues and team concerns of patients on their case load. The teams consist of psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, rehab therapist, and nursing.

TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS: DSH is in Napa on 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy. We serve students from Sacramento, San Jose, Berkeley, San Francisco, and East Bay areas. There is no charge for on campus parking. The hospital sits on hundreds of acres, in a natural setting where it is common to see wild turkeys gobbling, deer, foxes,

peacocks, and an incredible diversity of trees and birds as you walk the property. If you are interested in arranging a visit to campus, please contact MSWII Internship Director, David Muchin, [David.Muchin@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:David.Muchin@dsh.ca.gov), 707-253-5943.

- **Required Languages:** N/A
- **Desired Languages:** N/A
- **Specific Skills:** All students must be in the **second year of internship** with non-web based first year placement. A willingness to work in an inpatient forensic mental health setting. Some experience working with adults with mental illness. Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team setting. Most importantly, a willingness to learn is essential.
- **Additional Comments:** Because this is a Forensic oriented mental health hospital, basic health screen (no drug test) and criminal background clearances are required to be approved for this site. Students may ask for detail about this at the time of interview or if offered an internship position. Requirements must be met 4-6 weeks in advance of placement start.
- **Placement Format:** All in person
- **Placement Format Comments:** The internship consists of three 8-hour week days, from 8:00am-5:00pm with all students having the common internship day of Wednesday. The practicum will remain in person and is not a web-based or hybrid program because of the limitations on direct patient care.

DSH-Napa has had great success protecting our staff and the incredibly vulnerable population we serve because of extensive health precautions. We provide and require vaccinations for all employees. All employees are required to follow public health and CDC guidelines.

- **# of Advanced Placements:** 8
- **# of Foundation Placements:** 0
- **Stipends:** Yes. DSH-Napa has a robust stipend program, which combined with the repeated positive feedback from our educational partners make this a competitive placement.