



Children's Advocacy Center

Together...breaking the silence, healing the hurt.

Victim Support and Advocacy Internship Syllabus

Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center is a trauma-informed, non-profit agency that focuses on bringing a light to the darkness, providing a safe place for children to break the silence and to start healing. Harmony Home would like to offer a 120-hour internship for direct services within the center. This internship is intended for students with majors in social work, human development, criminal justice, psychology, or other related fields and who have a strong desire to make our community a better place.

Each intern will spend time working within the Family Advocacy Department providing support to non-offending caregivers as they come through the center.

Mission

The mission of Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center (HHCAC) is to lessen the trauma and heal the hurt of abuse to children and their families through interviewing, therapy, victim services, investigation, and prosecution and to prevent child abuse through education and community awareness.

Vision

Every child is free from abuse and lives in a safe and stable environment.

Values

Honesty, respect towards families and professionals, high ethical standards.

Goals

The primary goal of all Children's Advocacy Centers is to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them. HHCAC is dedicated to the development and provision of:

- A comprehensive multidisciplinary, developmentally, and culturally appropriate, evidence-based response to the needs of children and their families.
- A neutral, child-friendly facility where forensic interviews and coordinated case planning can be conducted.
- Trauma- focused, evidence-supported medical and mental health treatment and a wide variety of victim services.
- Effective and coordinated case-management efforts based on open communication, information sharing, and collaborative decision-making.
- Comprehensive case tracking that monitors investigative, prosecutorial,

child protection, medical, mental health, and victim advocacy services so that cases do not fall through the cracks.

- More effective prosecution of child abuse cases.
- Cross- disciplinary and cross-cultural training as well a discipline-specific continuing education that enhanced professional practice.
- Promote child abuse prevention efforts through evidence-based curriculums, community training, and events.

Confidentiality

HHCAC follows all state and federal confidentiality laws. It is imperative that case information discussed between HHCAC and partner agencies not be divulged to any unauthorized person. Client and family confidentiality must be maintained at all stages of the case. Each Intern will be expected to sign a confidentiality contract.

Qualifications

Because Harmony Home is a safe place for children to be able to be able to share their story, Harmony Home requires that all prospective interns submit to a criminal and DFPS background check. All interns will complete required training at orientation and throughout the semester including, Darkness to Light, Confidence in Reporting, HIPPA, etc. Each intern should be in their final semester before graduating with their Associates, Bachelor's, or Master's degree.

Application

All prospective interns must complete an internship application, submit a resume and two references and participate in the interview process. During the semester, the Intern will be under the supervision of Loralinda Cruz, Family Services Director.

Applications are due one month before the start of the semester.

- Fall; July 15
- Spring; December 15
- Summer May 15.

Course Work within the Internship

Family Advocacy and Neglect (FA).

The Family Services Department is dedicated to reducing trauma and improving outcomes for children and their family members by providing advocacy and additional community support as part of the MDT response to child abuse. Family Advocates assist children and their non-offending family members with navigating the multiple systems involved in the CAC response by providing services and resources to ensure a consistent and coordinated, comprehensive network of support for each client.

Working with various Family Advocates the Intern will

- a. Observe and participate in crisis assessment and intervention, risk assessment and support for children and family members at all stages of involvement with HHCAC.

- b. Provide supportive case-management activities to caregivers including follow up calls, assessment of on-going needs, referrals to community programs, and education and assistance with accessing Crime Victims' Compensation, VINE, etc.
- c. Offer Initial and Follow Up Caregiver surveys to appropriate clients to help gauge program and center safety and effectiveness.
- d. Support Family Advocates in procuring concrete services for families such as housing, domestic violence intervention, food, transportation, public assistance, civil legal services, etc.
- e. Assist with the completion of Caregiver Rapid Trauma Screenings and process referrals for trauma-focused, evidence- supported mental health and specialized medical treatment, provided at HHCAC or off-site.
- f. Observe and participate in MDT and in-house case reviews to communicate and discuss the unique needs of the child and family dynamics.
- g. Offer court education and support, including court orientation and accompaniment.
- h. Assist in the coordination and execution of client events such as Back to School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kids in Court, Camps, etc.
- i. Reflect on personal values, biases and assumptions related to child abuse intervention and develop cultural competence in addressing diverse needs and perspectives.

910-C South Grant
P. O. Box 3087
Odessa, Texas 79760
Phone (915) 333-5233
Metro (915) 580-3352
Fax (915) 333-5257

