



Practicum Site Information Sheet

Name of site: Community Head Injury Resource Services of Toronto (CHIRS)

Supervisor or Contact Person: Michelle Busse, Psy.D., C.Psych.

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Phone: 416 240 8000 x255

Address: 62 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 7G1

Type of Practicum offered:

Child ____ Adult ☒ Both ____
Assessment ☒ Intervention ____ Both ____

General Information

CHIRS, formerly known as Ashby House, started in 1978 as the first community-based brain injury rehabilitation program in North America. From its origins as a transitional group home, CHIRS has evolved into a multi-service agency that provides a broad range of supports to clientele with diverse and complex needs. Currently, CHIRS is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization primarily funded by the Central Local Health Integration Network and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. CHIRS provides support services to over 400 people with moderate to severe acquired brain injury, with diverse and complex needs, and maintains active research and clinical partnerships with the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health, an academic and clinical research health centre, as well as community-based agencies addressing homelessness and serious mental health.

The Neuropsychology Clinic at CHIRS is dedicated to providing evidence-based, client-centered programming to pursue our mission of enhancing the lives of people who have been affected by acquired brain injury. At CHIRS, we seek to utilize the best of evidence-based practices, implemented in the community, with a focus on meeting clients' personal goals. Referrals for neuropsychological assessment come from within CHIRS, as well as through the Toronto ABI Network, IME companies, and law firms.

Practicum students will have the opportunity to complete neuropsychological evaluations with newly injured older adolescents and adults as well as those who have been living with their injuries for several decades. All referrals have a history of acquired brain injury, and those from our community partners may also have complex co-morbid conditions. While the focus is on acquired brain injury, students will get exposure to a variety of medical conditions including anoxia, brain tumor, toxic exposures and serious mental illness. Exposure to medical-legal and independent medical evaluations will also be provided. There are also opportunities for students to observe and/or co-facilitate a range of clinical groups at CHIRS.

The Neuropsychology Clinic at CHIRS has predominantly returned to conducting in-person assessments. Practicum students will largely be doing work from the office, but they will be provided with a CHIRS laptop, including VPN access, for work at home. Please note that CHIRS requires all new volunteers, staff, and students to be fully vaccinated upon their start date at CHIRS.

CHIRS is located near Yonge and Finch and is easily accessible via the TTC. We also have a staff parking lot which is free to use.

Supervision

Practicum students can expect to have 1 hour per week of face- to -face supervision and 1 hour per month of face- to –face group supervision, in addition to accompanying supervising psychologists during various clinical activities. Supervision will be provided by either Dr. Michelle Busse, Dr. Carolyn Lemsky, or Dr. Lisa Bolshin. All supervising psychologists are registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario. All written reports and correspondence are reviewed and countersigned by the supervising psychologist.

Keywords

Acquired brain injury, traumatic brain injury, substance use, mental illness

Training/research opportunities:

Research opportunities may be available and will depend on the interests of the student.

Students are encouraged to engage in a number of virtual webinars and didactic trainings including Baycrest International Behavioural Neurology Videoconference Rounds, KnowNeuropsychology Didactic Series, and ECHO Concussion.

Practicum Application Deadline:

We use the common deadline and notification procedure for the Greater Toronto Area Practicum Training Programs. The application deadline is in February, and the notification day is in March.

Application procedure

The following application materials should be submitted electronically to Dr. Busse (michelleb@chirs.com):

- Graduate transcript
- Curriculum vitae
- Two letters of reference
- A letter of interest describing your training experiences and goals
- Completed test administration form

Test Administration Form

Test Name	Trained to Administer	Trained to Interpret
Test of Premorbid Functioning		
Wide Range Achievement Test-4		
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test II		
Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status		
Kaplan Baycrest Neurocognitive Assessment		
WAIS-IV		
WASI-II		
Trail Making Test		
Stroop		
PASAT		
Ruff 2 & 7		
WMS-IV		
CVLT-II		
Rey Complex Figure Test		
Boston Naming Test		
COWA		
Aphasia Screening Test		
Token Test		
Receptive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test		
Hooper		
Visual Form Discrimination Test		
Wisconsin Card Sorting Test		
Category Test		
Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System		
IOWA Gambling		
Grooved Pegboard		
Tapping Test		
Grip Strength		
Rey-15		
TOMM		
Word Memory Test		
Victoria Symptom Validity Test		
Beck Depression Inventory		
Beck Anxiety Inventory		
Personality Assessment Inventory		
Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function		
Neurobehavioral Functioning Inventory		