RUTGERS’ UBHC APA PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

University Correctional HealthCare has established a forensic internship track within Rutgers’ UBHC’s Pre-Doctoral Internship Program. Rutgers’ Internship program (http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/psyinnw) is APA approved and offers a one year full time experience for those interested in work in a correctional environment as a psychologist.

Currently, three correctional sites in New Jersey are utilized for students. They are: The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Northern State Prison and Edna Mahon Correctional Facility for Women.

By the end of your correctional experience it is expected that you will become proficient in crisis management interventions, group and individual therapy. You will be a member of a treatment team that will guide the mental health care given to our patients. Psychometric testing and clinical interviews to render clinical recommendations for institutional programs and or release will also be part of the skill set you will be expected to become proficient in by the end of your internship.

Three sites within the NJDOC have been selected to give students a varied experience of correctional mental health care. They are:

The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ADTC), Avenel, NJ: ADTC is the only Department of Corrections facility to provide treatment specifically for sexual offenders. The primary mode of treatment is group therapy. The facility holds 770 sexual offenders. To be sentenced to ADTC you must have been found to be repetitive and compulsive in your sexual offending or have been convicted of a sex offense and request treatment for your sexual offending.

Northern State Prison (NSP), Newark, NJ: NSP is a 3000 bed facility that has many missions. It houses mentally ill inmates in one of four housing settings: General Population, Stabilization Unit, Residential Treatment Unit and a Transitional Care Unit. About 400 of the 3000 inmates at NSP are seen on a regular basis by the mental health department.

Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, (EMCFW): This is a 750 bed facility for women in Clinton, NJ. This is the only female prison in NJ. About 40% of the women at EMCFW receive mental health services. Like NSP, they have specialized housing units for mentally ill offenders. There is general population, a Crisis Stabilization Unit, Residential Treatment Unit and a Transitional Care Unit. The physical plant is much like a college campus and is made up of many small separate buildings.