

Child First Mental Health & Developmental Clinicians

Summary of Position

The Child First Mental Health and Developmental Clinician partners with a Care Coordinator to engage families who are referred to the Child First home-based intervention. Child First's primary goal is to strengthen the caregiver-child relationship so that it serves both as a protective buffer to unavoidable stress and directly facilitates the child's emotional, language, and cognitive growth. The Clinician uses trauma-informed CPP, a relationship-based, dyadic, parent-child treatment model, which focuses on the primary attachment relationships of the young child. The Clinician engages with both the caregiver and child in a supportive, reflective, and exploratory manner which fosters a protective, nurturing, and responsive parent-child relationship. The Clinician's therapeutic intervention focuses on: 1) helping caregivers understand typical developmental challenges and expectations; 2) increasing caregivers' ability to reflect on the meaning and feelings motivating a child's behavior; 3) supporting caregivers' problem solving; and 4) helping caregivers understand the psychodynamic relationship between parental feelings, history, and the caregiver response to the child. The Clinician also provides consultation to teachers in early care and education settings, as needed.

Qualifications include:

Master's or Doctoral level mental health provider (e.g., LCSW, LMFT, LMHC clinical psychologist, other), Must be licensed clinician eligible to practice in Florida.

Experience working psychotherapeutically with culturally diverse children and families, including parent-child therapeutic work and play therapy with very young children (0-5 years), for a minimum of three years. Past CPP training is highly valued. Experience in supervising a team helpful.

Openness to learning, capacity for self-reflection, and eagerness to participate in reflective clinical supervision.

Knowledge of relationship-based, psychodynamic intervention and early child development; parent-child relationships and attachment theory; effects of trauma and environmental risks on early childhood brain development, especially violence exposure, maternal depression, and substance abuse; and community-level risk factors (e.g., poverty, homelessness).

Experience providing mental health assessment and consultation to early care and education sites.

Must be fluent in Spanish.

Knowledge and experience working with adults with mental health, substance use, and cognitive challenges.

Experience providing intervention within diverse home and community settings.

Ability to speak a second language (Spanish, Creole, other), highly valued.

Strong commitment to the vision, mission, and goals of Child First.

Highly organized, self-motivated, reliable, and flexible (including willingness to work non-traditional hours, including evening and weekend hours as needed.)

Able to work as part of a team.

Able to communicate well verbally and in writing.

Comfortable with computers and experienced with Microsoft Word.

Reliable vehicle and appropriate insurance for home visits.

KEY JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Engage with the Child First family and the Care Coordinator in the collaborative family assessment process (i.e., gather information from interviews, observations of interactions and play, reviewed records, collateral sources, and standardized measures).

Use all available information to develop a thoughtful, well-integrated clinical formulation and Child and Family Plan of Care, in partnership with the Care Coordinator and family.

Provide Child First home-based psychotherapeutic intervention with young children and their caregivers using relational, dyadic psychotherapy (CPP) and other modalities.

Help the caregiver gain insight regarding personal history (including trauma history), feelings for the child, and current parenting practices.

Avert crisis situations by assisting the family in times of urgent need (e.g., risk of harm to child or caregiver, pending child removal), in consultation with the Care Coordinator and Clinical Director.

Provide mental health and developmental assessment and consultation within early care and education settings and to other early childhood providers.

Embrace use of videotaping to enhance both therapeutic work with families and reflective supervision.

Engage in weekly individual, Team, and group reflective clinical supervision with Clinical Director.

Engage actively in all aspects of the Child First Learning Collaborative, including in-person trainings, distance learning curriculum, and specialty trainings.

Keep all appropriate documentation for clinical accountability and reimbursement.

Participate in other clinical and administrative activities as appropriate.

EOE, DFWP. Level II Background, E-verify

Send resumes to jobs@familiesfirstpbc.org or fax # 561-881-3827