



About the Agency and Setting

We meet kids and families at the most challenging times of their lives and help them overcome some of life's most difficult circumstances – abuse and neglect, complex emotional and behavioral issues, and family crises. We restore hope, help children find joy in daily living, and improve families' chances at making a better life for themselves and at finding a place in their community where they can be successful. Casa Pacifica is committed to children unconditionally over time and through all of life's ups and downs.

In the mid-1980s, a group of Ventura County citizens became concerned about the lack of services for children removed from home by Child Protective Services. That concern evolved into a vision for a campus-based, 24-hour center offering a wide range of assessment, crisis care, medical, and educational services for abused and neglected children. The vision, in turn, spawned a creative public/private partnership that raised \$10 million needed to build Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families.

In 1993 while the campus was under construction, the Casa Pacifica steering committee - comprised of members of both the public and private sectors - focused on how to configure and finance an appropriate set of services for children requiring emergency shelter care and assessment. Through an extensive data analysis another priority population surfaced - children requiring out-of-home placement who were being sent to other California counties, and even out-of-state, because of a lack of local services. In response to this new information a strong consensus emerged - Casa Pacifica should be designed to meet the needs of this second priority population. Consequently, in addition to providing services to children requiring emergency shelter care, a residential treatment program and non-public, special education school were added to the program mix.

Casa Pacifica opened its doors to abused, neglected and severely emotionally disturbed children in the summer of 1994. Two years later the on-campus, special education non-public school began to serve day students in addition to those living on campus.

Starting in 2000, Casa Pacifica began implementing in-home services to better serve high-risk children/youth that required intensive family-centered supports. This expansion into the community extended into Santa Barbara County in 2003 and now includes three community based programs in both Counties – Therapeutic Behavioral Services, Wraparound, and Crisis Mobile Responses Services for children and adolescents. In Ventura County two more programs have been added—Supportive Behavioral Services, a program aimed at preventing serious behavioral and social problems. In all of our community programs we go to where families are, they do not come to us.

Today, less than 20% of total program revenue comes from bed-based services on campus and of the 440 children we serve every day, approximately 350 of them live with their families or foster families in the community. While each

of these programs provides a different mix of services and interventions, all share the same overriding objectives – help children stay safe, at home, in school, and out of trouble.

Casa Pacifica has achieved national accreditation in all services that have national accrediting standards. Our 24-hour treatment programs and community-based services are fully accredited by the **Council on Accreditation**. The nonpublic, special education school is accredited by the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges**. The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow and Pre-Doctoral Internship Programs for psychology students is accredited by the **American Psychological Association**.

Community Mental Health Practicum

This practicum offers students in psychology and social work programs experience in community based mental health, with a strong emphasis on current empirically validated treatment approaches within child and adolescent mental health. The practicum is designed to prepare graduate students via clinical experiences, instruction, and supervision for transition from student to professional within the field of community mental health. Students will develop knowledge of current mental health service delivery programs offered in Ventura County, including school-based services, Wraparound, and emergency crisis response. Students will actively participate in a multi-disciplinary team and engage in collaborative treatment planning with multiple community partners to manage the multiple and complex issues surrounding the mental health treatment needs of children and adolescents.

To be considered for our 2016-17 Practicum Training year, you must currently be enrolled in either a social work or psychology (doctoral) program, have a valid driver's license, and a class schedule that allows for a 3 day a week, 20 hour practicum. Our practicum year begins mid-June and ends in May (for social work students) or June (for psychology students). Psychology Students: It is recommended that your complete application package is received in our office by February 1st, 2016.

Minimum Practicum Requirements

1. A minimum of 20 hours (3 days)
2. Commitment from June 13, 2016 through June 30, 2017
3. Required to be on site every Wednesday from 11-7

Application Procedures for Psychology Practicum:

1. Complete Community Mental Health application located at www.casapacifica.org under Practicum, Internship and Fellowship Programs
2. Send application and supporting materials to venturacbspracticum@casapacifica.org
3. Interviews will begin March 2016. Applicants will be notified on SCATP Uniform Notification Day

Application Procedures for Social Work Practicum:

1. Complete Community Mental Health application located at www.casapacifica.org under Practicum, Internship and Fellowship Programs
2. Send application and supporting materials to venturacbspracticum@casapacifica.org
3. Interviews will be offered upon approval of your graduate program training director