

FMHI Boilerplate Descriptions for Grant Applications

Overview

The **Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute** at the University of South Florida seeks to improve services and outcomes for individuals with mental, addictive and developmental disorders through a program of applied research, policy analysis, program evaluation, consultation, education, and dissemination. The Institute provides research, training, education, technical assistance, and support services to behavioral health professionals and agencies as well as consumers, consumer organizations, and behavioral health advocates statewide. The Institute is among the largest behavioral health services research centers in the United States.

At the state level, the Institute works closely with the Departments of Children and Families (DCF), Corrections (DOC), Elder Affairs (DOEA), Education (DOE), and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), as well as with members and staff of the State Legislature and providers of behavioral health services throughout Florida. Recommendations from the Florida Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, led and staffed by Institute faculty, have been implemented to change the governance and structure of public behavioral health services in Florida.

The **Department of Mental Health Law and Policy** (MHLP) conducts research and training on the relationship between the legal, public policy, and the mental health systems and develops innovative approaches to mental health and related services within the behavioral health, criminal and civil justice systems. Research, training, and education efforts also focus on effective interventions for special needs populations such as those who are homeless and persons involved in the criminal justice system. MHLP is host to the Child Welfare Training Academy, the Baker Act Reporting Center, the Center for HIV Education and Research, and the Policy & Services Research Data Center.

The **Department of Child and Family Studies** (CFS) is committed to enhancing the well being of children and families. Emphasis is placed on the needs of children with serious emotional disturbances or developmental disabilities, the needs of children at risk because of exposure to abuse, neglect, violence, and long-term poverty, and young children with special needs. To serve the families of Florida, CFS houses projects such as the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, Florida's Positive Behavioral Support Project, the National Center for Youth in Transition, the Florida Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, and Florida Kids Count among others. CFS also works closely with the Florida Department of Children and Families to assess and improve the level of care provided for children in state care. With a faculty holding national leadership positions, the Department has developed successful partnerships with a number of universities and agencies throughout the United States, and is home to several federally funded programs that address behavioral health issues of children from pre-K to young adulthood.

Contracts and Grants

FMHI faculty and research staff receive approximately \$20 million in new grant awards annually and manages over \$40 million of active grants each year. Examples of some of the research centers at FMHI are:

The **USF Center for HIV Education and Research** serves health care professionals throughout Florida by providing education and information on the transmission, control, treatment, and prevention of HIV and AIDS and by conducting related research and community outreach. During its 16 years of operation, the USF Center has provided training to more than 120,000 health and mental health care providers. The Center has a faculty of internationally known experts in the clinical management of pediatric and adult HIV/AIDS. The organizational ties to the Florida Mental Health Institute also allow the Center to serve as a focus for the development of effective HIV mental health care and AIDS prevention programs. The USF Center operates the federally funded Florida/Caribbean Aids Education and Training Center and the Perinatal HIV Transmission Prevention project.

The **Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior** conducts research to improve services and interventions for young children with challenging behaviors, and promotes the exchange of information among parents, family members, and practitioners. The Center, initially funded for five years at 5.5 million dollars, received an additional 2.2 million beginning in 2004 to support an innovative longitudinal, multi-site study on the ecological predictors of social-emotional and behavioral development.

The **Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health** is dedicated to improving services for children and adolescents with serious emotional disabilities and their families by strengthening knowledge of effective services and systems of care. Since 1984, the Center has sought to achieve this through an integrated set of research, training, and dissemination activities, including an annual conference that brings more than 600 attendees to Tampa each spring.

The **National Technical Assistance Center on Youth Transition** provides and coordinates training and consultation with five sites funded under the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Partnership for Youth Transition Initiative. The Center assists these sites in the development and implementation of programs for young people 14-25 with emotional and behavioral difficulties (EBD) as they transition to adulthood.

Statewide Centers

The **Child Welfare Training Academy** conducts training for Florida's Department of Children and Families staff. Training and curriculum development is provided on a variety of topics including basic communication skills, abuse reporting procedures, basic counseling skills, stress management, case management, self-destructive behavior, networking, referrals, professionalism and ethics.

The Institute also houses the **Policy & Services Research Data Center (PSRDC)** in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy. The PSRDC, active in local, state, and federal research projects, was established to support mental health policy and services research efforts through the integration and analysis of large administrative data sets. Studies emphasize issues including access to services, cost and utilization patterns among persons with mental illness and substance abuse, and examination of different financing and insurance systems. Other studies address issues relevant to specific

populations, such as the aging, persons with severe and persistent mental illness, and those who are civilly committed. The PSRDC also provides reports to state agencies about trends and changes in the various social services, including mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, and child welfare and protection systems.

Undergraduate Education

Undergraduate Programs in Behavioral Healthcare

The behavioral healthcare field includes a diversity of specialties as well as professionals and paraprofessionals from differing backgrounds. Service delivery in mental health, substance abuse, and related psychosocial settings requires a common set of skills and knowledge bases. FMHI offers an undergraduate programs in behavioral healthcare for students interested in pursuing careers in the field of behavioral healthcare through the B.S. in Behavioral Healthcare (beginning Fall, 2012), the minor in Behavioral Healthcare, and through concentrations in the B.S. in Applied Sciences, and the B.S. in General Studies.

Summer Research Institute in Mental Health. FMHI offers a summer research program funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The ten-week program increases the research competence of students through individual projects conducted under the guidance of a distinguished faculty mentor, a series of research seminars, and a research ethics training program. The program is limited to 12 students each summer. Applications are accepted from students across the United States.

Graduate Education

Applied Behavioral Analysis Program: The master's degree program in applied behavior analysis (ABA) is designed to meet growing needs in for practitioners who can work effectively within systems to improve the quality of services in the fields of developmental services, education, child protective services, rehabilitation, mental health, and business and technology. This interdisciplinary program is sponsored by FMHI, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, and the USF Graduate School. A Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis has been approved by the USF Board of Trustees and is awaiting approval from the Florida Board of Governors (anticipated start date of Fall, 2013).

Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health: The Department of Community and Family Health (in the USF College of Public Health) and FMHI jointly offer specialized graduate level courses in both the masters and doctoral programs with a focus on behavioral health, examining community, social, program, and evaluation issues in public mental health and substance abuse services delivery.

Graduate Certificate in Planning, Evaluation and Accountability: This graduate certificate is aimed at preparing individuals to evaluate mental health and substance abuse service programs, determine how they can be improved, determine if they are operating in an efficient and cost effective manner. Designed for professionals in mental health, human services, public health, education, addiction services, and related behavioral health fields, the graduate certificate provides in-depth education in a broad

range of techniques and strategies for improving outcomes and for applying these strategies to policy development for mental health and substance services.

Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health: FMHI offers a web-based certificate to prepare leaders in the Systems of Care approach to children's mental health. The certificate brings current knowledge about effective service delivery to graduate students seeking specialized training in children's mental health. The certificate is taught by national leaders in children's mental health.

Graduate Certificate in Positive Behavior Support: This certificate provides students with the skills necessary to conduct consultation for the support of individual children with intensive behavior challenges. In addition, this certificate allows students to develop knowledge and expertise either in School-wide or Program-wide PBS, a three-tiered model of support for school and preschool systems.

Post-doctoral Research Fellowships:

FMHI offers post-doctoral research fellowships in the areas of mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, and mental health and policy services research.

Scholarly Activity

Publications and Presentations. In 2004, FMHI faculty published 128 refereed journal publications and 84 chapters in books. The Institute also authored 38 legislative, state agency, grant agency, or federal reports and four serial publications. The faculty also made 250 presentations at international, national, regional, and state conferences in 2004.

Training Activities

During 2004, the Institute trained over 39,000 individuals in approximately 2400 events and conducted 750 consultations. The training covered topics such as domestic violence, privatization of child welfare systems, positive behavioral support, crisis intervention and risk assessment, intervention strategies for police officers, gender sensitive treatment, autism, healthcare advance directives, and Medicaid reimbursement rates, to name just a few.

Research Library

The FMHI Research Library has been an established resource for information on mental health research, policy, and treatment for over 35 years. Its core monographic and serial collection on managed behavioral health, health care reform, outcomes and accountability, behavioral health services research, and public health policy is unique within the state university system. The Library is home to its own Archive, as well as several special collections, including the John Maxwell Biasco Autism Collection, the Child Welfare Commission Papers, the Chiles Commission Papers on Maternal and Child Health, the Florida State Office of Mental Health Documents Collection, the Multicultural Mental Health Collection, a video and audio collection on behavioral health, and a ten-year archive from the state of Florida's Department of Health.

The Institute's Research Library, in conjunction with the University of South Florida's main library (with more than 1,000,000 volumes and extensive Web-based resources), provides access to a broad range of reference materials and services. The Library provides research support and library instruction for Institute faculty and staff, legislative and agency staff, professionals working in mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities, persons with mental illnesses and their family members, advocacy groups, and the general public.

Facilities

The Institute currently occupies two buildings with more than 200,000 square feet of space. The Institute has an on-site conference facility (Westside Conference Center) with five meeting rooms encompassing approximately 5,500 square feet of space. An additional three meeting rooms also available at the Institute bring the total to more than 8,000 square feet, which can accommodate up to 400 people. Teleconference facilities are also available.

Media Center

The Institute operates its own Media Center. In addition to a full range of audio-visual equipment available to faculty and staff, the Media Center has up-to-date production facilities providing on-site capacity to produce high quality digital audio/video dissemination materials.