

Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office

R.L. (Butch) Conway, Sheriff



Chief Deputy
Cleophas Atwater

Administrative
Services Division
Div. Commander
Melanie Jones

Court Services
Division
Div. Commander
Jermaine Jackson

Field Operations
Division
Div. Commander
Marcelino LaBoy

Jail Operations
Division
Div. Commander
Jon Spear

Support Operations
Division
Div. Commander
Michael Carr

Date: 07-27-2022

Greetings,

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) would like make the following announcement. We will be offering four internship opportunities beginning January 2022. These intern positions will be a part of the newly formed GCSO Mental Health Task Force (MHTF).

The MHTF is a new unit whose mission is to respond to mental health crises within the community in an appropriate and effective manner. The MHTF responds to individuals in the community with mental illnesses whom are presenting in an acute crisis that is symptomatic of severe mental illness rather than overt criminality. The main objective of the task force is to help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and act as an instrument of advocacy to stem the decade's long migration of the mentally ill into the criminal justice system by providing ethical, informed intervention to avoid criminal charges and detention. All deputies assigned to the MHTF will have completed a 40-hour training in Crisis Intervention, De-escalation, Recognition of Mental Illness, Recognition of Personality Disorders, Psychopathy, on-going monthly training updates in verbal de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness along with continually updated education in Autism, Developmental Disorders and Substance abuse, The MHTF deputies will identify ways to collaborate with mental health providers and other primary mental health stakeholders within the community that are beneficial for individuals experiencing acute mental health crises and are in need of services. The Peace Officers of the MHTF will be recognized community advocates for the rights, safety and treatment of the severely mentally ill of Gwinnett County.

Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office/ Mental Health Task Force Internship Prospectus 2022.

I. Intern Duties

- a. Aid in the development of therapeutic partnerships with various treatment providers in the community
- b. Help in the appropriate flow of vital information regarding prospective persons in need of treatment to the appropriate treatment provider while respecting all HIPAA regulations.
- c. Assist in the implementation of Bio-Psycho-Social assessment tools with identified mentally ill persons in need of treatment referrals.

- d. Assist in the Anti- Mental Illness Stigma educational campaigns presented by the Mental Health Task Force to schools, public service organizations and law enforcement agencies.
- e. Assist with and conduct the therapeutic follow-up sessions with persons with whom the MHTF has intervened previously.
- f. Take part in all de-briefing sessions post intervention events.
- g. Assist in the proper gathering of data and formation of statistical models to aid in future planning and goals for the continued implementation of the MHTF. This data and statistical model will adhere to the *Sequential Intercept Model* and help identify gaps in services within the community and help the MHTF address the public need more effectively.
- h. All interns will be required to undertake all the training modules required for the MHTF officers.

II. Expected working hours/days

- a. 10 hours per week
- b. Monday through Friday
- c. Daily schedule to be determined

III. Criteria for selection

The GCSO/MHTF is offering these internships to graduate and undergraduate students whose course of study requires an internship as part of the curriculum for completion, and/or students that want to expand their knowledge base for future education and professional opportunities. Major courses of study that may benefit from this internship include, but are not limited to, Schools of Counseling/ Social Work, Psychology, Criminal justice and Public Health. **Please note:** *(Students from schools of Counseling and Social Work will receive experience and supervision in the areas of psychotherapy, crisis intervention and preliminary assessment.) There is no monetary compensation for participation in this program.*

IV. Supervision

Interns will be under the supervision of **Major T. Maldonado MA, LPC. , Unit Commander.** Lt. Maldonado is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over 11 years of licensed practice experience and over 21 years of law enforcement experience. Her work as a therapists spans many years in the Emory Hospital system while serving as a Peace Officer in capacities ranging from road officer, hostage negotiator, School Resource Officer and Deputy Sheriff. In addition, the interns will also be under the supervision of **Dana E. Tatum, MA, Ph.D., LPC, CCHP, Clinical Director/Program Coordinator.** Dr. Tatum has been an active licensed clinician for over 20 years and completed his training in Behavior Analysis, Hostage Negotiation and Crisis Intervention with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He has served as a Forensic Psychological Consultant to Law Enforcement agencies across the United States for over 20 years.

To make application to this program prospective students should contact the MHTF directly. Applications will not be accepted after close of business November 23, 2021.

To apply or obtain further information please contact:

Dana E. Tatum, Clinical Director/ Project Coordinator
Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office/ Mental Health Task Force
2900 University Parkway
Lawrenceville GA. 30043

Office phone: 770-822-3111

Major Trakida Maldonado, Unit Commander

Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office/ Mental Health Task Force

2900 University Parkway

Lawrenceville GA. 30043

Office phone: 770-619-6798

Please see the attached Internship Prospectus for more information.