

## Kentucky Youth Advocates

[www.kyyouth.org](http://www.kyyouth.org)

Open M-F, 9-5

Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) is a non-profit, public policy organization which provides research, policy and data analysis on children and low-income family issues. KYA is THE independent voice for Kentucky's children, as it does not take any financial support from government entities. KYA mobilizes advocates to take action on behalf of kids and families, and works with the legislative and executive branches of government to change and enact policies to benefit kids and families.

Interns work directly with KYA's policy team on policies, projects, and events related to economic security, education, health, safety and youth justice. An internship is an opportunity to develop deep knowledge on a specific area of child well-being, learn advocacy strategies and tools for achieving policy change, and network with stakeholders and decision-makers.

Interns perform the following functions: 1) research and write issue briefs, fact sheets, and blog posts related to policy priorities; 2) possibly conduct qualitative research via focus groups; 3) attend and help run meetings and events with partners, work groups, and coalitions; 4) attend government committee hearings and convening sessions of state legislative bodies; 5) assist in planning advocacy trainings and the annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol; and 6) perform other duties as assigned by KYA staff.



## **Peer Support Specialist**

### **MSW Practicum Placement**

#### **Dean of Students, Student Development and Campus Life**

#### **Job Title: Peer Support Specialist**

**Program Description:** Spalding University's newly developed peer support program endeavors to close the gap in student resources in order for students to accomplish their education goals. By pairing students with a peer support specialist to ascertain needs and barriers such as financial struggles, housing insecurity, food insecurity, childcare, and additional non-academic needs, students should be more equipped to achieve their academic goals. Through creating a support system, accountability processes for individual students, and a Spalding University resource network, the peer support program will improve retention rates and generate community partnerships - expanding the reach of the Spalding University mission.

**Job Description:** Peer Support Specialists offer support to Spalding University graduate and undergraduate students who are facing personal challenges or barriers that could potentially hinder academic success. Peer support uses a generalist, case management model and evidence-based practice to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate student concerns to alleviate or navigate problems. In addition to direct service the peer support specialist will also be responsible for researching policy and practice and contributing to the design and implementation of the peer support program. Other opportunities of interest to the MSW student that align with the goals of the program can be incorporated into the practicum experience. Peer support specialists must abide by the Code of Ethics and display professional ethical behavior at all times. The core values of Social Work and of Student Development and Campus Life must be incorporated in practice at all times.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Meet with referred students regularly virtually or in-person as needed
- Maintain professional meeting notes
- Update and maintain the resource manual
- Provide referrals to campus and community resources
- Engage in systems thinking with the Compassion Action Team – attend meetings when possible
- Provide counseling for students on the financial aid process (training provided)

**Program mission:** Our mission is to ensure academic success for all students by eliminating barriers, creating solutions, and promoting independent living skills.

**Required skills:**

- Good written and verbal communication
- Critical thinking particularly systems thinking
- Appreciation and respect for racial, socio-economic, geographic, educational, religious, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and ability diversity

<b>Practicum Site</b>	<b>University of Louisville Trager Institute</b> <b>Republic Bank Foundation Optimal Aging Clinic</b> 204 E. Market St., Suite A, Louisville, Ky 40202 502-588-4340
<b>Web Address:</b>	www.tragerinstitute.org
<b>Contact Person/ On-Site Supervisor:</b>	Sam Cotton, Ph.D., MSSW, <a href="mailto:sam.cotton@louisville.edu">sam.cotton@louisville.edu</a> Erica Osborne, MA <a href="mailto:erica.osborne@louisville.edu">erica.osborne@louisville.edu</a> Misty Kupka, MSW, <a href="mailto:misty.kupka@louisville.edu">misty.kupka@louisville.edu</a>
<b>Site Description:</b>	<p>The UofL Trager Institute that includes The Republic Bank Foundation Optimal Aging Clinic is a whole health facility focusing on lifelong health and wellbeing. We provide physical and mental health clinical services to patients so that they can maintain their health as they age. Our clinic is grounded in our trademark FlourishCare program, an integrated life-long wellness care approach that is focused on lifestyle and preventative care for adults of all ages, including specialized care for those patients 65 and older. Our facility on E. Market Street features state-of-the-art exam rooms, behavioral health therapy rooms, and we are in the process of developing a healthy training kitchen. As part of our mosaic of life-long wellness services, we provide annual wellness exams, wellness/lifestyle medicine, medication management, therapy, chronic disease management, falls prevention, brain health, and advanced care planning. We also offer telehealth and teletherapy services to meet all of our patient's needs. We provide students an array of opportunities in furthering their education including micro, mezzo and macro experiences. The Trager Behavioral Health Service Organization provides clinical therapeutic services to an array of clients that focus on the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of emotional disorders and mental illness as related to the total health of the individual. There are sufficient patients to secure necessary program hours including the opportunity to expand systems to include couple or family therapy. Students are also allowed to initiate group therapy for mental health issues that students are interested in and create groups that serve our clients wellbeing. Students who are interested in macro experiences have a large choice of programs to engage with that will provide exceptional experience in program management and community engagement.</p>
<b>Diversity Issues:</b>	Students are expected to be respectful to persons of all ethnic, racial, sexual orientation, and religious backgrounds. Some training in diversity issues will be provided. Ethnic minorities, people of color, LGBTQ, and multilingual students are critical to our diversity mission and encouraged to apply.
<b>Training Staff:</b>	Sam Cotton, Ph.D., MSSW, Erica Osborne, MA, Misty Kupka, MSW, Joseph D'Ambrosio, Ph.D., JD, LMFT, LCSW, Leo Bowman, MSSW/CSW, Dena Wilson, MSSW/CSW, Kennette Rightnour MSSW/CSW, Payton Kruer MSSW/CSW, Alison Hanlein MSSW/CSW, Barbara Gordon, MA
<b>Compensation:</b>	Varies depending on availability of grant funding
<b>Background Check/Requirements:</b>	Students should not have any criminal history. Background check, drug screening, TB skin test, record of flu shot or proof of exemption, and proof of Hepatitis B vaccine will be required.
<b>Informational Interview:</b>	Interview required. Once your WKU Field Coordinator refers you to Trager, please coordinate with Dr. Cotton, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Kupka to complete a Trager application and schedule a virtual interview.
<b>Any required days students would need to be on site?</b>	Flexible, in that students can make their own schedules, but they must be present for mandatory weekly Wednesday Workshops from 8am-1pm (which includes group supervision, case conceptualization meetings, and behavioral health trainings). Due to various grant goals that require students to receive a wide variety of trainings in addition to direct service with patients/clients/caregivers, all

	social work students (BSW & MSSW) are required to complete 20 hrs/wk in practicum, even if their program requires less hours. Our facilities are open Monday- Friday 8am- 5pm.
<b>What is the expectation of the site during academic holidays (e.g., spring break, winter break, etc.)?</b>	Students do not need to be in the office over holiday breaks, but it is expected they will be available by phone or email in the event of a patient crisis. It is also expected that students will communicate to patients when they are going to be out on break and make sure that they have the clinic contact information. Many patients are severe and will need to be seen during longer breaks if it would be detrimental to their mental health to miss sessions over an extended period. Thus, students should not plan vacations longer than 1 week, and coordinate this with the site. Students must make up any hours missed for any reason other than holidays.
<b>Additional information:</b>	<a href="https://www.tragerinstitute.org/clinic">https://www.tragerinstitute.org/clinic</a>