

UPMC Matilda Theiss Health Center

Social Work Field Placement Description

The Matilda Theiss Health Center is a UPMC hospital-based clinic, owned and operated by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. This Center serves a primarily poor minority population. It is located in a neighborhood with a large proportion of public housing units. The Theiss Center is the only federally qualified health center within UPMC. Primary health care across the life span is provided and overseen by the faculty of the Department of Family Medicine. Full primary care services are offered to include periodic child and adult physical examinations, chronic disease screening and management, immunizations, health education, minor surgery, and obstetrical and gynecological care. The Center also provides off site dental care and a medication dispensing service. A variety of social, counseling, and health promotion services, which include a prenatal education group and a diabetes education group are provided. The Health Center is a teaching site for first- and third-year medical students of the University of Pittsburgh, as well as St. Margaret's Family Medicine residents fulfilling their community health rotations.

UPMC Matilda Theiss Health Center treatment team includes the patient's Health Center Doctor, Nurse, Social Worker and Pharmacist. As a direct practice concentration MSW Student Intern, you will be working directly with these Health Care Professionals, in treating patients who may be being seen for any number of medical issues, may need assistance applying for health care coverage, assistance finding appropriate social services, need help applying for prescription assistance programs, need counseling or help with understanding their condition.

The student will have the opportunity to provide community outreach and psychoeducation to individuals surrounding exercise, wellness, sexual education, mental health, parenting, and violence. The students will:

- Identify, assess, counsel and effectively intervene with medically and psychologically complex patients and utilize the modalities of crisis intervention, brief goal directed therapy and other therapeutic counseling methods.
- Complete psychosocial assessments that include descriptions of social, economic, cultural, age-related, and behavioral factors, history of child, elder or domestic abuse, prior psychiatric or substance abuse treatment, family and social support systems, and all other available resources.
- Collaborate with the health care team, patients, and families as well as relevant community resources.
- Maintain extensive knowledge of federal, state and local assistance programs and community resources that affect patient needs.
- Access social systems by providing resource-specific information to patients and families, initiating contact with resources and facilitating the patients' and families' ability to accept referrals.

Student's will be required to present current Act 33, Act 34, FBI clearances, TB test, and Health Screening before their start date.