Pro Bono Counseling Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator

Pro Bono Counseling Project (PBCP) welcomes its newest staff member, Alexa Biddle, in a new role as the Outreach Coordinator. Previously a clinical intern with PBCP, Alexa will now be responsible for developing and implementing an outreach framework for clinician volunteer recruitment, retention, and client outreach.

“I accepted this position because it is fulfilling to be able to see the effects of my work and I am excited to continue to help connect people,” Alexa stated. “Also, everyone at Pro Bono Counseling is really receptive and emotionally and professionally supportive.”

Hitting the ground running, Alexa is meeting a goal to share community resources through one-on-one conversations with PBCP’s volunteer clinicians and implementing a “Resource Corner” in this monthly newsletter (see below). This is all in an effort to increase collaboration with the over 850 active licensed mental health professionals who donate their time so generously.

As an Outreach Coordinator, Alexa will build the capacity of the Pro Bono Counseling Project to serve clients through adding more volunteer mental health providers to our network. Through collecting specific demographic and counseling specialty information about our volunteers, we will be able to connect clients to clinicians who meet their needs.

“During her time as an intern with us, Alexa was very much an asset to the organization,” said PBCP Clinical Director Sherrri Bloom. “We are confident that all of our constituents will benefit from working with her as she provides them with support and resources.”

Alexa was an intern with PBCP while she was an undergraduate at Towson University, which she completed in May 2021. During that time, Alexa created standard protocols for the clinical language used for client interviews at the height of the pandemic. She found positive learning experiences while working remotely, such as realizing an improvement in her public speaking skills.

“I value being authentic and compassionate towards different situations and life experiences,” Alexa explained. “I think it is important as somebody who works in the mental health sphere.”

Hispanic American Heritage

September 15 to October 15 is recognized as National Hispanic American Heritage Month, a time to recognize and honor the history, culture, contributions, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Pro Bono Counseling Project (PBCP) is committed to providing access to mental health care for all Marylanders in need, and strives to apply principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do.

PBCP continues to serve a very diverse client population. In 2020, 14% of PBCP clients identified their ethnicity as Latino or Hispanic. Many clients contacting PBCP are also Limited English Proficient, with Spanish being the number primary language identified. Last year, 15% of clients’ spoke a primary language other than English. To meet this need, PBCP has two bilingual staff members and over 80 multilingual volunteer clinicians who donate counseling hours. The organization also provides in-person and phone interpretation for clients who speak a language other than English, as well as document translation and provider training on working with interpreters.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

Mark your calendar to attend PBCP’s Fall Continuing Education workshops:

- October 25 - Ethical Non-Monogamy from a Non-Pathologizing Lens
  Presenters: Michael Marquez, PsyD, and Nikki Falay, LGMT
- October 26 - Introduction to Pro Bono Counseling: Clinical Applications for Volunteers
  Presenters: Amy Greensfelder, LMSW, and Sherri Bloom, LCSW-C
- October 28 - Techniques for Helping Clients Who Worry
  Presenter: Megan English, LGPC
- November 1 - Nature Informed Therapy: An Introduction to Integrating Nature into Clinical Practice
  Presenters: Heidi Schreiber-Pan, PhD, LCPC; and Zoe Jack, MS, LMSW, RYT
- November 9 - Navigating the Reproductive Cycle Through COVID
  Presenter: Julie Bindeman, PsyD
- November 10 - Introduction to Pro Bono Counseling: Clinical Applications for Volunteers
  Presenters: Amy Greensfelder, LMSW, and Sherri Bloom, LCSW-C
- November 17 - Family Caregivers: Addressing the Support They Need
  Presenter: Kate Washington, PhD

For more information or to register, visit https://probonocounseling.org/training/events/.

Meet PBCP’s New Interns

The start of a new school year means a new group of volunteer interns with Pro Bono Counseling. The following students have joined the staff as interns as they work to complete their degrees. Please join us in welcoming them!

- Darby Fugitt - Darby is working on a Master’s in Clinical Psychology at Towson University, and plans to graduate in May 2022.
- Devin Fung - Devin is an undergraduate student majoring in Psychology at Towson University and will graduate in May 2022.
- Caroline McAuliffe - Caroline is majoring in Psychology with a writing minor at Loyola University Maryland and intends to graduate in May 2023.
- Valentina Ross - Valentina is pursuing a Master’s in Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with an expected graduation date of May 2022.
- Starr Stover - Starr is an undergraduate majoring in Psychology at Towson University, planning to graduate in May 2022.