

**2023-2024 Postdoctoral Fellowship
Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI)
with UCONN Health Research Option
Full Time with Benefits
Start Date: July/August 2023 (negotiable)**

Focus Area(s): Behavioral Health Equity, Implementation Science, Child Trauma, and/or School-based Mental Health

Summary

The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI), an independent non-profit intermediary organization, is accepting applications for a one-year **Postdoctoral Fellowship in children's behavioral health**. The Fellow will work on one or more initiatives focused on improving children's behavioral health in Connecticut, with an emphasis on working at the systems, policy, and practice levels. Potential areas of focus include the areas of dissemination and sustainment of evidence-based treatments (EBTs), quality improvement of children's behavioral health services, policy and system innovation, developing trauma-informed systems and programs, and/or school-based behavioral health. There is an optional opportunity for the Fellow to spend one day per week working with faculty at the UCONN Health Center on research studies on evidence-based interventions for youth in schools. *The Fellow will have experience and a strong interest in bridging the research to practice gap for children's behavioral health*, including in one or more of the following areas: (1) behavioral health equity; (2) effective dissemination of EBTs for children, (3) child traumatic stress and trauma-informed care, (4) implementation science and/or quality improvement, and/or (5) school-based behavioral health.

Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI)

CHDI is an independent non-profit organization located in Farmington, CT. Working in partnership with state and regional agencies, providers, schools, universities, and other organizations, we strive to advance equitable and sustainable improvements in behavioral health systems, practices, and policy for all the state's children. Our work includes quality improvement, data analysis and research, evaluation, policy analysis, consultation, training, and technical assistance. CHDI was recently recognized by the Hartford Business Journal as one of the best places to work in Connecticut.

CHDI functions as an intermediary organization to develop, train, disseminate, evaluate, and expand effective models of practice in children's mental health, juvenile justice, education, and other systems. We partner closely in those efforts with the Department of Children and Families, the State Department of Education, the CT Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division, The University of Connecticut-Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, family advocacy organizations, community-based providers, and others. CHDI does not provide direct clinical services.

CHDI has led several EBT dissemination efforts for children's behavioral health across Connecticut, including Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct Problems (MATCH-ADTC), Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), and Attachment, Regulation, and Competency (ARC). CHDI has used the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Breakthrough Series Collaborative (or Learning Collaborative) methodology as one approach for disseminating EBTs, and has also developed a model for sustainment and ongoing quality improvement of EBTs. CHDI is also a recipient of a SAMHSA National Child Traumatic Stress Network grant focused on trauma screening across child-serving systems.

Finally, CHDI is the Coordinating Center for the School Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI), a state-funded program to reduce school-based arrests, out of school suspensions, and expulsions, and also partners on other school-based initiatives, including a SAMHSA AWARE grant. The Fellow will work on one or more of these or related initiatives for improving children's behavioral health. Potential applicants are encouraged to learn more about these initiatives and CHDI at www.chdi.org.

Fellowship

The Fellow's specific projects and responsibilities will be jointly determined based on interests, experience, project needs, and funding. Fellows will apply their research skills to help solve real-world challenges and problems in children's behavioral health. Examples of activities include developing and/or testing best practice EBT implementation and/or consultation strategies, developing a best practice model or guidelines, quality improvement approaches, trauma screening, virtual training, data analysis/reporting, policy review, and program evaluation. An emphasis will be placed on identifying and carrying out data analyses and/or reviews of evidence and best practices to contribute to CHDI's continuous quality improvement of services for children and families to advance equity, and for co-authored CHDI and/or peer-reviewed publications and presentations using administrative data. Fellows will receive weekly supervision at CHDI, typically from a licensed clinical psychologist.

Contingent on funding and Fellow interests, Fellows may have the option to spend one day per week under the mentorship of UCONN Health faculty on research studies. The Fellow would join an existing research or evaluation team on a project aligned with their interests. Projects involve evidence-based treatment research in school settings.

Applicants

The individual selected for this position will work within grant- and contract-funded projects at CHDI. Applicants must have completed a Ph.D. in Clinical, Community, or Counseling Psychology; Social Work; or a related discipline from an accredited academic program. *Excellent professional writing and data analysis skills are required*; candidates with at least one first authored publication in a peer-reviewed journal are preferred. Experience with any of the following is highly desired: children's behavioral health equity, child traumatic stress, EBTS, advanced statistical analysis, school mental health, quality improvement, and/or implementation science. CHDI provides a unique opportunity to receive training in the role of an intermediary organization to integrate research and diverse stakeholder perspectives to improve children's behavioral health systems, policy, and practice. Past Fellows have gone on to a range of positions, including tenure-track faculty jobs, academic positions with clinical and research responsibilities, full-time positions at CHDI, mental health startups, and leadership roles in community-based mental health.

Compensation

The Fellow will receive a stipend of \$58,000 annually (full time). A generous benefit package including health and dental care, paid time off, and a 403b retirement plan with company contribution is provided. CHDI has a partial remote work option, which allows up to four days per week of remote work (one day per week is required in the office).

Applications

To apply, please email (1) a detailed letter of interest describing qualifications, experience, interest in CHDI's work, preferences for specialization areas at CHDI, and career goals, and indicate whether you have current legal authorization to work in the United States for the duration of the Fellowship; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) one example of scholarly writing (preferably a published first author article); and (4) three letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from supervisors, to Lori Schon (schon@uchc.edu). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. The Fellowship is contingent upon continued funding.

CHDI is an equal opportunity employer and acknowledges this in its solicitations or advertisements for employees. It is our policy to provide equal opportunity to qualified individuals, at all levels of employment,



regardless of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, marital or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, military service, veteran status, pregnancy, genetic information, or sexual orientation. This commitment to equal opportunity applies to decisions related to all aspects of employment, including recruiting, hiring, training, selection, promotion, development, compensation, and the terms, privileges, and conditions of employment.

The Child Health & Development Institute of CT, Inc. requires applicants to have current legal authorization to work in the United States and the company does not sponsor applicants for work visas.