



Quality Social
Rehabilitation Services
Since 1971

CREATIVE LIVING CENTER FIELD PLACEMENT

The Berkeley Creative Living Center (CLC) is a unique client-centered mental health day program based upon the needs of the individuals who attend it. While most of CLC's members have been diagnosed as having a persistent and severe mental disorder, they vary greatly in background and ability. A few are homeless; some have graduate degrees. While many members are very articulate, others cannot carry on a coherent conversation. Most are somewhere between these extremes. Individuals with major mental illnesses suffer from vaguely defined disorders for which there often seems to be little effective treatment. For many CLC members mental illness is exacerbated by a coexisting substance abuse problem. Often misunderstood and rejected by society, CLC members may be deprived of basic human rights, mistreated by an impersonal system, and are almost always economically disadvantaged..

CLC provides a community in which people are accepted for who they are. The program structure is relatively open and requirements minimal to allow individuals to be involved with CLC in the way that best works for them. The goal of the CLC program is not to "cure" its members but to support them in more effectively living their lives with the greatest possible degree of independence.

Staff counselors (MFT trainees and MFT interns) are an important part of the CLC staff. There are up to five positions available for a twelve month commitment. New counselors may begin at various times throughout the calendar year.

Staff counselors do intake assessments and screenings, treatment planning, individual, group and milieu psychotherapy, and clinical record keeping. They may be involved in the CLC art therapy program. The flexible program structure makes it possible for counselors to pursue special interests or create new groups and projects. It also requires that staff counselors be self-motivated and able to tolerate the on-going ambiguity that is an inherent part of clinical work at CLC.

Experience with severe and persistent mental illness is invaluable regardless of the population with which a psychotherapist in training may plan to eventually work. CLC offers a unique opportunity for learning from the very basic issues and readily apparent (relative to more "normal" populations) psychodynamics present in major mental illness. Being on staff at CLC is challenging in terms of personal as well as professional concerns that are evoked by the work. It is a good place for learning about boundary and role issues as well as exploring and developing one's identity as a therapist.

Psychosis often elicits fear and defensive reactions from others. Closely working with people facing the overwhelming difficulties that are part of everyday life for most CLC members can evoke feelings of anxiety, helplessness, depression, and self-doubt in would-be caregivers.

Administrative Office
6333 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 102
Oakland, CA 94609-1328
(510) 923-1099
(510) 923-0894 Fax
(510) 923-0969 TDD

Dual Diagnosis
Residential Program
1410 Bonita Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709-1909
(510) 526-4765
(510) 526-2887 Fax

Supported Independent
Living Program
Transitional Housing
Permanent Housing
Case Management
6333 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 102
Oakland, CA 94609-1328
(510) 923-0180
(510) 923-0894 Fax

Berkeley Creative
Living Center
PO Box 4519
Berkeley, CA 94704-0519
(510) 548-2269
(510) 548-2271 Fax