SERVICES PROVIDED:

The job of caseworkers in this unit is to complete child protective services investigations on families where there has been a report of child abuse or neglect. In the course of these investigations, the worker interviews all household members including the alleged victim, other children in the home, other household members, non offending parent and alleged perpetrator. Services are provided to ensure child safety and ensure that parents can and will protect the child. The caseworkers must have extensive knowledge of the dynamics of drug abuse, domestic violence and mental health issues. They also must have extensive knowledge of available community services.

ROLE OF PRACTICUM STUDENT:

• Assisting the caseworker, provide transportation for parents or children to various appointments
• Accompanying the case worker on CPS investigations and court hearings
• Accompanying the CPS worker or permanency worker on visits to foster homes or the families home to see parents and children, interviewing clients, writing some reports or case notes
• Attending branch staffing as needed for the case
• Supervising visits between children and their parent(s)
• Assisting certification trainer in providing specialized training to foster parents and applicants, work with retention specialist to provide support and guidance to foster homes providing care for difficult children
• Assisting with maintaining case pertinent material filed in the case
• Attending Child Safety and other Family Meetings

REQUIREMENTS OF PRACTICUM STUDENT:

• High level of maturity and reliability essential due to stressful work
• Effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to relate well to child welfare employees
• Ability to give clients constructive feedback and guidance.
• Minimum of two full days per week, three preferred. Full days are best for learning experience
• Valid driver’s license and good driving record
• No criminal history of offenses, which would cause question of ability to work with clients, or have a current problem with drugs and alcohol abuse
• Bilingual, Spanish speaking students are preferred
EMPLOYMENT:

HSP graduates have been employed by DHS / Child Welfare when openings are available, now limited to Social Service Assistant. Case Manager positions require a four-year degree.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

As of April 15, 2011, practicum sites that use the Department of Human Services Background Check Unit will now conduct a weighing test and fitness determination when an individual has been identified as the perpetrator of abuse in certain cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse or financial exploitation. The Background Check Unit will specifically consider the most serious cases of abuse reported and substantiated from January 1, 2010, forward.