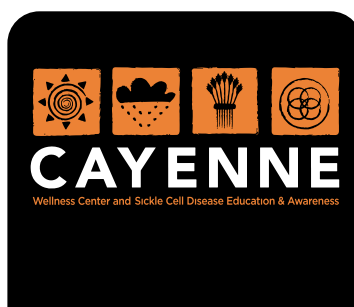




MSW INTERN PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Promoting The Health and Well Being of Persons Diagnosed
with Sickle Cell Disease Throughout The State of California





A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. CAROLYN ROWLEY

Cayenne Wellness Center's mission is "To increase the quality of life for individuals diagnosed with sickle cell disease in California by ensuring expert, unbiased, and comprehensive care." This mission is part of a broader vision of (1) a medical system that effectively addresses the unique needs of individuals with sickle cell disease and (2) patients who are empowered and equipped to advocate for themselves.

One of our top priorities is to advance health equity. Research has increasingly shown that social and economic conditions are the most significant drivers of individual and community health. Our Social Work internship program is committed to providing you with the growth, support, and skills needed to begin your career as a clinical social worker.

The role of social workers in a chronic illness setting will be offered. The difference between acute and chronic illness is explored, with emphasis on the ramifications of these differences for social work practice. Early assessment of patients and families provides the social worker with a database from which to select an appropriate intervention with families. Of primary importance is the amelioration of feelings of helplessness, dependency, and isolation. This may be accomplished by helping families anticipate problems, mobilizing resources to help,

and encouraging families to share their experiences with other families. Because the medical system, particularly in a teaching hospital, may not provide continuity of care for patients, the relationship of the social worker to the patient and family, and the resulting knowledge of the family, becomes an essential resource in the provision of high-quality care.

I encourage you to consider being a Social Work Intern or Volunteer where you can truly make a difference in improving the lives of patients with Sickle Cell Disease throughout the state of California.

Please explore our internship and volunteer opportunities to discover the many ways that you can work with Cayenne Wellness Center, specifically as a Social Worker Intern.

Peace,

Carolyn Rowley, Ph.D.

Executive Director | Cayenne Wellness Center



A MESSAGE FROM MSW SUPERVISOR REBECCA MORGAN, LCSW

A journey in supporting individuals with sickle cell disease (SCD) is both a noble and impactful one that makes a positive difference in the lives of our Warriors and their families.

As social workers, our mission is deeply rooted in relationships, compassion, empathy, and the unwavering commitment to advocate for those we serve. The individuals you will be working with are living with a chronic and often painful condition that affects not only their physical health but also their emotional and social well-being. Your role will be crucial in providing the support they need to navigate these challenges.

As you know and will come to learn in practice, our profession is guided by a strong Code of Ethics, which emphasizes the core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. These principles will be the foundation of your work here, ensuring that every interaction is approached with respect and a deep sense of responsibility.

Building strong, trusting relationships with Warriors and their families is paramount. Take the time to get to know them, understand their unique needs and challenges, and offer personalized support. These relationships will not only enhance the quality of care but also empower individuals to advocate for themselves and actively participate in their treatment plans.

Your presence here is not just about providing services; it's about making meaningful connections and being a source of hope and encouragement. Every interaction you have is an opportunity to make a positive impact and contribute to the well-being of our Warriors.

We are confident those with passion, an eagerness to learn, and a commitment to advancing health equity will greatly benefit those living with sickle cell disease.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Morgan, LCSW

Director of Supervision | Cayenne Wellness Center

OUR CODE OF ETHICS

1. Service: Always prioritize the needs of the individuals we serve as your purpose. Your dedication and willingness to go above and beyond will be a source of comfort and strength for our patients.

2. Social Justice: Advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with SCD, ensuring they receive equitable access to resources and care.

3. Dignity and Worth of the Person: Recognize and honor the inherent value of every individual. Approach each patient with respect and without judgment.

4. Importance of Human Relationships: Building strong, trusting relationships is at the heart of our work. In social work practice, the work gets done through the relationship. These connections are vital in providing effective support and fostering a sense of community and belonging.

5. Integrity: Uphold the highest standards of honesty and transparency in all your professional interactions.

6. Competence: Become comfortable acknowledging what you know and what you do not know. Commit to continuous learning and self-improvement to provide the best possible care and support to our patients.

At Cayenne Wellness Center, compassion is the cornerstone of our practice. Many individuals with SCD face significant physical pain, which often impacts their emotional, psychological, social, and cognitive well-being. Your ability to listen, understand, and empathize with their experiences will be essential in helping them feel valued and supported.



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GETTING STARTED

- 1) Review this brochure carefully to become familiar with Cayenne Wellness Center's MSW Internship Program, including our mission, philosophy, learning objectives, expectations, and placement opportunities.
- 2) Email the listed contact and include the following:
 - Video cover letter and resume
 - Confirm your interest in the Cayenne Wellness Center MSW Internship Program and briefly describe what interests you most about completing your field placement with our organization.

++ Interns must be currently enrolled at a university in a graduate social work program that has a partnership agreement with Cayenne Wellness Center. The intern must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and will receive academic credit or internship hours for their service.

Availability & Duration: Applicants must be available for a full academic-year placement (September–May) and indicate their anticipated weekly availability. MSW students are required to first coordinate with their university field placement office, which will then initiate contact with our agency. We currently maintain partnership agreements with California State University, Northridge and California State University, Los Angeles. Once application materials (including a video cover letter and resume) are received through the appropriate channels, selected candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview.

For information about internships, please see the FAQs. This brochure was published on 7/10/2026. If you have any questions about internships, email info@cayennewellness.org.



INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

I. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Position Description: During your internship, you will be able to apply, and integrate the knowledge, theories, and concepts of social work practice that you learned throughout your curriculum. You will have the opportunity to:

- Conduct Client Assessments
- Conduct Clinical Interventions such as: Counseling, health coaching, wellness workshops, psychoeducation
- Treatment Planning
- Documentation, Case Management and Resource Coordination
- Outcome Evaluation
- Policy Advocacy, Analysis, and Proposal Development

You are expected to apply your academic knowledge, social work skills, critical thinking, professional behavior, ethics, and values you learned in the classroom to direct your practice.

Social Work Internship Requirements:

Applicants should be enrolled in a Master of Social Work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Your school must have a contractual relationship with Cayenne Wellness Center. Contact your university to confirm if your school has a contractual agreement with Cayenne Wellness Center. If your school does not have an agreement with Cayenne Wellness Center, have your field coordinator email Rebecca Morgan at rebecca@blendedrootstherapy.com to begin the process of setting up this agreement.

Students with high academic achievement will have priority.

Contact: Rebecca Morgan

Email: rebecca@blendedrootstherapy.com



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is the difference between an intern and a volunteer?

A: A volunteer serves with Cayenne Wellness Center to gain experience and/or personal fulfillment. Volunteers will not receive academic credit or compensation. Volunteers can include community members (with a B.A. degree or higher; undergraduate or graduate students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. An intern is a student who works with Cayenne Wellness Center to gain experience and receive academic credit for their participation.

Q: What are the internship requirements?

A: Interns must be currently enrolled in a graduate social work program at a university that has a partnership agreement with Cayenne Wellness Center. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. Interns will receive academic credit and internship hours for their participation.

Q: Which schools do we have formal partnerships with for internships?

A: As of September 1, 2019, Partner Colleges/ Universities include: Cal State University Los Angeles and Northridge

Q: What can I do if my school does not have a partnership agreement with LA County?

A: If you are a university representative interested in a partnership with CWC, please reach out to Rebecca Morgan for partnership contracts and agreements.

Q: Are internships and volunteer positions paid opportunities?

A: No, Cayenne Wellness Center is currently not offering paid intern or volunteer positions.

Q: How do I apply?

- A:** 1. Send a video cover letter and resume to the listed point of contact from the brochure.
2. The office will contact you if they can host an intern or volunteer.

Q: What should I do if I don't hear back after an interview?

A: We recommend sending a follow-up email. If you do not get a response, it would be best to look for another opportunity.

Q: How many hours per week are internships?

A: As a general rule, interns are expected to be available a minimum of 16 hours per week.

ABOUT CAYENNE WELLNESS CENTER

It's been a fruitful 25 years since our grand opening in the year 2000. We began with a Parent Information Series in Burbank, CA, with several guest speakers like Gerald Newmark, author of *How To Raise Emotionally Healthy Children: Meeting The Five Critical Needs of Children...And Parents Too!*, a nutritionist, a social worker, and a physician discussing chronic illness in children such as Sickle Cell Disease, Juvenile Diabetes, Pediatric Asthma, and Pervasive Developmental Delays. Throughout the years, we continued our focus on sickle cell disease: educating, advocating, and awareness activities for patients, caretakers, healthcare providers, and the general public.

Many of our programs are well established, and we're working on introducing a few more.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Public Awareness & Community Engagement

- **Statewide Awareness Campaigns (STAC)**
Outreach efforts, including health fairs, community events, and educational campaigns to increase awareness of sickle cell disease and trait across California
- **Community Education & Outreach**
Opportunities for interns to participate in canvassing, presentations, and culturally responsive education initiatives at health fairs and blood drives

Patient Support & Wellness Services

- **Support Groups (Statewide)**
Multiple support groups serving Northern CA, Central CA, Los Angeles, Inland Empire, and San Diego, providing safe spaces for connection, education, and peer support

- **Mental Health & Wellness Initiative**
Free, culturally competent mental health services, including counseling, health coaching, wellness workshops, and psychoeducation specifically tailored for the SCD community
- **Care Coordination & Navigation**
Delivered by Community Health Workers (CHWs), including assistance with healthcare access, housing navigation, and social services
- **Respite Care & Childcare Support**
Services designed to support caregivers and families

Education & Capacity Building

Patient & Community Education

- **Annual Sickle Cell Disease Educational Summit**
Now in its 20th year, this signature event convenes patients, providers, researchers, and advocates.
Topics include:
 - Disease-modifying therapies and gene therapies
 - Mental health and wellness
 - Patient-centered care and lived experiences
- **Lifestyle & Management Programs**
Integrative programs focused on nutrition, movement, stress reduction, and holistic care approaches.

Provider Education

- **Provider In-Service Training**
Ongoing education for healthcare professionals on evidence-based SCD treatment, implicit bias, and culturally competent care
- **Clinical & Community Partnerships**
Collaboration with hospitals, agencies, and statewide networks to improve care delivery and outcomes

Research, Advocacy & National Initiatives

- **HRSA Sickle Cell Disease Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program (Through August 30, 2026)**

Key responsibilities include:

- Patient recruitment and assessment
 - Care coordination
 - Education on therapies such as Hydroxyurea and other treatments
 - Community-based service delivery
- **Get Connected Registry (in partnership with SCDA)**
Supporting patient enrollment in national data and research initiatives.

As of 2015, in partnership with SCDA, we have been selected as one of the community-based organizations to assist persons diagnosed with sickle cell disease to sign up for Get Connected, a sickle cell registry. In 2018, we were selected as one of 15 CBOs for the HRSA Grant Award "Sickle Cell Disease Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program (SCDNBSFP)" whose responsibilities include but are not limited to:

patient recruitment, patient assessment, utilization of Community Health Workers, and Educator Counselors, providing community-based services, providing care coordination, education on Hydroxyurea, Endari, and other disease-modifying therapies and partnership building over the next four years. This HRSA has been granted for another five years until 2026.

At Cayenne Wellness Center, we celebrate differences and are committed to providing equitable opportunities. Cayenne Wellness Center is proud to be an equal employment opportunity workplace. We are committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital status, physical disability, veteran status or length of time spent unemployed. We want to empower people to change lives!

Sickle Cell Lives Matter!

Note: Cayenne Wellness Center reserves the right to add additional duties as needed. All Cayenne Wellness Center employees and interns are encouraged to be flexible and responsive to changes in the scope of duties.

ABOUT CAYENNE WELLNESS CENTER (CONT.)

OUR COMMITMENT

At Cayenne Wellness Center, we are deeply committed to equity, inclusion, and empowerment. We strive to create opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds while addressing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes.

We believe in training the next generation of social workers to be compassionate, culturally responsive leaders in the field.

A MESSAGE TO OUR INTERNS

As an MSW intern at Cayenne Wellness Center, you will gain hands-on experience providing trauma-informed, culturally responsive care to individuals and families impacted by sickle cell disease.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Provide clinical case management in collaboration with Community Health Workers, supporting clients with complex medical, emotional, and social needs
- Conduct psychosocial assessments and develop person-centered care plans
- Co-facilitate support groups and psycho-educational sessions that promote coping, resilience, and community connection

- Engage in community-based advocacy and care coordination, including referrals and resource navigation
- Participate in agency-wide initiatives and projects that advance health equity and improve services for the SCD community
- Throughout your internship, you will be part of a multidisciplinary team and receive ongoing supervision grounded in trauma-informed principles, cultural humility, and reflective practice

We encourage flexibility, curiosity, and a deep commitment to serving historically marginalized communities. This work calls for compassion, self-awareness, and a willingness to grow—both professionally and personally—as you support individuals navigating chronic illness, systemic inequities, and healing.

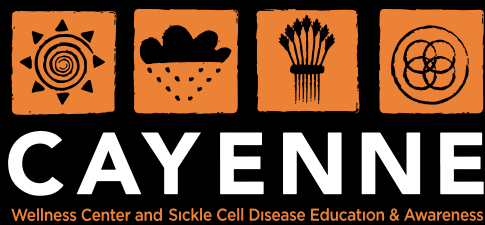
SICKLE CELL LIVES MATTER. TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER COMMUNITIES AND CHANGE LIVES.



NOTES

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Caring for the Whole Person. Every Day.

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www.cayennewellness.org



@cayennewellness