AGENCY NAME: Florida Department of Children and Families

ADDRESS: 160 Governmental Center

CITY: Pensacola  STATE: FL  ZIP: 32502

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm

Purpose or goal of agency:
We work with families and children to decrease risk of abuse or neglect and help families build self sufficiency. Our primary focus is on the investigations of abuse and neglect reports received from the Florida Abuse Hotline. We assess risk and ensure safety of children, identify the need for services and make referrals to our community partners.

Intern duties:
The intern would work alongside a Child Abuse Investigator, assisting with investigations, working with families and children, assist with gathering information from collateral sources, attending court and completing documentation of contacts and interviews conducted. They will review prior investigations to determine patterns and/or familial changes, analyze criminal records checks, notify required parties such as law enforcement, the State Attorney's Office, and CPT of investigations. They will assist the CPI in contacting the reporter of the abuse/neglect allegation and assist in interviewing subjects of the investigation. They will attend court hearings and write court reports. They will participate in multi-disciplinary staffings.

Description of what a student would learn from this placement:
Student would learn how to conduct interviews with parents, caregivers and children, gather information and document information gather. They will how to work with families in a time of crisis and how to assess child safety. They will learn how to network in the community as well as learn about community resources, learn to work in collaboration with other agencies, such as DJJ, CPT, local law enforcement agencies, community based care agencies, learn the court process and how it works in dependency cases, develop skills in team work and being part of a work unit.

Agency Website:
http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/