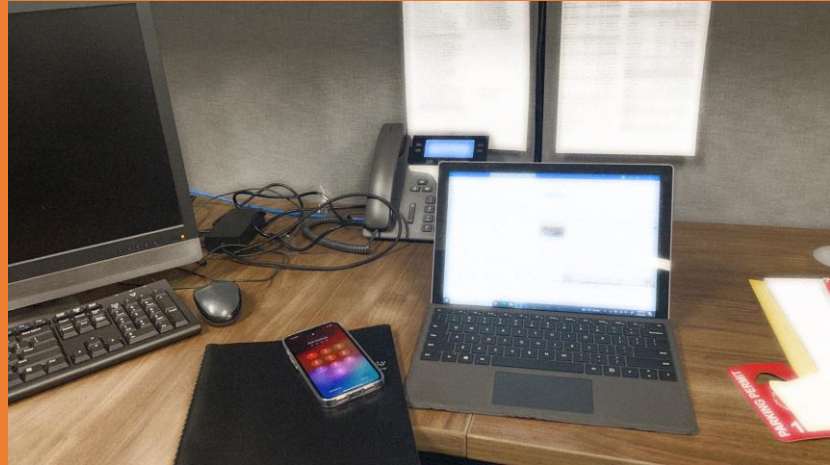




Practicum Photo- Tour

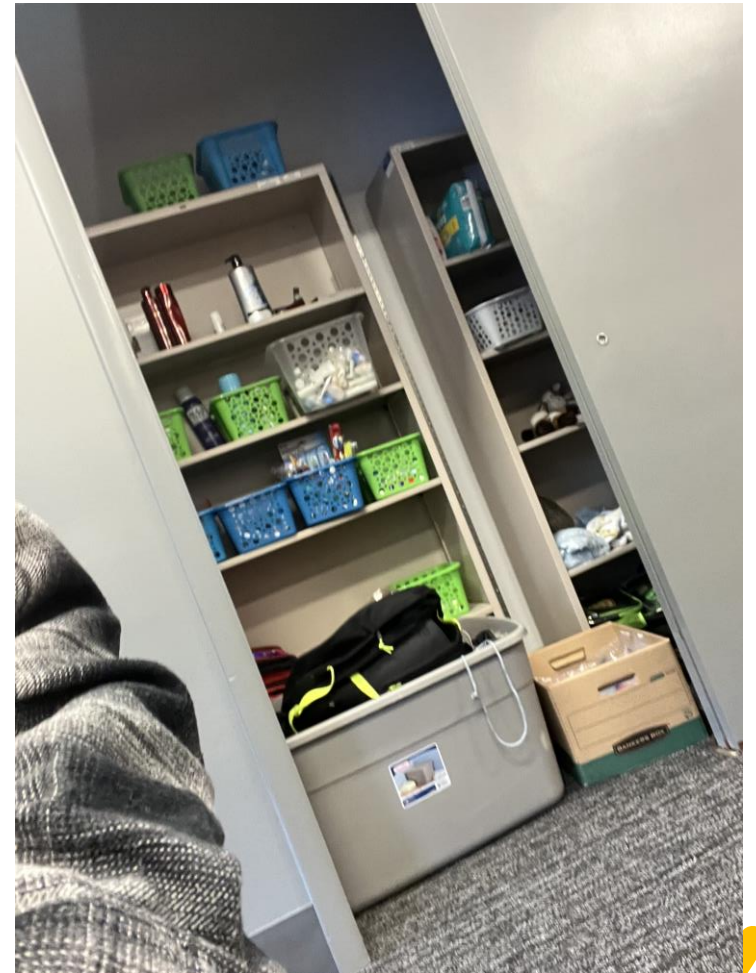
Allegheny County Children, Youth, and Family Services

Casework Intern



- Children, Youth and Family Services is where I did my practicum during Spring 2024. During this I was a casework intern and worked along side other caseworkers to see what they do on a day-to-day basis.
- I chose CYF to do my internship because I thought it could give me the most information and real-life work experience, which will be described later in this PowerPoint.
- This was my first day, so I was in orientation and received my work phone, computer and I was shown to my desk.

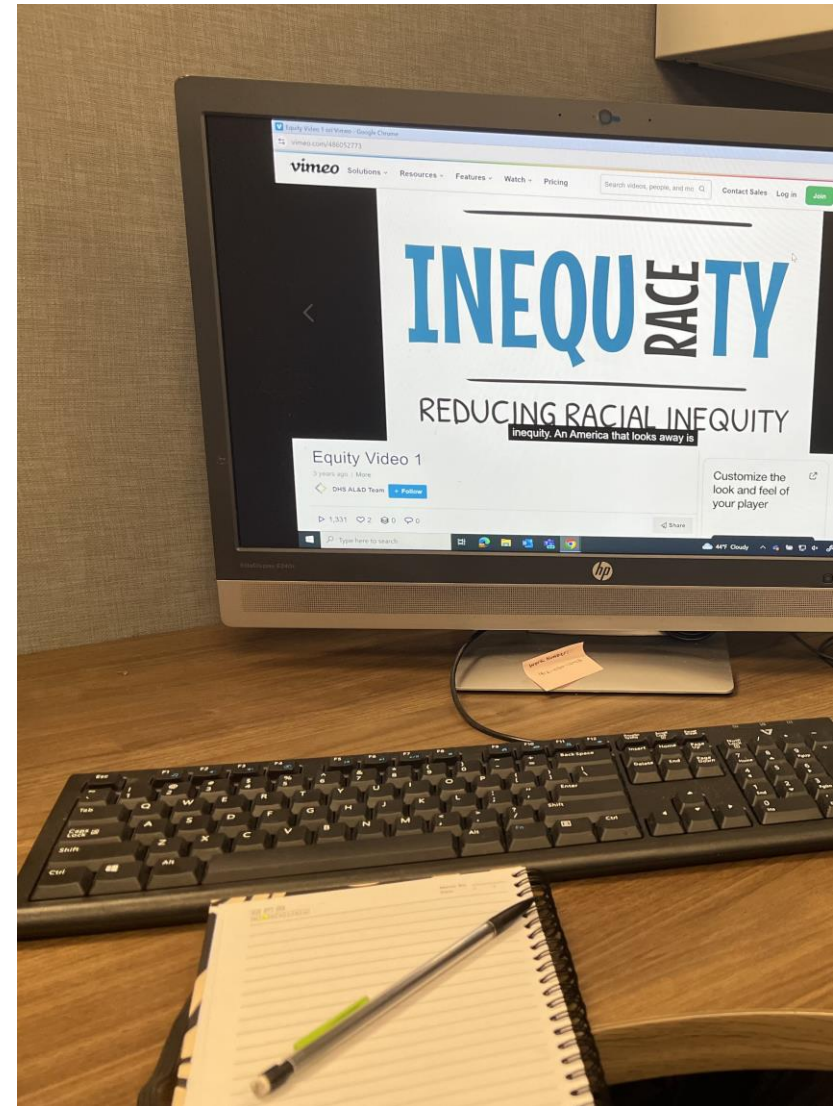
- During my practicum I saw a lot of what CYF has to offer
- It was nice because I think there is a lot of preconceived notions of what this job is and how the caseworkers handle it but being on the inside changed that for me.
- In this photo you can see one of the four closets in the office that are filled with everyday essentials for those who need it.
- If a family or youth, makes it clear they need something they will have it by the end of the next day.

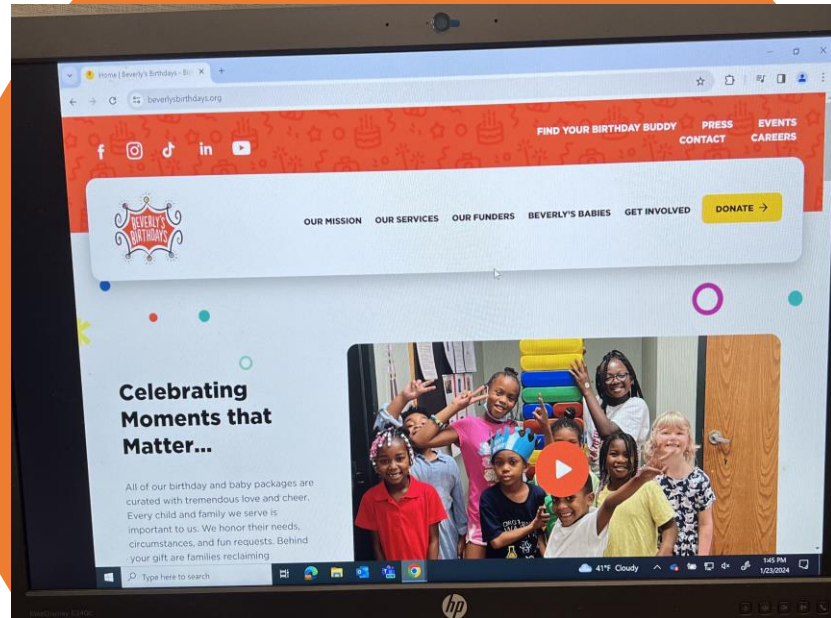




- Here you can see an example of what a cubicle set up looks like.
- Each caseworker gets their own
- When I was in my cubicle I was sitting down on the computer and reviewing the cases and referrals that my team was assigned.
- Being able to go over all the people involved, including their mental or criminal history, education, pretty much everything
- When I was in my cubicle that was my time to sit down and be able to connect what is happening and why it was happening.

- During my internship there was a lot of days that I would sit down and do some sort of training.
- I do have to say that every bit of training I did was very helpful.
- In this slide you can see the racial inequity training I did that was mandatory by the county

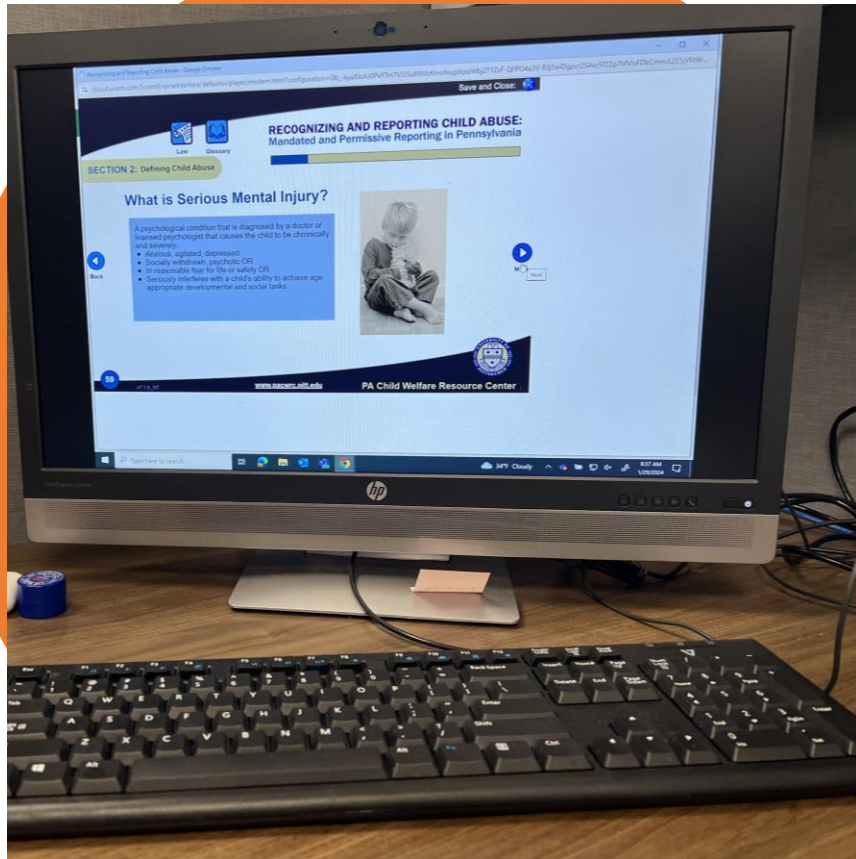




- In this slide you see something called Beverly's Birthdays
- This is a nonprofit that gives back to kids in need
- Beverly's birthday creates a birthday box for each of the children who are involved with CYF
- In these boxes you can see toys or clothes that a child their age would enjoy or want
- This was a very refreshing thing to see, seeing all these children being cared about by people that don't even know them.
- The boxes are then given to the caseworkers to give to the children, and seeing the kid's smiles was the best.

- If you are interested in doing CYF as your internship it is important to note that if you are at the Southside location, there is no parking
- Everything is street parking, but I learned from the caseworkers that it is not a big deal because if you are an actual caseworker, you are driving around so much that your car is never really in the same spot for long.
- The caseworkers are needed to go out on visits and talk with people, etc. so they are constantly driving around.
- They do get mileage though, so they just put in what they drove and get money back for it.

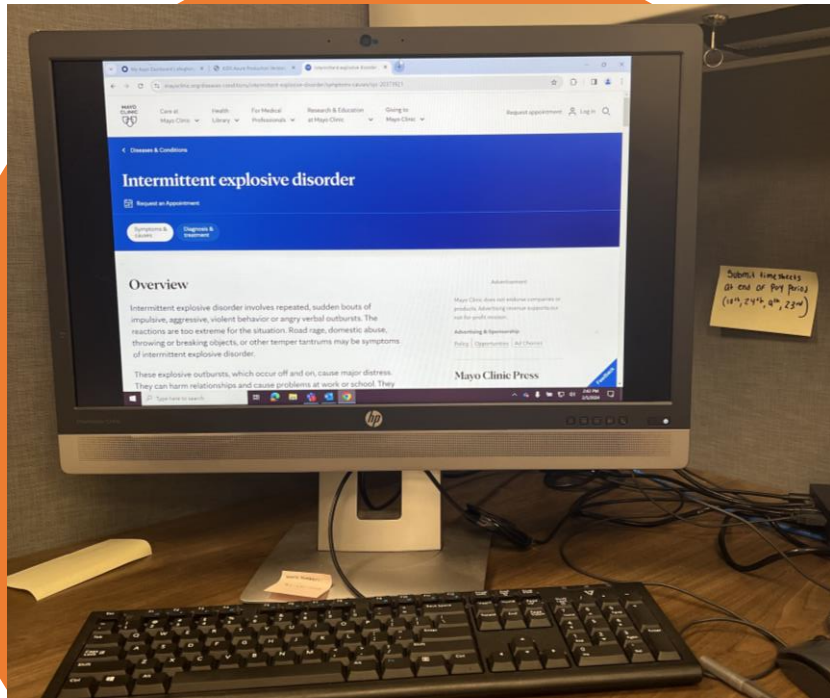




- Here you can see another training that I had to complete
- This training was actually very very helpful, I think it took me about two hours
- I was able to get this done within the first weeks of me being there, which I think was very helpful. After doing this training I was able to go into homes when we were visiting a family and look for signs of child abuse.
- It is very important for all the signs to be clear for caseworkers.

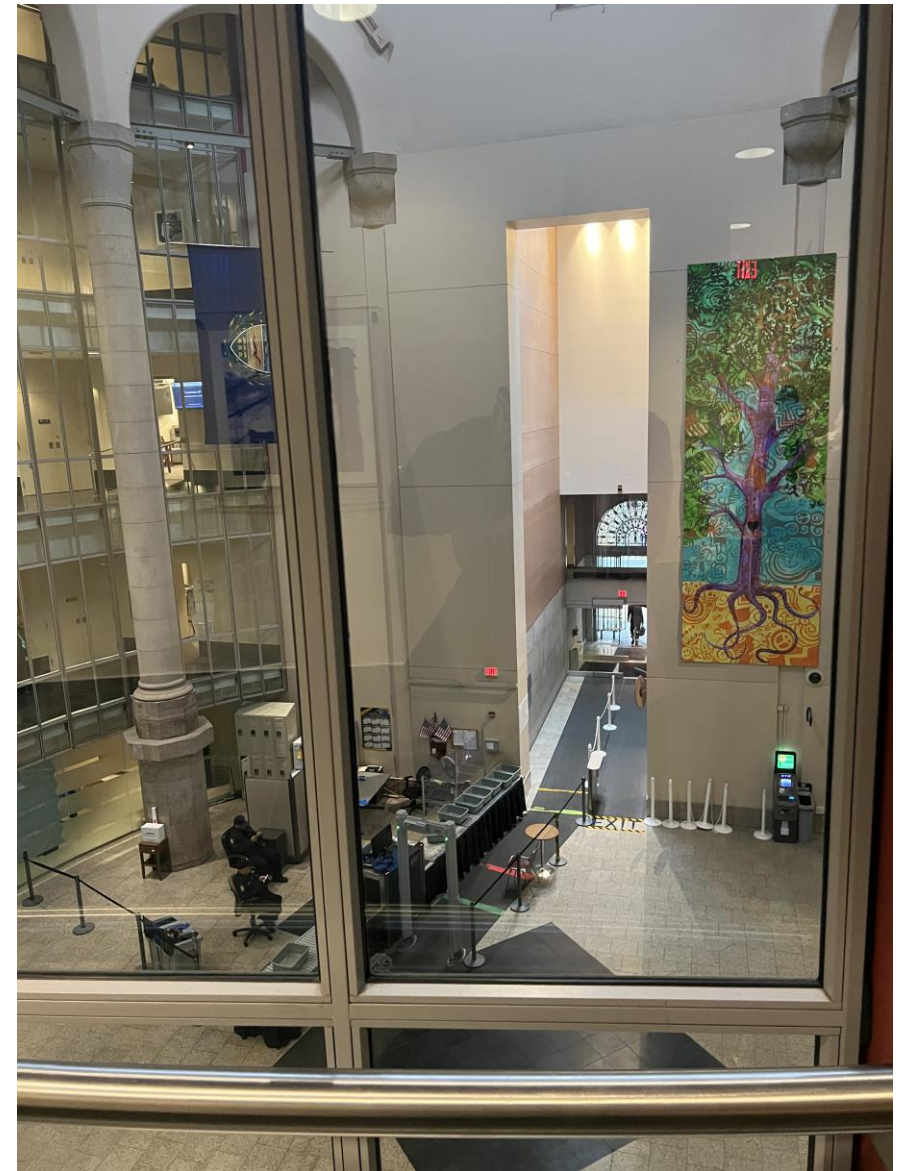
- **In this photo I was on the way to a home visit.**
- **I thought it would be interesting to show the type of neighborhoods that we get our cases in**
- **Casework is honestly a dangerous job, and I did not understand that until I started as an intern here**





- On this day, I wrote about in my journal, I was reading through a new case that we were going to visit.
- As I was reading about this child, he kept doing things that sounded familiar to something I learned about.
- Being able to sit and review these cases and try to connect dots was one of the most fascinating parts of this internship
- I was able to identify so many internal issues with some of these children and that led to the issues that they were having in the real-world.

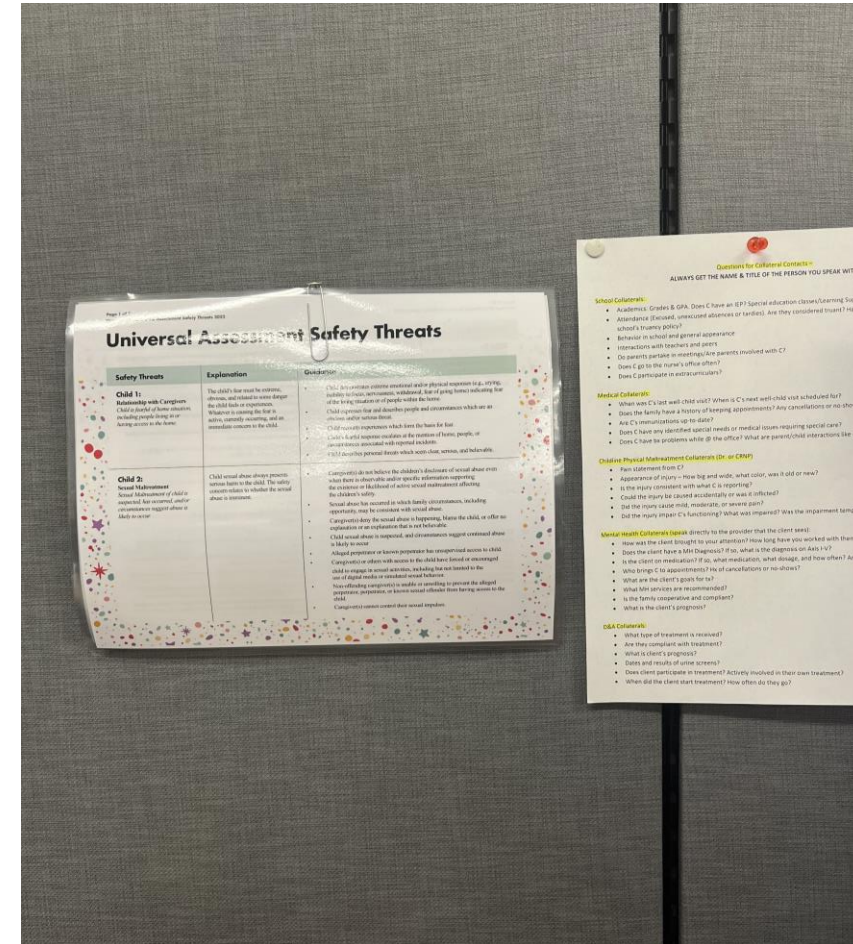
- **During my internship I was given the opportunity to attend court alongside the caseworkers I was working with.**
- **This is a photo of the courthouse interior.**
- **These were my favorite days because I was able to see the most literal form of the law.**
- **Listening to the whole hearing and the attorneys, caseworkers and judge talk was very fascinating to me.**





- This is right outside of the courthouse.
- In this area there is little playground equipment for children to play on.
- There will be many times within this internship that you will be left alone with the children, especially at court, so having this option is very helpful to keep them occupied.
- This day in court it was cold out, I was left with two of the children from our case, but one of them was in a wheelchair. I thought it would be easier to stay inside, but they do have toys inside to keep them occupied as well.

- In this photo you can see the universal safety threats assessment as well as the questions for collateral calls.
- Collateral calls is one of the most common things I did during my internship.
- These are calls that need to be made to doctor's offices, schools, etc. so you can get updates of the people involved in your case.
- Asking about if they are attending school, their grades or if they are up-to-date and attending their appointments.





- This is my drive into work every morning, it is amazing.
- I tend to take the back roads, when I wake up later than 6:00 am.
- Taking the back roads avoids all the traffic and I'm able to sneak up on the city and see this beautiful scene.
- I view this part of my morning as making me happy before I go into work in-case I see something that can alter my mood.
- It is also super nice to see this beautiful sunset because I am not a morning person, but this makes me happy.



- This is Boone, Boone is a therapy dog that was brought in the office.
- Boone's previous owner did this to him.
- This is a once-a-month thing, where they bring in service dogs for the employees.
- I think this is an amazing idea because how high stress and sad this job can be, a little sunshine is important.

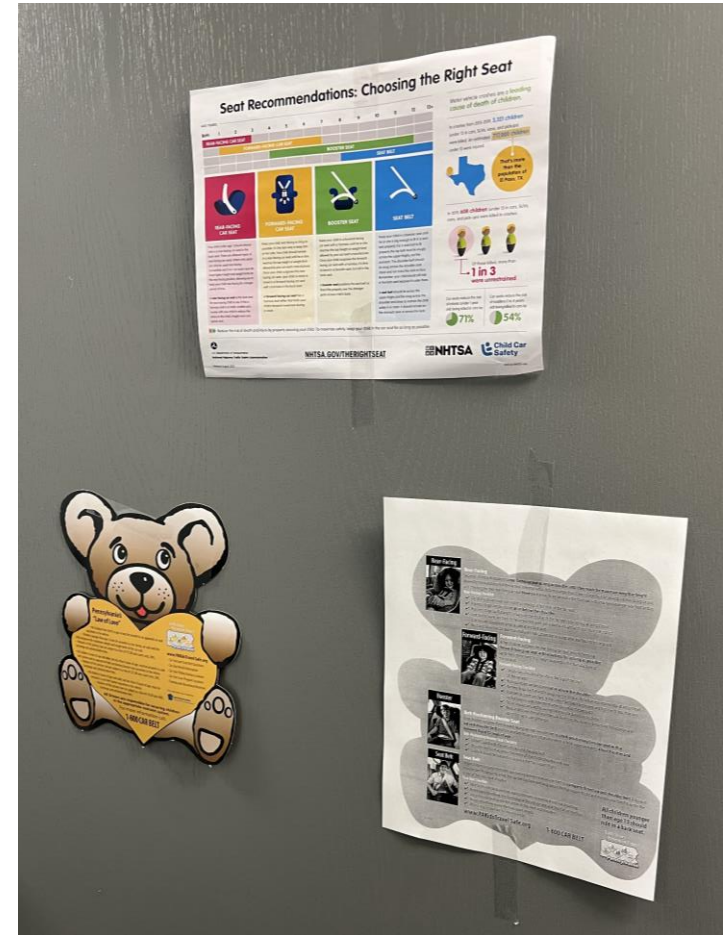
- **One nice thing about this job is the fact that you are not stuck in the office all day.**
- **A big part of the job is to go around to visit people, follow up, and just be out and about.**
- **It made the day go by a lot faster and being able to be out and about rather than sitting all day was just nice.**
- **I also didn't have to drive my car at all, I would just hop in with any of the caseworkers and they would take us to where we needed to go.**





- **This is a mural that you can find in the Southside that we often drive past.**
- **This mural shows a lot: You can see a police officer and I think he stands out the most.**
- **Being involved with CYF you can see how strong the collaboration between CYF, and police truly is.**
- **They make each others' jobs a lot easier, and that was nice to see.**

- This is another closet within the office.
- In this closet there is car seats for all ages.
- As a caseworker you must be able to transport the children in your caseload so having these car seats makes it a lot easier.
- You can also see the PA Law of Love and that is something that all the case workers take very seriously.

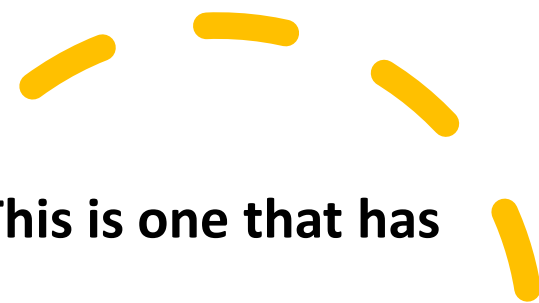




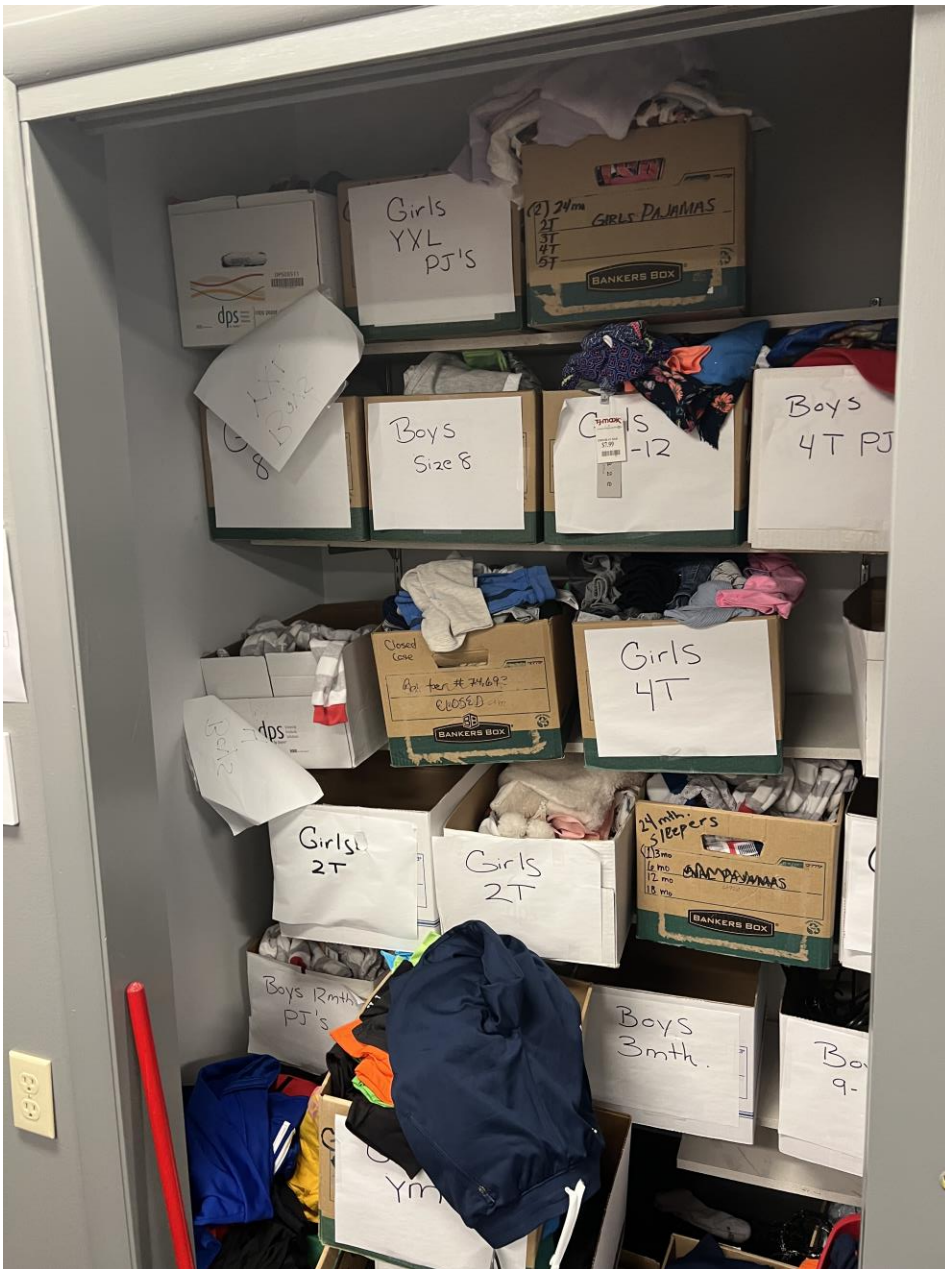
- One nice thing about the office I work at is we have a cafeteria.
- It has everything you could want and need.
- I would suggest packing a lunch because it can get expensive though.
- Being able to quickly pick up a hot meal so you can get back to your desk for a meeting is nice to have.

- In this photo you can see an example of what we wear to court.
- When we go to court, I don't do much but observe.
- The judge will ask you who you are, so that's pretty nerve racking.
- Court was probably my favorite part of this internship because I was able to see how everything that has been found or collected gets put into the cases.

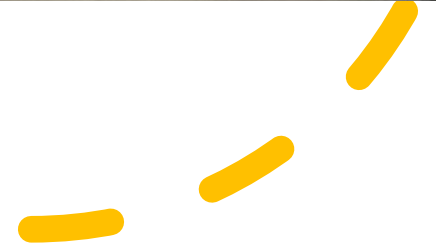




- This is another closet picture. This is one that has clothes for children.
- During my internship I experienced a removal, and the children were not able to get any of their clothing.
- This meant that the caseworkers would go into the closet and pick out clothes for them to wear.
- They have clothing for any age child who needs it.



- **This is a picture I took on my way to my internship.**
- **The one bad thing was the location and getting there and back.**
- **Rush hour traffic is not something to mess around with.**
- **The nice thing is this internship is paid, \$15 an hour, so being able to afford gas to get there and back is very nice.**





- **This is a normal outfit of the day.**
- **If you are someone who likes to occasionally dress up but also likes to dress in jeans and a hoodie this is a good internship for you.**
- **The only time that I must dress up is for court. Other than that, just don't wear leggings and look semi-presentable and you will be good.**

- This is one of the conference rooms in our office.
- The day I took this picture is when I attended a Record Review for a caseworker's case.
- In this Record Review, a plan on how to get the family put back together and how to get them on track is discussed.
- This is an influential part of why I enjoyed this internship, I enjoyed hearing and seeing families working together to be allowed to be a family again.
- The sign on the wall says “look for the helpers” which I think is an amazing way to look at caseworkers.



Summary

- I can say that this internship was worthwhile, and I'm glad that I did it here with CYF. I would recommend it to others, but I think it would be important to emphasize how emotional the job can be.
- There was countless times that on the job, in court I had to walk away because a situation was so terrible and sad.
- There is also times where I've carried cases home with me and I couldn't shake the feeling, and I was only an intern.
- The things and situations that you see/deal with for this internship are very triggering.
- It is mostly children, and so that's why after this internship I have come to the realization that I don't want to work with children, and I give a lot of credit to anyone who can do it.
- The advice I would give to any student who thinks about doing this internship is this: Some days you will sit at your desk, and it will be boring.
- A lot of the days though you will be going to houses to talk to families and seeing if children are safe and being cared for.
- This can go awry then this job is triggering. If you get easily triggered by children being hurt and neglected this might not be the internship for you.
- Also, there is a lot of sexual maltreatment within some cases, that is another thing to keep an eye out for.