



CornerHouse Dispatch

Multidisciplinary Teams: New Legislation

The linchpin of a successful investigation of alleged maltreatment is the multidisciplinary team (MDT). CornerHouse both uses the MDT process and trains others to implement this best practice. At a CornerHouse MDT meeting and monthly case review, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, protective services, prosecuting attorneys, medical and mental health professionals and advocates come together to serve the best interests of an allegedly abused child, teen or vulnerable adult.

Minnesota statute 626.558 defines the purpose and make-up of MDTs. Historically, while children's advocacy centers like CornerHouse were not excluded from MDT membership, they were not formally included in the list of eligible agencies under this law. The Minnesota Social Services Association's 2016 Public Policy Agenda identified this problem and requested legislative action



to address it saying, "Some county attorneys and child protection investigators see Child Advocacy Centers falling under this statute, some don't. There needs to be consistency throughout the state. Adding Child Advocacy Centers to the list of professionals included in the Child Protection Teams would allow for that consistency."

The Minnesota State Legislature agreed, and included the requested change in HF 2749, the supplemental budget bill with which it ended its 2015-2016 session. Now, CornerHouse—and other children's advocacy centers around the state—are full, statutory members of the MDTs. The change will go into effect once Governor Dayton signs the legislation.

Although this revision will not affect how MDTs function at CornerHouse, it will facilitate communication in these groups because children's advocacy centers finally are legally integrated into the team meetings called to serve the best interests of victims of abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

Upcoming MDT Conference



Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Statewide Conference

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Save the date! On Friday, November 4, 2016, a Multidisciplinary Team Statewide Conference will take place at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and the Children's Justice Act Task Force, this conference will support Minnesota's county child protection MDTs. For more information, contact Mary Doyle at

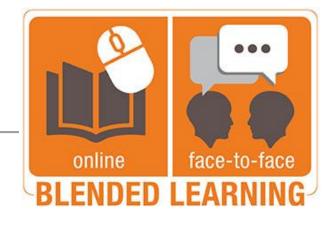
Upcoming Events

July 19: Collecting Minimal Facts Training

Learn More and Register Here!

August 22-26: Basic Forensic Interview Training

Learn More and Register Here!



September 20: Collecting Minimal Facts Training

Learn More and Register Here!

September 27-29: Advanced Forensic Interview Training

Learn More and Register Here!

October 10-14: Basic Forensic Interview Training

Learn More and Register Here!



Assures that the voices of children and adolescents are heard.

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