



CornerHouse assures that the voices
of children and adolescents are heard.



CornerHouse Dispatch

Becoming a Forensic Interviewer:

Exploding the Myth of "One and Done"

Mary Ann Saurino, MA, EdS

The very best practitioners in any field make complex tasks seem simple. As I celebrate my one-year anniversary as training director at CornerHouse, I have come to realize again the importance of this truism. Each day, I have the great honor of working with the best forensic interviewers in the field. My colleagues on “the forensics side of the house” seem to know what to do next without conscious effort or thought, even in the most challenging interviews. As an educator, however, I know that their expertise is the hard-won result of both strong training and extended, supported practice.

Historically, completing an intensive, week-long basic course has been considered sufficient training to be recognized as a forensic interviewer. Debra Ann Poole refutes this myth in her newest book, *Interviewing children: The Science of Conversation in Forensic Contexts*. [1] The chapter entitled “Protocols and Interviewer Training” outlines not only essential components of basic training, but also argues that “periodic refresher training” (Poole, 2016, p. 188) is necessary for in-service forensic interviewers.

In 2015, CornerHouse launched its updated Advanced Forensic Interview Training, which combines online and in-person learning for experienced professionals. The purpose of this program is specifically to support and stretch currently practicing forensic interviewers. This training realizes the principles of the CornerHouse Model of Blended Learning: best practice in forensic interviewing, best practice in adult learning, and best practice in online learning. The curriculum for the CornerHouse Advanced Forensic Interview Training covers not only specialized interview practices (such as conducting multisession interviews and working with interpreters, among others), but also testimony preparation, bias, and

secondary trauma. Strictly enforced registration limits assure personalized learning experiences that are relevant to each individual's daily work, and supported online learning in the CornerHouse virtual classroom provides extended support for learners over time.

In September, CornerHouse trainers will offer our Advanced Forensic Interview Training both as a special program on-site at the 22nd Annual "Reflections" Symposium on Child Abuse & Neglect in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at St. Mary's University. The North Carolina program is full, but limited seats still are available for the Minneapolis training. Registration and additional information are available [here](#).

[1] Poole, D. A. (2016). *Interviewing children: The science of conversation in forensic contexts*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Advanced Forensic Interview Training



Experienced forensic interviewers will gain knowledge and experience in the art of advanced forensic interviewing while connecting with other advanced practitioners.

What learners said about the Advance Training in March:

What will you learn?

- Best practices in forensic interviewing
- Delivery of effective court testimony
- How to identify and manage bias
- Strategies for working with diversity and special circumstances

"I think the best practice learning stations helped me to consider new techniques and reflect on my previous interviews to consider times I could have used these techniques. They also will help me to utilize these techniques in future interviews."

"The [best practices] work stations provided an opportunity to practice skills and receive feedback"

- How to manage secondary and vicarious trauma

How is the training provided?

- Online learning modules starting four weeks before the in-person training
- Face-to-face learning takes place over three days in Minneapolis
- Class size limited to 18 participants
- Active and experiential in-person training utilizes lecture, discussion, demonstration videos, role-playing, and guided reflection

the skills at work.”

“The small class size allowed participation from everyone from different areas (social services, county attorney, DOC and law enforcement).”

“The strengths of this training are the emphasis on group learning and participation vs. lecture.”

“It was helpful to learn court terms. I will bring that back and share it with my team so they can learn that before testifying. Learning the difference between multi-session and multi-interviews was helpful.”

The next offering will be **September 27-29.**
[Click here to register!](#)

“I will try to institute more frequent peer review even if it is informal, based on my experience here.”

“Use the mindfulness and meditation techniques more.”

Upcoming MDT Conference



**Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
Statewide Conference**

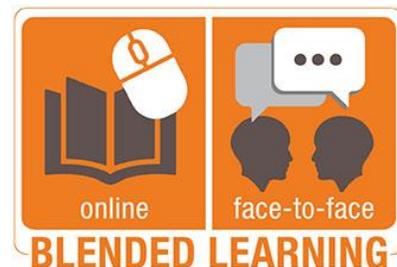
Save the date! On Friday, November 4, 2016, a Multidisciplinary Team Statewide Conference will take place at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and the Children’s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

For more information, contact Mary Doyle at mary.doyle@state.mn.us.

Upcoming Events

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!](#)



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