



training the world
to **listen.**



CornerHouse Dispatch

An Interview with Sheriff Stanek

Melissa Henry, CornerHouse Training Department Manager, visited with Sheriff Rich Stanek about his connections with CornerHouse and why he values CornerHouse Training.



Melissa Henry (MH). How did you first learn about CornerHouse, its mission and services? What do you remember about those initial encounters or experiences?

Sheriff Stanek (SS): As a Minneapolis Police Officer I first came into contact with CornerHouse in the late 80s, early 90s. I was assigned as a sex crimes investigator and I had a number of cases about some sexual abuse. When I got assigned to them and started looking into them and no one had believed what the young kids had said because it was so horrendous. I sought the counsel of CornerHouse in terms of interviewing some of the alleged victims. CornerHouse did a great job, got to the bottom of it, got the kids to talk about what actually happened and established their credibility; hence this individual ended up being charged and convicted for the crimes of abusing these young kids. So as a young detective, I knew the value of CornerHouse.

MH: You were recently elected to the Board of Directors at CornerHouse. Why did you choose to join? What do you hope to accomplish through your service on the Board?

SS: After 33 years in Law Enforcement, I believe in public service and helping nonprofits who service youth in our community. And so I had an opportunity to work with Patricia Harmon and attend a number of CornerHouse events. I like what CornerHouse does and I like what they do in the community so I thought I was a

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—Sheriff Stanek

natural nexus as the sheriff in the county and also one of the users of their services, to also serve on their board of directors and be able to not only do the public service aspect but further their reach in the community, particularly the public safety community.

MH: Why is it important for law enforcement professionals to attend CornerHouse training?

SS: I think it's really important. Training always enhances your skill set. And we are always in a constant state of learning, but I can tell you the services that CornerHouse provides are not the skill set we provide our officers. You know, we are first responders first and foremost, as police officers, but we rely on second responders. Second responders are those that assist us in getting the job done in terms of public safety. CornerHouse is a great example of a second responder. The training is second to none and covers the entire gambit of trying to get a young person to talk about their very tragic and uncomfortable experiences in an open, caring, nurturing manner which just enhances our job as law enforcement not to re-traumatize or re-victimize the young person.

MH: Why does CornerHouse matter?

SS: CornerHouse matters because they help young people. They do so unabashedly. They do so with compassion, dignity and respect and not only the individual they are serving but their families and extended families. So often we forget that it's not just the individual that's being interviewed or that has been traumatized but the moms and the dads and the younger and older siblings and sometimes the extended family.

MH: Is there anything else you would like law enforcement to know as we are reaching out to them?

I think that law enforcement should know that CornerHouse is a state of the art, nationally recognized forensic interviewing service that is available to law enforcement in these very tough situations. This isn't something you need everyday and for the majority of police departments sometimes don't have the experience or training necessary to do this. But that is ok. Let the first responders do what they do best. But then ask the second responders, in this case CornerHouse, to help them do that. They will find that the results are amazing beyond what they may be able to do themselves.

Vulnerable Adult Forensic Interview Training in Minneapolis

The Minnesota Children's Alliance and CornerHouse are sponsoring a Vulnerable Adult Forensic Interview Training in Minneapolis.

- November 6-9, 2017
- Monday-Wednesday 8:00am - 4:30pm and Thursday 8:00am - 12:30pm
- \$1,075.00 per ticket

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Actors at CornerHouse!

Adult actors, portraying child and adolescent victims of abuse, are an integral part of the CornerHouse Minneapolis Basic Forensic Interview Training, providing the opportunity for learners to put into practice the interviewing skills that have been

explored throughout the week-long training.

The CornerHouse Training Actors are professional working artists; those of you who have attended this training know firsthand the skill of these talented, dedicated performers. The Actors and CornerHouse Staff recently got together at CornerHouse for a reception and meeting. It was a wonderful time to get to know each other better, share some food, and to celebrate the actors and recognize their contributions to the training.

Training Staff and the Actors also shared feedback and discussion, ranging from simple logistics of the arrangement of the role play "interview room," to the more complex challenges of responding from the perspective of a 5-year-old's cognitive abilities. The opportunity to have these discussions, to build relationships, and to develop a deeper understanding of all perspectives and needs, will ensure that this aspect of CornerHouse training will continue to provide an excellent experience for the professionals who attend the training.

Important Note

CornerHouse must cancel the Interview Practicum it had scheduled for October 26. Unfortunately, we did not have enough registrations for the course.

Upcoming Events

November 6-9, 2017: Vulnerable Adult Forensic Interview Training
[Learn More and Register Here!](#)

December 4-8, 2017: Basic Forensic Interview Training
[Learn More and Register Here!](#)

January 23-27, 2018: Basic Forensic Interview Training
[Learn More and Register Here!](#)



The mission of CornerHouse is to listen and offer hope and healing to those silenced by trauma and violence.

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