

NATIONAL
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ALLIANCE

CornerHouse™

CornerHouse Newsletter

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Thomas Frost
Executive Director

Dear Reader,

Happy Autumn!

Fall fades quickly into winter here in Minnesota, so we are enjoying the changing leaves and temperate weather while we can. We are pleased to share the latest news from CornerHouse with you. Enjoy!

Minnesota Sex Crimes Investigator of the Year



Congratulations to **Detective Bill Koncar** of the Brooklyn Center Police Department for being named **Sex Crimes Investigator of the Year** by the Minnesota Sex Crimes Investigators Association. The award was presented at the Annual Conference on October 1, 2008.

Detective Koncar has been bringing cases to CornerHouse for many years, and he is a regular participant in the monthly CornerHouse Case Review. A professional musician, Bill also played his accordion and sang at the CornerHouse Twins Fundraiser on July 29. Congratulations, Bill!

A New Partner for CornerHouse

Jennifer Anderson
Assistant Executive Director

Julie Ellefson
Program Director

Sharon McLaughlin
Business Manager

Jodi Lashley
Training Coordinator

Judy Weigman
Forensic Interviewer/Trainer

Anne Lukas Miller
Forensic Interviewer/Trainer

Sara Brusletten
Forensic Interviewer/Trainer

Julie Stauffer
Forensic Interviewer/Trainer

Dr. Barbara Bettlyoun
Forensic Interviewer

Miriam Maples
Family Liaison / Volunteer
Coordinator

Sandy Heitkamp
Training Assistant

Krista Kemp
Program Assistant / Intake

Shao Lee
Program Assistant / Video Technician

Megan Moylan
Program Assistant / Client Services

Wish List

Batteries (AAA,
AA, C, D, 9 volt)

Magna Doodle Toy

Snacks for Kids

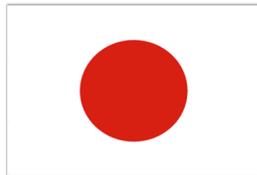
**If you wish to donate
goods or services to
CornerHouse,
please contact us at
612-813-8300.**



CornerHouse contracts with law enforcement agencies in Hennepin County and the County Attorney's office to provide forensic interviews for children and vulnerable adults suspected of being abused. This year, for the first time, an agency outside Hennepin County engaged CornerHouse to provide forensic interviews on an ongoing basis.

We welcome the Chisago County Sheriff's office as it joins twenty-eight other law enforcement partners supporting CornerHouse.

Konnichi wa! *Jodi Lashley Heads To Japan*



In November 2008, CornerHouse Training Coordinator Jodi Lashley will be presenting three forensic interview training programs in Japan.

Initially, CornerHouse was asked to present at the 11th Symposium on Child Maltreatment Prevention in Yokohama, Japan on November 8-9, 2008. Almost 200 people attend this symposium each year. Once other professionals in Japan heard that CornerHouse was coming, two additional trainings were scheduled: a one-day seminar on forensic interviewing in Miyazaki (southern Japan) and a three-day interviewing training in Shibuya, a suburb of Tokyo.

These requests resulted from the attendance of Ai Hishikawan at CornerHouse in September of 2007. She came from Japan to Minneapolis to attend the five day Forensic Interview Training program and returned in April of 2008 to attend the Advanced Training. Before her second visit, Hishikawa-san asked about the possibility of a CornerHouse trainer traveling to Japan to present at the Symposium.

Japan is the fifth country outside of the US where CornerHouse staff has trained. Others include Uruguay, Canada, Jamaica, and Kosovo. CornerHouse has also trained for the International Criminal Court at the Hague.



CornerHouse held its Annual Gala on September 20, 2008 at the Golden Wings Museum in Blaine.

This was the second year CornerHouse has held its Gala at the Golden Wings Museum at the Anoka County Airport. The museum, which contains over thirty fully restored antique airplanes, was the perfect setting for the festive event. Guests walked among the airplanes throughout the evening, and airplane and helicopter rides were also available.

During dinner, guest speaker Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan spoke about the important relationship between his department and CornerHouse in the investigation of child abuse and other crimes in which children are victims or witnesses.



The event honored Dr. Judson Reaney and Dr. Linda Thompson for their careers dedicated to serving children and their longtime commitment to CornerHouse.

Dr. Alan Goldbloom, President and CEO of Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and 2007 CornerHouse Sweetheart of the Year, participated in the program and assisted in the presentation of the 2008 Sweetheart Awards to Dr. Reaney and Dr. Thompson.

The CornerHouse Sweetheart Award is given by the CornerHouse Board of Directors to honor individuals for their vision, dedication and service to children. Dr. Reaney and Dr. Thompson both were among the founders of CornerHouse in the mid 1980s and have provided medical services at CornerHouse since it opened its

doors in 1989.

Special thanks to Suzanne Fedoruk Herrick, Chair of the Gala Committee, and Greg Herrick, Owner of the Golden Wings Museum, for their efforts in making this an outstanding event.

National Child Protection Training Center Dedicates New Facility

In partnership with Winona State University, the National Child Protection Training Center dedicated its new training headquarters on the WSU campus. Thousands of students, prosecutors, police, and child protection social workers will be trained in forensic investigation and interviewing in suspected child abuse cases. The center is a partnership between Winona State University and the National Association to Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children (NAPSAC).

Victor Vieth, Director of the Center, said, "This is the first training in the nation that duplicates an entire child abuse investigation from beginning to end - from the initial report to trial - in a realistic setting."

The new facility includes:

- a facsimile house where students can conduct mock investigations;
- forensic interview rooms to learn about interviewing children;

- mock courtrooms;

A conference room wired for teleconferencing with child protection agencies throughout the United States.

CornerHouse has partnered with Victor Vieth in the past and currently partners with him and NAPSAC on the ChildFirst train-the-trainer program.

Get to Know CornerHouse

CornerHouse Staff Pediatrician, Dr. Alice Swenson



CornerHouse is pleased to welcome **Dr. Alice Swenson** as a new staff pediatrician.

Dr. Swenson grew up in New York City and attended medical school at the State University of New York Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn. She completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School and is currently a Fellow in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. Alice started seeing patients at CornerHouse in the winter of 2008. She joins Dr. Linda Thompson as the providers of medical services at CornerHouse.

Alice is married and has a beautiful 3-year-old daughter. She and her family reside in St. Paul.

Alice was drawn to the field of Child Abuse Pediatrics during medical school when she had the opportunity to work with mentors in the field. She plans to sit for the Child Abuse Pediatrics Certification exam offered for the first time in 2009.

Members of our Board of Directors



Arlene Clapp Gumingo has been a member of the CornerHouse Board of Directors for nearly sixteen years.

After fourteen years as a grade school teacher, Arlene entered the executive search business over 30 years ago. She has been the President of her own firm, Arlene Clapp & Company, for seventeen years. She specializes in the commercial real estate and construction industries. Her daughter now works with her.

She first became involved at CornerHouse through the Twins Fundraiser, serving on the very first committee in 1992. She has been a member ever since. She was the 1999 CornerHouse "Sweetheart for Kids" award recipient in recognition of her outstanding contributing to the Twins Fundraisers. Having served on the CornerHouse Board of Directors for twelve years, she was elected Vice-Chair in 2001 and Chair in 2003; she has continued on the Executive Committee as Past Chair since 2005.

Arlene lives with her husband in Edina. They have a family of five children, one of whom lives with them while attending college.



Pat McDonnell has been on the CornerHouse Board of Directors for eight years. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Pat was originally appointed to represent Minneapolis Children's Hospital when he was concurrently Vice President of Labor Relations for the Minnesota Hospital Association and serving on the Children's Hospital Foundation Board. Pat now

works as a Senior Executive for Wilson-McShane Corporation.

Pat is a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He volunteers for St. John's and has been active in the St. Paul Winter Carnival, serving as Prime Minister in 2000. Pat and his wife live in Lilydale.

Pervasive Developmental Disorders

by Julie Stauffer, LICSW / CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer

Pervasive Developmental Disorders include the diagnoses of Autistic Disorder and Asperger's Disorder as well as Child Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified. Diagnostic criteria for these disorders consider impairments in the areas of social interaction and communication and repetitive or restricted patterns of behaviors, interests, and activities (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Often, these disorders are referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), which reflects that individual presentations may encompass a wide range of impairment within diagnostic categories, which may vary from mild to severe.

Significant numbers of children are diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum. Data gathered by the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, looking at prevalence rates for 8-year-olds in several communities across the country, have found that close to 1 in 150 children are diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Research has shown that children with ASD or other developmental disabilities are vulnerable to victimization; in one study, parents reported 16.6% of children with ASD had been victims of sexual abuse (Mandell, Walrath, Manteuffel, Sgro, & Pinto-Martin, 2005), and, in a survey of individuals with autism and caregivers, 13% reported sexual abuse (Autism Society of America, 2006, as cited in Autism Society of America, Autism Information for Child Abuse Counselors). As such, it is likely that professionals in the field of child abuse will have experiences with cases involving a child with ASD.

In efforts to most effectively provide children with the opportunity to communicate about their experiences, interviewers must be prepared to respond to the needs of the children who may be encountered. It is important that forensic interviewers and others involved in the investigation of child abuse have a basic understanding and familiarity with ASD in general; there are several resources available to obtain such information [some resources include: fraser.org, cdc.gov, autism-society.org, autismspeaks.org, nichd.nih.gov]. However, general knowledge is only part of the preparation necessary for conducting a forensic interview with a child who has a disorder on the autism spectrum. ASDs are a complex group of disorders with a wide-ranging variation of presentation. Of perhaps greater importance and relevance to conducting an investigation in the most effective way possible is for the interviewer to have an understanding of the individual child to be interviewed, and of how ASD impacts this particular child.

There are various areas where children with ASD might display unique challenges that could impact a child's participation within the experience of a forensic interview. In addition to the information typically gathered prior to a forensic interview with any child, preparing for an interview with a child with ASD may require the gathering of additional, specific information.

In brief, information regarding the child could be gathered in the following areas:

- Social functioning, including unique aspects of this child's functioning, specific areas of interest or focus for the child, and potential limitations or concerns
- Communication, including information about the child's verbal skills and abilities, methods of augmenting or assisting this child's communication, and any unique words or phrases or other methods of communicating that the child uses
- Behaviors, including repetitive behaviors the child may engage in (such as rocking, or stacking items) and behaviors that may involve potential safety concerns for the child or others.
- Routine, such any particular routines or rituals that the child follows, how this child might respond to changes in his or her routine, and consideration of preparations for the child or modifications to the forensic interview setting that may be required to assist the child's participation
- Sensory processing, including particular sensory experiences this child may over- or

under-respond to, common reactions the child may have with regards to sensory processing, and methods this child uses in order to regulate sensory experiences

- Cognitive ability, including areas of strength for the child and challenges
- Attention and focus, including particular strategies that may be helpful in obtaining this child's attention or helping the child maintain focus
- Responses to stress, including potential triggers, indicators that the child is becoming stressed, and strategies this child might utilize to manage increased stress
- In addition, the multidisciplinary team, particularly those who will be interacting directly with the child, should be knowledgeable regarding potential safety concerns specific to this child, regarding if there are physical needs including self-care needs, and with regards to any co-occurring disorders and how these may impact the child.

Due to the complexity of ASD, gathering information from multiple sources can be beneficial, as those with different relationships with a child, and who interact with the child in distinct settings, may have unique, valuable information to share. Sources for obtaining information can include the child's parent/primary caregiver; school personnel who work directly with the child; or other professionals who provide services for the child such as occupational therapists or speech-language therapists. As with any forensic interview, it is important to consider case-specific circumstances when assessing which collateral contacts are most appropriate. Additional resources may include comprehensive assessment or diagnostic reports. In the collaborative multidisciplinary team approach utilized at CornerHouse, our referents - those from law enforcement or child protective services assigned to investigate cases - will typically gather much of this pre-interview information which is then shared with the forensic interviewer; however, if the interviewer has opportunity to speak with a non-offending caregiver(s) prior to the interview, this can be an opportunity to clarify or seek additional information as necessary.

The preceding should be regarded as a brief, introductory view of the potential types of information one may gather when preparing to interview a child with ASD, and is not intended as a comprehensive guide. Further, it must always be acknowledged that each child is an individual, and ultimately the child and the child's needs must guide the interviewer's conducting of the forensic interview. However, recognition of the unique needs and challenges which may impact a child with ASD, and preparation prior to the forensic interview regarding what these needs may be, will undoubtedly have a positive impact on an interviewer's ability to serve each child.

For Professionals: Articles Authored by CornerHouse Staff

To access articles authored by CornerHouse Staff, please copy and paste the addresses below into your web browser. Alternately, go to <http://www.ndaa.org> and search for the title of the article that interests you.

Bizarre & Fantastic Elements: A Forensic Interviewer's Response Part I, II, III

http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_2_2008.pdf

http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_3_2008.pdf

http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_4_2008.pdf

Best Practices In Child Forensic Interviews: Interview Instructions And Truth-Lie Discussions

http://www.hamline.edu/law/journals/law_policy/articles/Russell_final_edits_.pdf

Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Developmental Disabilities Parts 1 & 2

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_1_2006.pdf

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_2_2006.pdf

Indicators of a Healthy Multidisciplinary Team

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_winter_2005.pdf

Key Factors in Forensic Interviews with Native American Children

http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_18_number_6_2005.pdf

Forensic Interview Room Set-up

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_fall_2004.pdf

Drawings in Forensic Interviews of Children

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_16_number_3_2003.html

Using Interpreters in Forensic Interviews

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_15_number_12_2002.html

The Use of Anatomical Diagrams in Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_15_number_5_2002.html

Using Anatomical Dolls In Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews

http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_13_number_8_2000.html

As always, thank you for your interest in CornerHouse and the work we do for children. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please make use of the unsubscribe option at the bottom of the page. Enjoy the last days of summer!

Sincerely,

CornerHouse

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