



training the world
to **listen.**



Blended Learning at CornerHouse

In October and November, 2015, the Training Department offered its first Blended Learning Advanced Forensic Interview Training at CornerHouse. Fourteen learners completed 8 hours of foundational coursework on-line in the new CornerHouse virtual classroom and then attended 3 days of training on-site where they practiced, refined, and further developed their skills and knowledge. We are excited about this model of training, which links preparatory work in a moderated on-line learning environment with in-person training that allows learners to deepen their practice. We look forward to strengthening and expanding our blended learning initiative in 2016!

Nov 13 Deadline! DHS –Funded Scholarships available in 2016 for learners employed in Minnesota

CornerHouse is accepting applications for scholarships to our CornerHouse Basic Forensic Interview Training (January 25-29, 2016, March 14-18, 2016, or May 2-6, 2016) and our CornerHouse Advanced Forensic Interview Training (on-line February 1-29, 2016 and in-person March 1-3, 2016). [Submit your applications on-line for a DHS-funded CornerHouse Basic Interview Training scholarship or a DHS-funded CornerHouse Advanced Forensic Interview Training scholarship by Friday, November 13, 2015 at 11:59 p.m.!](#) Winners will be informed by November 20, 2015.

**Our 2015 training sessions are filled.
Registration for Winter and Spring 2016 CornerHouse Trainings opens December 1, 2015!**

Ask The Trainer – November, 2015

Anne Lukas Miller

Question: Can the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ be utilized in an interview with an adult with developmental delays and/or other needs?

Yes! The CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ is intentionally semi-structured, and as such, it effectively lends itself to a range of situations and circumstances.

Because the protocol is also person-centered and accommodates individualism, it can certainly be utilized to conduct forensic interviews with adults identified as vulnerable.

In conducting a forensic interview with an adult with developmental delays or other unique needs, there are some adjustments that should be considered.

Before the interview, it is helpful to collect information regarding an individual's needs and abilities. Accessing multiple sources will allow for greater understanding of the individual, and increase the usefulness of potential options that can be identified.

However, this course of action also requires vigilance, to prevent an interviewer from becoming stuck in a specific developmental category.

While conducting the interview, remember that all adults have life experience no matter what their “IQ,” developmental “age,” or other diagnostic measures. These experiences impact perspective, perception, interaction and communication in ways not typically seen in children. Skills and abilities may not have evolved in an expected manner, and as a result, the individual may present with skills that appear scattered or unpredictable.

To conduct an interview that respects the individual’s strengths but does not exceed his or her developmental capacity, methods, techniques and tools must be utilized in a fluid and flexible manner. For example, the interviewer can address complex concepts using simplified language, or use more sophisticated language in reference to concrete concepts. The interviewer may modify the use of tools, such as Anatomical Diagrams or Dolls, for communication assistance. In attempting to learn what elicits personal narrative and relevant details, the interviewer may learn that a specific facilitator is helpful, while broad invitations are not.

Adapting familiar methods to meet the needs of an individual is consistent with the CornerHouse approach in all forensic interviews. However, the scattered skills of adults with unique needs may be more complex, and the adjustment process may require more time. A single interview, conducted through multiple sessions, may be more appropriate in these circumstances. A multiple session model also offers greater opportunity to establish the individual’s comfort and maximize his or her competencies within the interview.

This summary barely touches on the modifications and adjustments that can be made. As we strive to maintain the integrity of the forensic process, it is essential to consider how the interview can be adjusted to meet the needs of the individual, rather than the individual adjusting to meet the demands of the interview.



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For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the Training Department at

612-813-8310 or training@cornerhousemn.org