

Annual Report 2000

PROGRAM REPORT

Forensic Interview and Medical Services

In year 2000, 415 forensic interviews were completed and videotaped. Of this total, 366 were priority, and 49 were emergency interviews. During the year, 19 cases were only reviewed by the multidisciplinary team and not interviewed because the team determined that it would not be appropriate. The multidisciplinary team includes the CornerHouse Interview Specialist, the county attorney, and law enforcement and child protection professionals.

Thirty-seven medical examinations were completed in year 2000. One case was reviewed with the multidisciplinary team only because it was determined that a medical examination would not be appropriate.

In the late fall of 2000, video teleconferencing equipment was purchased and installed. This equipment connects CornerHouse to the juvenile and adult divisions of the county attorney's office. It is anticipated that this equipment will be used during the team meetings and forensic interviews by early 2001. The equipment will allow the attorney who will actually prosecute the case to be involved from the beginning of the investigation process.

Training Services

CornerHouse trained over 1,000 professionals across the country and internationally in the year 2000.

During the year, CornerHouse trained a total of 625 professionals across the country in the core training programs offered. These included the CornerHouse Child Sexual Abuse Forensic, On-Site and Advanced Training, as well as Mandated Reporter and Orientation Training.

The Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Training was held at CornerHouse, and 81 law enforcement and child protection professionals, county attorneys and a few other professionals participated. These individuals traveled from as far as Saskatchewan, Canada and the states of Louisiana, Oklahoma, Michigan and Mississippi.

The Advanced Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview training was also held at CornerHouse, and 16 professionals participated in order to further their skills in forensic interviewing. Fourteen of the participants were from the state of Minnesota, and Oklahoma and New Jersey were two other states that were represented.

Through ten On-Site Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training sessions, CornerHouse trained a total of 258 professionals. Three of these On-Site Training sessions were held in Minnesota. In addition, the training was provided in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Throughout the state of Minnesota, seven Mandated Reporter Training sessions were offered. Two hundred and twelve professionals from the following Minnesota counties received this one-day training: Anoka, Dakota, Douglas, Grant, Meeker, Rock and Steele.

Fifty-eight professionals from Hennepin County attended the quarterly Orientation training at CornerHouse. This total represents professionals from twelve suburban police departments, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Hennepin County Child Protection, as well as Crime Victims Ombudsman and WATCH volunteers. This three-hour training program provides an overview of the CornerHouse services and includes a tour, the history, the mission and a mock multidisciplinary team role-play.

Approximately 400 other professionals have been trained in addition to the above mentioned statistics. CornerHouse collaborated with the American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) to present the five day "Finding Words" Course to 120 professionals. These training sessions were in Minnesota, Idaho and Texas. In addition, CornerHouse trainers also presented at conferences such as the Early Childhood Directors Association and Domestic Violence Conference by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office and the Oklahoma Children's Health Center participated in training that was specifically planned to meet the needs of their professionals. CornerHouse hosted several informational orientation tours for international professionals from Uruguay and Connect U.S.– Russia. Approximately 15 Executive Directors from other Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the United States also received an orientation to CornerHouse as part of the Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center Conference.

Management Changes

In December 2000, Amy Russell began employment as the CornerHouse Program Director. Ms. Russell has a Master of Science in education in counseling from Western Illinois University and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and political science from Hope College in Michigan. She previously worked as the Executive Director of Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center. Other positions she has held include: Victim/Witness Coordinator for the U. S. Attorney's Office, Director of Victim Services for Lutheran Social Services of Iowa, Family Service Center Coordinator for the Child Abuse Council, Quality Assurance Facilitator of Arrowhead Ranch and Treatment Foster Care Case Manager of Catholic Social Service.

Brian Stanley began work in December 2000 as the Forensic Services Coordinator. He has a master of social work from Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of Social Work in New York City, New York and a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice and political science from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. For the past six years, Brian had been working at Woodward Academy, Youth Services International in Woodward, Iowa with male and female at risk adolescents. In the last three years, he worked as both Program and Deputy Director. Job duties in these positions included facility management of five sites, staff supervision and program development and evaluation.

Sharlene Shelton
Executive Director