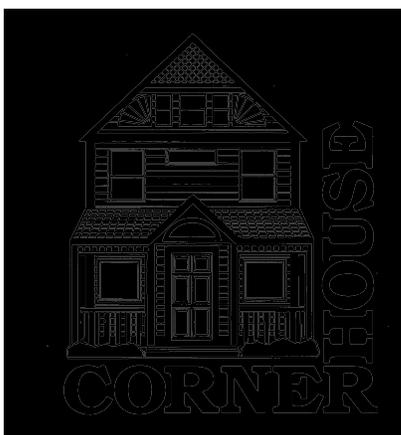


Around the Corner

A Quarterly Newsletter from CornerHouse

Volume 2 Number 1, 2003



Evaluation and Training Center

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Keeping In Touch:

Several CornerHouse Board of Directors and staff changes occurred or were announced during the months of December 2002 and January 2003. The following board members completed many years of service on the Board of Directors: Brock Nelson, former Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospitals and Clinics served on the board since 1993. He was also Board Treasurer from 1994 through 2002. Former Hennepin County Commissioner Mary Tambornino served on the board since 1996. She was also Chair of the Board during 1999 and 2000. Our sincere appreciation is extended to both of them for their many years of volunteer service.

Alan Goldbloom, M.D., has joined Children's Hospitals and Clinics as the new Chief Executive Officer. As a result, CornerHouse anticipates that he or his assigned representative will serve as a new board member for CornerHouse. We will be pleased to welcome a new Children's Hospitals and Clinics representative to the CornerHouse Board of Directors.

Ed Padilla has been nominated as the new Board Treasurer. He is scheduled to be officially elected on January 31, 2003. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of North Marq, Mr. Padilla has extensive financial background and experience. CornerHouse is glad that he is willing to assume this important responsibility on the CornerHouse Board of Directors.

After almost six years as Executive Director of CornerHouse, I have resigned my job to accept the Women and Children's Health Division Manager position with Hennepin County. My last day of work will be Friday, February 7th. The CornerHouse Board of Directors has appointed Amy Russell, Program Director, as the Interim Executive Director. She will assume her new job responsibilities on Monday, February 10th. I would like to officially extend my congratulations to Ms. Russell.

It has been a privilege and honor working as the Executive Director of CornerHouse. Each day, the current staff members and interagency team members meet the challenge of reducing the trauma experienced by children who have been sexually abused or have witnessed violence. In the future, I know that they will continue to provide outstanding forensic interview and medical services to children and families as well as training services to professionals.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Shelton, MPH
Executive Director

National Children's Alliance Re-evaluation

The National Children's Alliance (NCA) reevaluates children's advocacy centers that are members of the organization every five years. The following program components are necessary for full membership in NCA:

- Child Appropriate/ Child Friendly Facility
- Organizational Capacity
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Forensic Interviews
- Medical Evaluation
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Victim Support/ Advocacy
- Case Review
- Case Tracking

Betsy Goulet, NCA Surveyor, completed the National Children's Alliance site survey of CornerHouse, on Monday, November 4, 2002. Ms. Goulet reported that she has been completing site surveys for twelve years. At the exit interview with the CornerHouse Board of Directors, she remarked that the quality of the CornerHouse application was outstanding. She also noted the exemplary professionalism and expertise of the staff members. She summarized by stating that CornerHouse was recommended for renewed full member status in the National Children's Alliance.

CORNERHOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Cook
Chair

Arlene Clapp Gumingo
Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Mace Goldfarb, M.D.
Past Chair

Ed Padilla
Treasurer

Judy Baker
Secretary

Members at Large:

Bob Burck

Lt. Isaac deLugo

David Doth

Tom Frost

Alan Goldbloom, M.D.

Patricia Harrison

Amy Klobuchar

Lori Larson

John Laux

Linda Ledray

Robert Lilligren

Pat McDonnell

Chief Robert Olson

Larry Pobuda

Chief Joy Rikala

R.T. Rybak

Jeff Spartz

Jan Unstad

Staff Development

As the cultural and ethnic makeup of Hennepin County changes, so too do the children and families CornerHouse serves. In 2001, less than half (48%) of the children brought to CornerHouse by our referents were Caucasian, and an increasing number spoke a language other than English.

In 2002, CornerHouse was fortunate to receive a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to provide training and direction to our staff and multidisciplinary team members as we attempt to grow along with the new face of our community. After an extensive search, CornerHouse partnered with the Center for Cross-Cultural Health, a local training agency specializing in cultural competency training services. The Center for Cross-Cultural Health conducted an extensive assessment of the present status and knowledge base of CornerHouse staff and our team members. The result was a training series designed to meet our specific needs.

Over the 2002 to 2003 calendar years, approximately seven training sessions were and will be held, each covering a different diversity related topic. In 2002, three sessions were held. The topics were:

August 8, 2002 – Understanding the Intercultural Development Process

October 3, 2002 – Communicating Across Cultures

November 11, 2002 – Understanding the Culture of Poverty

In the first quarter of 2003, the following sessions are scheduled:

January 21, 11:30 – 1:30 Integration of Intercultural Development

February 18, 11:30 – 1:30 This session will look at perspectives of gender identity and sexuality across cultures. We will cover global concepts of orientation of body, images of self, gender identity and more.

March 18, 11:30 – 1:30 The Somali profile. This session will cover history, family structure, spirituality, customs, sexuality and more. Discussion will cover questions and answers, how to evaluate the Somali individual and how to assess their worldview.

These training sessions are open to all CornerHouse multidisciplinary team members and are offered free of charge. All sessions have been scheduled over the lunch period for the convenience of our multidisciplinary team members and lunch will be provided.

Barb Hiltz
Forensic Services Coordinator

Look for Barb Hiltz and Jennifer Anderson's article, Using Interpreters in Forensic Interviews, in the November edition of Update (volume 15, number 12) or go to APRI's website: www.ndaa-apri.org and click on Update located under newsletters.

CornerHouse staff members at a staff appreciation event at Minnetonka Orchards in October 2002.



Calendar

February:

- **5** Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:15-2:15 pm
- **14** Case Review 8:30 am
- **17** CornerHouse closed for President's Day
- **18** Diveristy Training 11:30am - 1:30 pm

March:

- **5** Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:15-2:15 pm
- **14** Case Review 8:30 am
- **18** Diversity Training 11:30 am -1:30 pm
- **21** Board Meeting 7:30-9 am

April:

- **2** Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:15-2:15 pm
- **11** Case Review
- **15-16** Presentation at MN BCA
- **29** Orientation 8:30-11:30 am
- **30** Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:15-2:15 am

Innovation

The Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation is given each year to a nonprofit organization in recognition of a program that has made a difference in the lives of the people it serves - producing results that exemplify Peter Drucker's definition of innovation: *Change that creates a new dimension of performance.* Each week one of the entries is chosen as the Innovation of the Week. CornerHouse and APRI were honored the week of December 17, 2002 for Finding Words.

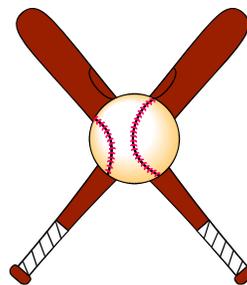
Finding Words is an intensive five-day forensic interviewing course for law enforcement officers, child protection caseworkers, and prosecutors nationwide that was modeled after the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Course in Minnesota. Students learn the necessary skills to conduct a competent, investigative interview of a child abuse victim.



www.pfdf.org

Approximately 280 students have successfully completed Finding Words. At the end of the 5 day training course students are able to successfully understand a 5 stage process for interviewing children about abuse: understand the benefits of using a multidisciplinary approach when interviewing children about possible abuse; have applied the information and techniques by participating in role-play interviews; understand what it means to act as a "neutral" professional when obtaining information from the child using a forensic interview; and have read the significant research and professional articles related to the forensic interviewing of children.

Mark the Date!
12th Annual Twins
Fundraiser



July 17, 2003
Twins Vs Oakland A's
At the Metrodome

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Karen Larson at 952/885-0815 or klarson@rejournals.com

Recognition:

CornerHouse wishes to recognize and express our sincere appreciation to all those who aided in the CornerHouse mission in the 4th Quarter of 2002.

Donors:

Jennifer Anderson
Laurel Anderson
Robert and Mary Nell Best
Robert Burck
Arlene Clapp, LTD
Jay Cook & Karen Rye
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Sandy Forseth
Tom & Leslie Frost
Carl & Eloise Pohlada Family Foundation
Mace & Audrey Goldfarb
Alison Austin Gulden
Shannon Harrington
Rachel Heath
Hudson Baking Company

Larry Langlois
Lonnie or Lori Larson
John & Jeanette Laux
Linda Ledray
Clinton & Joni Miller
Robert or Nancy Olson
Mary O'Reilly
Michael & Kathy Palmersten
Lawrence & Linda Pobuda
Laurie Riegel
Joy Rikala
Stephen & Amy Russell
Sharlene Shelton
Marc Usem
Roland & Judy Weigman

Interns:

Sarah Haberkorn
Greg Hrcirik
Mary Wennen

Volunteers

Jessica Heuer
Brian Perron

Team Member Volunteers

Shirley Brown
Mike Lynch, JD
Sgt. Tami Reece

Training

CornerHouse is coming to a city near you! CornerHouse will be training in Illinois, Wisconsin, Georgia, Oklahoma, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Missouri in 2003.

For more information on training programs or to register, contact Sandy Forseth at (612) 813-8310.

Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training for forensic interviewers and multidisciplinary teams (will receive priority registration) of law enforcement, social service and legal professionals. This course teaches an interview process to conduct credible, reliable, non-traumatic forensic interviews of children and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse. Openings are still available in the following sessions in 2003:

March 24-28	April 21-25	May 5-9
September 15-19	October 27-31	November 3-7
December 8-12		
Five Days: Monday-Friday		Tuition: \$895

Onsite Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training is an intensive three-day training course. The course is designed for multidisciplinary teams of law enforcement, social service and legal professionals and teaches an interview process to conduct credible, reliable, non-traumatic forensic interviews of children and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse. This course, as compared to the five-day forensic interview course, is for teams of professionals who may have a hardship with traveling from their community to CornerHouse to obtain training and for those communities needing several professionals (up to 30 participants) trained. A CornerHouse trainer will travel to the host site community and utilize methods consisting of lecture and discussion; review of CornerHouse videotaped interviews, and skill-building exercises.

Advanced Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training for professionals who have completed the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Training, First Witness training or the Finding Words course. Participants must have completed a minimum of 25 interviews utilizing the CornerHouse interview process. This course: teaches advanced forensic interviewing issues and research on memory and suggestibility; provides a mock trial demonstration of cross examination regarding an interview; and provides students with the opportunity to learn and utilize a tool to critique their own interviews. Openings are still available in the following sessions in 2003:

September 22-25	
Four Days: Monday-Thursday	Tuition:\$770

Child Sexual Abuse Training for Mandated Reporters is a one day seminar designed for teachers, counselors, nurses, advocates, child care providers and other professionals who have responsibility for mandated reporting of suspected child maltreatment. It is also designed for patrol officers who may be the first responders to reports of child sexual abuse. A CornerHouse trainer teaches a process to talk with children or vulnerable adults who they suspect may be victims of maltreatment. Call us about bringing this seminar to your organization or group for inservice training.

Orientation for interagency team members in Hennepin County is a three-hour session that includes: a tour of CornerHouse, the interview protocol, videotaped interview, and a team meeting demonstration. There is no fee but pre-registration is required. Sessions in 2003:

April 29	June 3	September 30
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National Attention



Dr. Laura (national radio host, lecturer & author) featured *Finding Words* on her website and in her magazine, *Perspectives*, in January. Along with a description of the training program, she included a few suggestions on "how everyone can help."

- Urge your Representatives and Senators in Washington to increase funding of the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse.
- Write your Senators urging them to fund the National Child Protection Development and Training Center at Winona State University
- Urge the Criminal Justice Committee of your state legislature to fund Finding Words
- Volunteer to be a Foster Parent.
- If you are in law enforcement, lobby for Finding Words training and for a multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse investigations in your community
- If you are a CPS employee, demand adequate training before you are sent out to investigate child abuse. Make sure your agency utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach and advocate for Finding Words training for your teams.