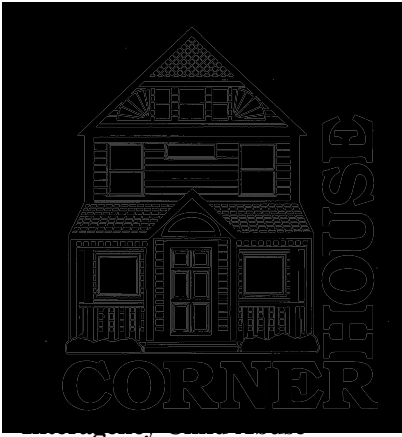


Around the Corner

A Quarterly Newsletter from CornerHouse

Volume 2, Number 3, 2003



Evaluation and Training Center

CORNERHOUSE STAFF

Liz Anderson,
Video Technician

Chandra Hall,
Video Technician

Amanda Harrington,
Forensic Services Administrative
Assistant

Sandy Forseth,
Training Assistant/Child Life Specialist

Christine Kurtz,
Program Assistant/Intake

Anne Nuernberg,
Child Interview Specialist/Trainer

Judy Weigman,
Child Interview Specialist/Trainer

Sara Blahauvietz,
Child Interview Specialist/Trainer

Jodi Lashley,
Training Coordinator/
Child Interview Specialist

Sharon McLaughlin,
Business Manager

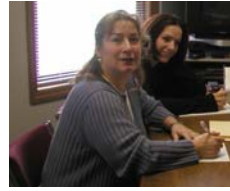
Jennifer Anderson,
Training Director

Julie Sova Ellefson,
Program Director

Amy Russell,
Executive Director

Consulting Physicians:
Dr. Linda Thompson, MD
Dr. Jud Reaney, MD

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Keeping In Touch:

CornerHouse is what is nationally known as a "child advocacy center." Child advocacy centers came about nationally in the mid-1980's as communities identified the need to more responsibly respond to child sexual abuse investigations. Communities recognized that the most effective use of resources, and most comprehensive way to investigate allegations of abuse was in a multidisciplinary manner, in which law enforcement, child protection and prosecution worked together as a unit to investigate allegations of child sexual abuse. Prior to child advocacy centers, and the multidisciplinary philosophy behind them, law enforcement and child protection investigators essentially conducted two parallel investigations, and "never the twain shall meet."

CornerHouse was established in 1989, and has successfully developed an interview protocol and training program. In 1996, CornerHouse became a full member of the National Children's Alliance, a national oversight agency for child advocacy centers. In 2001, CornerHouse successfully completed the 5-year recertification program, meeting all program components necessary for full membership:

1. **Child-Appropriate, Child-Friendly Facility:** Provide a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their families.
2. **Multidisciplinary Team:** A multidisciplinary team for response to child abuse allegations includes representation from the following: law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health, medical, victim advocacy, child advocacy center.
3. **Organizational Capacity:** A designated legal entity responsible for program and fiscal operations.
4. **Cultural Competency and Diversity:** The CAC promotes policies, practices and procedures that are culturally competent.
5. **Forensic Interviews:** The CAC promotes forensic interviews which are legally sound, are of a neutral, fact finding nature, and are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviewing.
6. **Medical Evaluation:** Specialized medical evaluation and treatment services are available to all CAC clients and coordinated with the multidisciplinary team.
7. **Therapeutic Intervention:** Specialized mental health services must be made available as part of the team response either at the CAC or through coordination with other treatment providers.
8. **Victim Support/Advocacy:** Victim support and advocacy are to be available throughout the investigation and prosecution.
9. **Case Review:** Team discussion and information sharing regarding the investigation, case status and services needed by the child and family occurs on a routine basis.
10. **Case Tracking:** CACs must develop and implement a system for monitoring case progress and tracking case outcomes for all team components.

One of the ways CornerHouse strives to meet component number 1, "Provide a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe" to all children, is the limited accessibility of the center. Alleged offenders are denied access to CornerHouse, which is a secured building. Research and practice shows us that when an alleged offender is in the building where a child is being interviewed regarding the alleged abuse, the child is more reluctant to talk, provides limited details surrounding the abuse, and may be more fearful of possible retribution from the alleged offender.

(Continued on page 2)

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Jan Unstad

Sue Zuidema

SARA BLAHAUVIETZ, MSW

Child Interview Specialist / Trainer

Sara is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work and a Master of Science degree in social work. Prior to coming to CornerHouse, Sara's experiences included child protection work as an investigator for Dane County in Madison, WI and as an ongoing social worker for Hennepin County, MN. In addition, Sara has worked as a child protection specialist at Help A Child, Inc in Pinellas County, FL. This agency provided collaborative services for families who entered the child protection system including medical exams, forensic interviews and forensic evaluation services as well as therapeutic services for victims of child sexual abuse. Sara has held social work licenses in Wisconsin and Florida and is currently awaiting approval for licensure by the Minnesota Board of Social Work. Sara joined the CornerHouse staff in June of 2003.

JODI L. LASHLEY, MSW

Training Coordinator/Interview Specialist

Jodi earned her Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Georgia in 2003. She was enrolled in the Community Empowerment-Program Development track. She also received a Certificate in Non-Profit Management. Jodi earned her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1995. Prior to coming to CornerHouse, Jodi worked as a consultant for the Georgia network of advocacy centers, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA). She worked with multi-disciplinary teams around the state to learn how to help teams excel. Jodi was also a board member of CACGA before beginning her consultant work. Jodi worked at an advocacy center in Georgia where she served as a program director conducting forensic interviews, facilitating a multi-disciplinary case review team, and further developing and refining the child advocate program. She also worked at a rape crisis center providing medical advocacy and at a group home for emotionally and behaviorally affected teenage females. Jodi joined the CornerHouse staff in June of 2003.

JULIE SOVA ELLEFSON, BA, MPH

Program Director

Julie received her master in public health - Community Health Education degree at the University of Minnesota. Her Bachelor of Arts degree was completed at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa with emphases in special education and biology. Julie spent several years working with emotionally challenged and profoundly disabled children in residential treatment settings prior to working in the violence prevention and intervention field. Her cross-cultural experience includes five years with Peace Corps Ecuador as a volunteer and trainer.

In 1995, Julie began work in the domestic violence prevention and intervention field as Legal Services Program Administrator, and subsequently as Co-Director of Legal Advocacy Programs at the Family Violence Network in Lake Elmo, MN. Julie provided leadership toward system change, building effective multidisciplinary collaboratives, and promoting peaceful initiatives for kids and adults in Ramsey County. Program planning and evaluation, quality assurance, and self-directed team building are strengths Julie brings to her role at CornerHouse. She joined the CornerHouse staff in June of 2003.

Keeping in Touch (continued from page 1)

For these reasons, we ask that all CornerHouse team members evaluate each case upon referral and determine who the most appropriate person would be to transport the child for his or her interview. In no event should the alleged perpetrator be allowed to accompany the child for the interview, and if there is concern that the non-offending parent is a party to the abuse or is not protective of the child, alternative transportation should be identified. The CornerHouse intake team is happy to review the allegations of the case and make recommendations for transportation to the team members upon request.

Look in future newsletter articles for additional ways CornerHouse continues to work with Hennepin County professionals to meet the standards for Full Membership with the National Children's Alliance.

Amy Russell, MEd, NCC
Executive Director

Calendar

September

- 26 Board Meeting 7:30-9 am
- 30 CornerHouse Orientation 8:30-11:30 am

October

- 3 CornerHouse Presenting at CJA Conference: Lafayette, LA
- 10 Case Review 8:30-10:00
- 15 Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:30-2:30 pm
- 23 Diversity Training

November

- 12 Medical Tour for Pediatric Residents 1:30-2:30 pm
- 14 Case Review 8:30-10:00 am
- 21 Board Meeting 7:30-9:00 am
- 27-28 CornerHouse closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Recognition:

CornerHouse wishes to recognize and express our sincere appreciation to all those who aided in the CornerHouse mission in the 2nd Quarter of 2003.

John & Lauren Abel	Steven Buss	Robert Distad
ALC Financial Corporation	Bruce & Karla Blackwood	Diversified Real Estate Services
Robert & Nancy Anderson	Bremer Bank, N.A.	Terry Dondlinger
APEX Asset Management Corp.	Brookstone, Inc.	David & Valerie Dooley
Architectural Alliance	Robert Burck	Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Art Holdings	Caliber Development Corporation	Gail Dorfman
Associated Bank N.A.	Centre Life Financial Limited	Duane Downey
Atkinson Research, Inc.	Stuart Alan Chazin	Frank or Patricia Dutke
Jon & Amy Austin	Chicago Title Insurance Company	Edward Farr Architects Inc
The Baaney Group, Inc.	Arlene Clapp Gumingo	Ellerbe Becket, Inc.
Judith Baker	Ronald Cody	Elness Swenson Graham Architects
Baratz Financial	Commonwealth Land Title Ins. Co	David or Jill Everson
BDH & Young Space Design	Phebe & John Connolly	Excel Bank
James or Toni Beitz	Contract Hardware Co., Inc.	Faegre & Benson LLP
Belgarde Enterprises	Jay Cook & Karen Rye	Suzanne Fedoruk
Jay Benanav & Lucy Kanson	Anne-Marie Cookson	Karen Fenster
Amy Bessinger	Decor-tec, Inc.	Becky Finnigan

First Industrial	Kraus-Anderson Construction	Moss & Barnett	Science Museum	Michaël Wenzel
Freshens	Anne Kreiser	Elizabeth Myhre	Sharlene Shelton	Nancy Wiltgen
Tom & Leslie Frost	Arthur & Margaret Kremer	William Neiman	Shenehon Company	Gregory Wohlforth
Christopher Garcia	Lori Larson	Colin or Pamela Nelson	Shjon Podein Childrens Foundation	J. Douglas or Maria Wood
General Mills Foundation	Sara Laurent	Donna Norbeck	Spalon Montage	John & Judy Yates Berger
Greggory & Mary Guider	Jeffrey Laux	Oak Street Cinema	Stahl Construction Company	Zeller Management Corp.
Glaser Financial Group	Life Time Fitness Foundation	Olean Floor Cleaning, Inc.	Standard Parking	Kristin Zumbrock
Lori Gleason	MAC & MAC, Inc.	David Olson	Steelcase Inc.	
Audrey Goldfarb	Mackall, Crouse & Moore	Kathleen Olson	Steiner Development Inc.	Team Member Volunteers
Great Clips, Inc.	Madden's on Gull Lake	Robert Olson	Fred Stephens	Kurt Hannes
Guthrie Theater	Madison Marquette Realty Services	Beth & Michael Opitz	Jay & Shelley Strohmaier	Anne Humes
Besse Halbrooks	Mahoney Ulbrich Christiansen & Russ	Brad Osmundson	Stonewood Properties, Inc.	Det. Koni Porter
Ed Harrington	Marquette Plaza	Ed & Susanne Padilla	Straightline Striping	Fred Stephens
Dan & Molly Hartnett	Marshall Fields	Jennifer Palmquist	Alfred & Carol Sundberg	Det. Randy Thompson
Heitman Financial Services LLC	Marshall Investments Corp.	Parsons Electric	Andre & Megan Sundgaard	
James Heller	Casey Mathern	Penumbra Theatre Co.	Suntide Commercial Realty	Interns:
Barry & Kristine Henriksen	David & Elizabeth McCarthy	Whitney Peyton	TCF Bank	Sarah Haberkorn
Thomas and Kristin Holtz	Patrick McDonnell	Lawrence & Linda Pobuda	Tishman/Heskin Partners	Jennifer Fischer
Icelandair	Robin McDougall	Shjon & Sherry Podein	TNC Industries, Inc.	Mariama Sormana
Interstate Partners	Michael McElroy	Carl & Eloise Pohlada Family Foundation	Torrini Decorating	Mary Wennen
Tom & Victoria Johnson	McGladrey & Pollen, LLP	RJF Agencies	Towle Financial Services	Greg Hmcirik
Icelandair	Lizabeth McKibben	Real Estate Equities Development LLC	Tri-Star Management, Inc.	
Interstate Partners	Ben & Carol McPheeters	Real Estate Equities, Inc.	United Properties	Volunteers:
Tom & Victoria Johnson	Megastar Cinemas, LLC	Joy Rikala	Jan Unstad	Liz Anderson
Elizabeth Karges	Tammara Melloy	RJM Construction	US Bank	Eli Dwyer
Bobbie Keegan	David Menke	Jennifer or Gradley Ross	Sandy Vu	Tammara Melloy
Jennifer Kellogg	Midwest Construction Residential Funding Corp.	RREEF Property Management	Jim Wadsworth or Sybil Kelly	
Kennedy-Wilson Minnesota Management, Inc.	Patrick & Amy Minea	RSP Architects, LTD	Walsh Bishop Associates, Inc.	
Dr. Thea or Michael Killeen	Minneapolis BOMA	Amy Russell	David Watson	
KKE Architects, Inc.	Minnesota Opera	Ryan Companies US, Inc.	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	
Amy Klobuchar	Mohagen Architects, LTD.	Elizabeth Ryan	Welsh Companies	
Koechel Peterson & Assoc.	Mortenson Development Inc.	Schaferrichardson Inc.	West Central Insulation	
Linda Koblick	Julianne Mork	Mark & Susan Scharenbroich	Westwood Professional Services	

Training

CornerHouse Wish List:

Below is a list of ideas for donations to CornerHouse. Due to the nature of the work done at CornerHouse, some donations unfortunately cannot be accepted. CornerHouse staff is happy to work with you as you select items for donation. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please contact Julie Sova Ellefson at (612) 813-8300.

Teens/Early Adult
Magazines (sports/teen)
Word search
Crosswords
Gameboy
Geosafari

Games
Sorry
Yahtzee
Don't Break the Ice
Bop-It

Distraction/Therapeutic
Sound books
"I Spy" type books
Magna Doodle
Stress Ball
Bubbles
Plastic Slinky
Magnet board
See 'N Say

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:

October 27-31
Five Days: Monday-Friday

December 8-12
Tuition: \$895

On-Site 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:

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; pre-registration is required. Sessions in 2003:

September 30

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

Any comments, suggestions or questions for future newsletters? Is your email address changing? We would love to hear from you! Please email the Forensic Services Administrative Assistant at amanda.harrington@childrenshc.org. Also please pass this newsletter on to anyone who you think would be interested.
