

**Fourth Judicial District  
Family Violence Coordinating Council  
Serving Hennepin County**

**Present:** Avalon, Stephanie; Braun-Lewis, Jackie; Brey, Katie; Chelmo, Patrick; Cichowicz, Nick; Furnstahl, Referee Mike; Garcia, Judge Tamara; Golden, Naomi; Hogan, Elizabeth; Kaul, Ann; Keefe, Amirthini; Lewis-Dmello, Angela; McNaughton, Lisa; Milgrom, Aaron; Miller, Adam; Morales, Lidia; Pilz, Judith; Ratner, Rachel; Reed, Jena; Schwartz, Lori; Taylor, Jennifer; Twogood, Ben; Wilson, Kate

1. **Welcome:** Judge Tamara Garcia, co-chair

2. **Family Service Program:** Angela Lewis-Dmello, CornerHouse Family Services

Angela presented on CornerHouse Family Services, whose mission *“is to listen and offer hope and healing to those silenced by trauma and violence.”* They are a person-centered agency that provides specialized forensic interviews, child sexual abuse medical exams, family services, forensic interview training, and expert testimony using a multidisciplinary team approach. Because there were concerns about neutrality, Family Services was created in 2013 to provide services to client families interested in additional support and care. The voluntary program is free to families of kids interviewed at CornerHouse and it provides social support to help victims return to normal day to day life. The program has an emphasis on developmentally-targeted, client-centered, trauma-informed, and inclusive care that enhances the parent-child attachment relationship and offers care across the continuum for the whole family. CornerHouse uses Herman’s Tri-Phasic Trauma Recovery Model. They also offer interview accompaniment, investigation support, case management, child-caregiver therapy groups, therapeutic home visiting, and child centered play therapy.

3. **Committee Reports**

- a. Civil: Jennifer Taylor reported that they met last month. They are holding an advocate judicial officer listening session on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, judicial officers to join at noon with the County Attorney discussing good cause exemptions for child support.
- b. Criminal: Did not meet last month.
- c. Juvenile: Lori Schwartz reminded the group of the brown bag session on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Advocates: Stephanie Avalon said they last discussed on to mentor new advocates from Central Legal Services.

4. **Approve February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes:** Minutes approved.
5. **General Announcements/Updates**
  - a. The Executive Committee met yesterday and they are soliciting themes for the resource fair in October. Idea so far include a focus on immigration/culture issues; or firearms transfer. Katie asked the group to email her if you have suggestions for the fair.
  - b. Referee Madden's presentation will be rescheduled for April. There are speakers scheduled every month through June. Let Katie know if you have ideas for future presentations.
  - c. Referee Furnstahl reported there have been more discussions about firearms transfer per a protection order. He recently met with Chief Arredondo to discuss how the Minneapolis Police Department could assist.
  - d. Nick Cichcowicz reported WATCH will be evaluating the firearm transfer process results. They will also be releasing a report in April on sex trafficking.

#### **Future presentations/Agenda items**

April 12, 2018 – District Court Leadership (Chief Judge and District Administrator)  
Family Enhancement Project  
May 10, 2018 – Fatality Review Board annual report  
June 14, 2018 – No Wrong Door  
Sept 13, 2018 – MSBW Legislative Update

#### **Upcoming events**

New date: May 1, 2018 – School Based Diversion with Dr. Charlene Myklebust, Psy.D.

Use this link to find us on the web.

[http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-\(FVCC\).aspx](http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-(FVCC).aspx)

Use this link to access our Google Calendar of events.

<https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fvccalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

## CornerHouse Family Services: *Moments of Meeting*



Angela Lewis-Dmello, MSW, LICSW



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The mission of CornerHouse is  
to listen and offer hope and  
healing to those silenced by  
trauma and violence.



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## Core Values

- **Person-centered** – We prioritize the children, teens, vulnerable adults and families we serve.
- **Collaborative** – We work together with our colleagues to achieve the best possible outcomes for victims.
- **Integrity** – We are accountable for all we do and dedicated to justice for victims and fairness to alleged perpetrators.
- **Healing** – We evoke the potential for growth and support hope and healing.
- **Diversity** – We work diligently to learn and engage with all in our community.
- **Learning** – We are open to expanding our knowledge about those we serve.



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**CornerHouse:**  
**A person-centered place that provides...**

- Specialized Forensic Interviews
- Child Sexual Abuse Medical Exams
- Family Services
- Forensic Interview Training
- Expert Testimony

**...with a multidisciplinary team approach.**

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**Who is on the  
Multidisciplinary Team?**

- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection
- Hennepin County Attorney's Office
- Forensic Interviewer
- Family Services Case Manager/Therapist
- Forensic Medical Exam Practitioner (as needed)

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**Multidisciplinary Investigations  
Benefits to Individuals & Families**

- Improved protection and services
- Enhanced information sharing
- Increased likelihood families will follow through with criminal charges and counseling referrals
- Greater satisfaction with "system"
- Supporting caregivers leads to a higher rate of recovery from abuse

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## Types of Cases and Referral Sources

- Children, Adolescents & Vulnerable Adults (2 years 8 months+)
- Referred through an investigative body: Child Protection, City Law Enforcement Investigation, FBI, State Investigators (DHS, MN BCA, Dept. of Ed)
- Victim/Survivor has made some disclosure
- Experienced sexual assault or torture, physical assault or torture, witnessing a crime (homicide, domestic violence), sexually exploited youth



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Disclosure is not a destination

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## Family Services

- Free and voluntary service to families of individuals interviewed at CornerHouse
- Emphasis on developmentally-targeted, client-centered, trauma-informed, and inclusive care that enhances the parent-child attachment relationship.
- Offers care across the continuum for the whole family. Increased caregiver resilience translates to victim/survivor healing and growth.



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### Family Services Framework: *Herman's Tri-Phasic Trauma Recovery Model*

Stage	Objective
Stage 1	Safety and Stabilization
Stage 2	Remembrance Mourning
Stage 3	Reconnection




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### The Six Protective Factors

- Nurturing and Attachment
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Caregiver Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Support for Families
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

(Strengthening Families, 2007)




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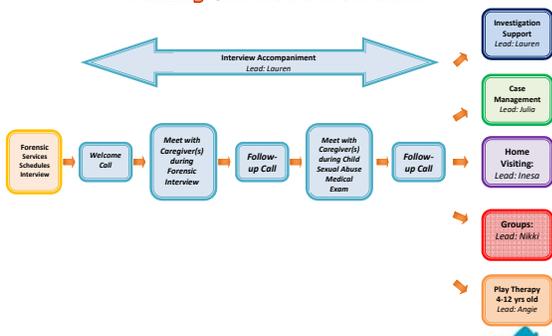
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### Family Services Flowchart



All services offered in English, Spanish, Hmong & Russian




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## Interview Accompaniment

- Provide Welcome Call to prepare family for visit, discuss what to talk with child about (and what not to)
- Meet with the caregiver(s) during the child's interview and provide:
  - Crisis assessment and safety planning
  - Connection to advocacy and OFPs
  - Mental health assessment and referral
  - Psycho-education on the developmental effects of trauma on children and families
  - Information on medical examinations and process
  - Bearing witness to the caregiver's story of the abuse/trauma of learning about the disclosure
  - Information about the criminal justice system and crime victim rights
- Follow- up call to check-in and offer services
- Accompaniment during the medical examination (if requested or required) and follow up



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## Investigation Support

- Partnering with the family and investigative team to support better outcomes for families
- Can include communication with investigators, attorneys, and victim/witness staff; support around evidence collection; MN Crime Reparations process; connection to legal support, OFPs, and U visa applications; help writing victim-witness statements; helping family prepare for court/testimony



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## Case Management

- Short term intensive or long term, depending on family needs (up to one year) in home or in office
- Provides support for family through referral for:
  - Food and clothing insecurity
  - Housing instability
  - Employment and financial strain
  - Transportation
  - Child care
  - Legal representation
  - Mental, Physical, and Dental health care
  - Chemical Dependency
  - Care coordination



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## Child-Caregiver Therapy Groups

- 10 week therapy group for child sexual abuse survivors ages 5-12 and their caregivers held three times per year
- Tuesday evening: 5:15 to 6:00 dinner & activity, 6:00 to 7:00 people attend groups, childcare offered
- Groups: 5-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, English Speaking Caregivers, and Spanish Speaking Caregivers
- Combination of psychoeducation and directive play therapy
- Moves through 10 topics related to child sexual abuse and trauma healing, including processing their abuse through play
- Caregiver group is a parallel group, focused on better understanding their child's experience of abuse and group experience
- Trauma-informed, developmentally targeted, focused on increasing the child-caregiver attachment and helping caregivers parent after trauma



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## Therapeutic Home Visiting

- 6-8 week in home (or in office) program focused on caregiver support in the immediate aftermath of crisis
- Uses the 6 protective factor model to aid families in increasing resilience after abuse and violence
- Goals:
  - Reducing caregiver stress and isolation following trauma
  - Encouraging the healing and healthy development of youth
  - Promoting healthy, attuned caregiver-child relationships
  - Education on sexual abuse, child development, and prevention
- Topics addressed with every family:
  - Process of disclosure
  - Stages of grief
  - Healing from trauma
  - Safety Planning
  - Caregiver self-care and mind/body skills
  - Social and community supports



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## Child Centered Play Therapy

- Child Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) is a non-directive play therapy intervention effective for treatment of trauma, especially in kids 4-12
- Play is a child's language; toys are their words to express and integrate their traumatic experiences, often stored non-verbally or pre-verbally
- Typical course of treatment is 7-9 months of weekly play therapy sessions



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## Questions?

Angela Lewis-Dmello, MSW, LICSW  
Family Services Director  
CornerHouse  
612-813-8312  
Angela.lewisdmello@childrensmn.org



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