Program Update

The Otto Bremer Trust Center for Safe and Healthy Children provides comprehensive medical evaluations to more than 525 children and families annually at three locations including University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital, Hennepin County Medical Center and CornerHouse Child Advocacy Center.

• At UMMCH our patients are on average 4-5 years of age with 60% ages 4 years and younger and 40% younger than 1 year of age. In the 4th quarter, our Center completed 96 evaluations of which 50% occurred in the inpatient or emergency department setting. 31 evaluations occurred in the SAFE CHILD clinic.

• At HCMC our patients are on average 5-6 years of age with a total of 127 evaluations in 2017. Consultations occur in the inpatient and emergency department settings.

• CornerHouse has shown yearly growth in medical evaluations which continues in 2017.

Evaluations were completed in 105 children and adolescents in 2017. Of these, 16 made a new disclosure to the medical provider during their evaluation. These patients are on average older (mean age 11 years in the 3rd and 4th quarters) as children need to be at least 2 years 8 months of age to have a forensic interview as part of the comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation.

• Did you know that children and adolescents are at risk for sex trafficking aka commercial sexual exploitation of children? The Center started tracking referrals in the 2nd quarter with 11 seen at UMMCH in the last three quarters of 2017. This is an underestimate of the prevalence of this major public health problem as many are unrecognized when presenting for medical care.

The children and adolescents we see in our outpatient clinic at the Pediatric Explorer Clinic at the University of Minnesota receive comprehensive evaluations that include the support of a child abuse provider, social worker, medical assistant, and child life specialist.

With a multidisciplinary team, we aim to provide an evidence-based, developmentally and psychologically supportive consultation and examination.

Our comprehensive medical evaluation includes a written assessment for child abuse & neglect including documentation of injuries and medical diagnoses. Additional services, depending on the nature of the consultation, may include visualization of the genitalia with a colposcope, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and forensic photo-documentation.

Our Center accepts referrals for inpatient and outpatient consultation for all types of abuse and neglect. To make a referral just contact our SAFE Pager at (612) 273-SAFE (7233). During the daytime, our program coordinator will assist in scheduling appointments as well as answer questions or concerns on mandatory reporting. After hours, our SAFE Pager will direct you to on call support from our Child Abuse Pediatricians or Social Workers.
Community Partnership

Otto Bremer Trust Center for Safe and Healthy Children partners closely with CornerHouse.

What is CornerHouse?

CornerHouse is an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) that coordinates multi-disciplinary teams to provide forensic interviews, family services and medical examinations. The mission of CornerHouse is to listen and offer hope and healing to those silenced by trauma and violence. The Otto Bremer Trust Center for Safe and Healthy Children medical providers go to CornerHouse twice a week to provide sexual abuse medical examinations to children who have had a forensic interview at CornerHouse. Additionally, our teams partner together by attending Peer Reviews, working on community task force projects, and providing education.

Meet our CornerHouse Partners

Susan Balto
Forensic Services Specialist - Medical Lead

Susan first became involved with CornerHouse as a Forensic Services Volunteer in July of 2014 while she was a student at the University of Minnesota. Susan graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance; and Psychology. After graduating, Susan joined CornerHouse as the Forensic Services Specialist - Medical Lead. Susan assists clients and medical personnel during the medical exams. She provides a supportive client environment that focuses on each child’s comfort and unique experience and needs. Prior to joining CornerHouse Susan had volunteer and intern experience working with the Minneapolis Children’s Hospital, Children’s Law Center of Minnesota, and Washburn Center for Children. In her free time Susan enjoys traveling, camping, reading, and cooking with friends.

Nancy L. Seger, LISW
Forensic Services Director

Nancy has day-to-day responsibility for the management of forensic interview services and medical services delivery. She also conducts forensic interviews with children, adolescents, and vulnerable adults. Nancy holds a B.A. in English from Macalester College and a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. Nancy’s extensive experience as a teacher, children’s mental health manager, and community-based youth program manager helps inform her holistic perspective. Nancy is interested in finding creative ways to support all members of the multi-disciplinary team. In her free time, Nancy enjoys gardening, going to the movies, and hanging out with her partner John and their dog Queequeg.
CornerHouse Upcoming Events

CornerHouse Briefing: Pursuing Justice Together

March 13, 2018 from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

The CornerHouse Briefing: Pursuing Justice Together session is a free program offered each quarter to multidisciplinary team members. The Briefing shares information to help professionals partner effectively with CornerHouse in the joint pursuit of justice, and ensure those visiting CornerHouse have the best possible experience. Those attending will hear about our history, mission, and vision, step through our intake criteria and referral process, see a multidisciplinary team (MDT) role play, watch a taped forensic interview and learn about the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™, get a tour of the facility, and learn how CornerHouse Family Services can help promote healing and break the cycle of abuse. Refreshments and continuing education credits are provided! Please RSVP to DeeDee Burket at DeeDee.Burket@childrensmn.org or 612-813-8306.

CornerHouse will be holding our annual fundraising breakfast, the Blue Kids Breakfast, on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 7:30 - 9AM. The Blue Kids Breakfast is one of the highlights of CornerHouse’s Blue Kids Campaign that runs throughout April which is child abuse prevention month. If you would like to learn more about the event, please email Matt Boston (matt.boston@childrensmn.org).

CornerHouse will also be holding its quarterly open house event, our Evening Experience, on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 6-7PM. Each quarter, CornerHouse invites community members to our office to learn about our organization, take an in-depth look into one program (February’s event will highlight our Family Services program), and take a tour of our facility. If you’d like to learn more or RSVP for the event, please email Matt Boston (matt.boston@childrensmn.org).
Team Trainings

Our Center has provided training to over 1400 learners on topics including sexual abuse, physical abuse, mandatory reporting, corporal punishment, and child abuse prevention. Trainings on Advancing CARE: Child Abuse Recognition & Evaluation have been provided in MN, TX, and ND. In the 4th quarter, our program provided a training on Exposure to Trauma in the Work Place: Promoting Resilience presented by Abbie Diehl, LGSW.

Fellowship

Did you know that University of Minnesota offers a three-year ACGME approved fellowship in child abuse pediatrics? We received accreditation in May 2016 and are one of 29 fellowship programs in the United States. There continues to be a shortage of subspecialty trained child abuse pediatricians as well as physicians entering fellowship training. According to the American Board of Pediatrics Workforce Databook (2016-2017), there are 352 Child Abuse Pediatricians of whom only 49% are 50 years or younger. We have reviewed and interviewed fellowship applicants for the 2018 academic year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hospitals around the Twin Cities have been experiencing a trend in “social admits.” A social admit refers to a child or adolescent who presents at the Emergency Department with no placement options. Social admits are most often brought to the ED by law enforcement, as they have no other place to take them. Social admits have no medical issues, often have CPS involvement, and are experiencing issues surrounding mental health, behavioral health, and chemical dependency. In the last quarter of 2017 alone, we had 5 of these “Social Admits,” who made up 19% of our high risk medical diagnoses. This trend represents a community and state-wide lack of shelter placements for children and adolescents. Our staff, along with hospital leadership, is working closely with Hennepin County to find solutions to this challenging situation.
Upcoming Events & Trainings

Contact safechild@fairview.org for questions

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Wednesday, April 25th, 2018 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Pediatric Sexual Assault Case Review

Wilf Auditorium, University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital

More information & Registration: z.umn.edu/ChildAbuseSummit

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Thursday-Friday, April 26th-27th, 2018

Child Abuse Summit: Tips from the Team

The Child Abuse Summit: Tips from the Team will provide up to date instruction on the prevention, recognition, intervention, treatment & investigation of child and family maltreatment.

More information & Registration: z.umn.edu/ChildAbuseSummit

To See the Agenda: z.umn.edu/AgendaChildAbuseSummit