

FORENSIC INTERVIEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



JANUARY 2023 - JUNE 2023



Forensic Interview Mentorship Program Schedule

You will receive an Outlook calendar invitation for your group, as well for the All Cohort Peer Reviews. Your mentor will reach out to you to schedule your one-on-one video reviews.

Child Advocacy Centers of Wisconsin (the statewide Chapter for CACs) and WI Department of Justice are sponsoring a six-month pilot mentorship program for forensic interviewers. In this program, you will have opportunity for one-on-one mentorship and review of recorded interviews with highly experienced, highly skilled mentors. The total time commitment over 6 months is approximately 16 hours total.

Please review each month's webinar prior to the mentorship meeting. In the meeting, we will discuss the webinar, research, and application to practice.

Participants who successfully complete the program (both one-on-ones, can miss 1 mentorship meeting) will receive a scholarship of their choice pending approval (must be related to child maltreatment and allowable.)



Please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@cacsofwi.org or 608.228.5214 with any questions.

Forensic Interview Mentorship Program Schedule

Group A

JANUARY		
Monday, Jan 16	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Tom Lyon – Child Interviewing 202: Update on Research and Practice
TBD	TBD	1.5 hr One-on-One Video Review

FEBRUARY		
Monday, Feb 20	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Tom Lyon – Asking Children About Time and Number

MARCH		
Monday, March 20	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Linda Cardisco-Steele – Interviewing Preschoolers

APRIL		
Monday, April 17	1-2:30pm	Monthly Mentorship Kim Madden – Interviewing Kids with ADHD
TBD	TBD	All Cohort Peer Review

MAY		
Monday, May 15	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Andra Chamberlain – Strategies for Questioning Kids about Repeated Abuse

JUNE		
Monday, June 19	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship/Wrap Up TBD Webinar
TBD	TBD	1.5 hr One-on-One Video Review

Forensic Interview Mentorship Program

Schedule

Group B

JANUARY		
Wednesday, Jan 18	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Tom Lyon – Child Interviewing 202: Update on Research and Practice
TBD	TBD	1.5 hr One-on-One Video Review
FEBRUARY		
Wednesday, Feb 15	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Tom Lyon – Asking Children About Time and Number
MARCH		
Wednesday, March 15	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Linda Cardisco-Steele – Interviewing Preschoolers
APRIL		
Wednesday, April 19	1-2:30pm	Monthly Mentorship Kim Madden – Interviewing Kids with ADHD
TBD	TBD	All Cohort Peer Review
MAY		
Wednesday, May 17	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship Andra Chamberlain – Strategies for Questioning Kids about Repeated Abuse
JUNE		
Wednesday, June 21	9-10:30am	Monthly Mentorship/Wrap Up TBD Webinar
TBD	TBD	1.5 hr One-on-One Video Review

Forensic Interview Mentorship Peer Review

Why Peer Review?

From National Children's Advocacy Center: "Intensive forensic interviewing training programs provide an excellent foundation for a professional who is new to child forensic interviewing. Such programs, usually a week in length, familiarize trainees with basic memory principles, the best questioning approaches for eliciting information, a review of children's developmental capabilities and issues, and recommended techniques for transitioning a child to the allegation-focused portion of the interview and gathering a detailed description of experiences.

However, research demonstrates, and practitioners agree that training alone is not adequate for developing the sophisticated skill set necessary for eliciting the best quality and quantity of information from a child. Mentoring or supervision by an experienced and skilled child forensic interviewer or an opportunity to participate in an effectively run peer review group increases the likelihood that new interviewers will put their newly acquired skills into practice. While strongly recommended, some forensic interviewers do not have access to these types of support and oversight for a variety of reasons (financial, geographic, lack of administrative support)."

Goals of Forensic Interview Peer Review

- Provide CAC Forensic Interviewers and MDT Professionals with the opportunity to discuss forensic interviews and provide feedback regarding those interviews in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.
- To enhance the quality of documentation of forensic interviews in cases of suspected child abuse.
- Provide forensic interviewers the opportunity to network with other interviewers.

What will I need to participate?

- Access to a computer with high speed internet
- Webcam (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Microphone (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Speakers (Built-in or Plug-in)

What if I don't have a webcam/microphone?

Please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@cacsofwi.org as soon as possible. CACs of Wisconsin is able to provide equipment to ensure full participation in peer review.

Forensic Interview Mentorship Peer Review

What can I expect?

It is important to foster a supportive culture within peer review. Some important facets of this culture (from the Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center):

- **Create a culture of safety and candor within the review process**
Because honesty creates the best opportunities for peer review, the peer review setting must be created to foster a feeling of safety and candor. Those being reviewed should be prepared to receive suggestions, and those making suggestions should be honest yet kind with their feedback.
- **Make good use of colleagues' time**
While positive feedback and peer support are vital in this process, it does not serve people to set aside time for peer review only to hear "Good job!" and then go home. Peer review sessions should be organized, and useful feedback should be offered even if it includes criticism.
- **Peer review is different than performance evaluation**
Interviewers should be able to offer up less-than-perfect interviews, without having that reflect badly on a later job performance evaluation. The desire to become a better interviewer is to be commended.

It is the goal of this mentorship program to acclimate everyone to sharing. You will be assigned to either the January or April peer review.

ALL-COHORT PEER REVIEW (Date TBD): Please prepare to share the first 12 minutes of the interview (introduction, rules, narrative event practice). You will be given screen-sharing privilege so there is no need to upload the video to Box. This can be the same interview you shared in your one-on-ones, however, we strongly recommend another video.

What is the expectation for peer review beyond the mentorship program?

National Children's Alliance (NCA) Standards of Accreditation for forensic interviews requires peer review at least 2 times per year. There are many options for peer review.

- Statewide Peer Review (Free) –Contact elizabeth@cacsofwi.org
- Midwest Regional Child Advocacy Center Peer Review (\$150 per organization) – many scheduling options, rolling registration. Visit <https://www.mrcac.org/peer-review/> for more information.
- Local Peer Review – Contact elizabeth@cacsofwi.org for assistance establishing your local peer review.

Forensic Interview Mentorship Peer Review

What kind of feedback should I provide?

We have included a form based on the guidelines from the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines (although it can be used for all protocols). You are welcome to fill this form out as the interview is shown. There is no need to submit the form to the mentors or the presenter – it is for your use only in providing feedback.

There is a video outlining the type of feedback we seek out in peer review. Though this is for the Statewide Peer Review hosted by the Chapter twice a month, it is applicable in this setting as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG38gjp9n2g&t=1s> or <https://bit.ly/WI-SPR>

Forensic Interview Mentorship Meeting

Why Research Webinars?

National Children's Alliance (NCA) Standards of Accreditation for forensic interviewers require reading of relevant, recent research during initial training, as well as ongoing training. There is consistently new research about language, development, questioning techniques, suggestibility, dynamics of abuse, and other topics that are relevant to forensic interviewers. The webinars selected highlight this research.

What can I expect?

Materials will be sent out ahead of time. You should view the webinar or read the article prior to the mentorship meeting.

What will I need to participate?

- Access to a computer with high speed internet
- Webcam (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Microphone (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Speakers (Built-in or Plug-in)

What if I don't have a webcam/microphone?

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Forensic Interview Mentorship One-On-One

What can I expect?

It's common to introduce the interview, including stating what information you or your team had already gathered, including age of the child, what was reported, and more. You will select an interview to show your mentor in real-time. The mentor will pause and discuss different aspects of the interview.

FOR THE FIRST ONE-ON-ONE, please try to select a recent interview.

FOR THE SECOND ONE-ON-ONE, ideally select an interview conducted after your first one-on-one with your mentor so they can assess growth.

What will I need to participate?

- Access to a computer with high speed internet
- Webcam (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Microphone (Built-in or Plug-in)
- Speakers (Built-in or Plug-in)

What if I don't have a webcam/microphone?

Please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@cacsowfi.org as soon as possible. CACs of Wisconsin is able to provide equipment to ensure full participation in peer review.