

STATE OF MARYLAND

**Child Abuse and Neglect Medical Providers –
(Maryland CHAMP)**

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT EXPERT PANEL

Marsha Smith, M.D., M.P.H., Chair

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 782 (Ch. 334) of the Acts of 2005
2010 Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Legislative Report

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Health-General Article, §§ 13-2201--2206, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, through its Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel, is directed to submit this annual legislative report on issues relating to data collected on child abuse diagnosis and treatment as well as the activities of the Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP) Initiative.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Ms. Wynee Hawk, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, at 410-767-6481.

Sincerely,



Marsha Smith, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D.
John M. Colmers, Secretary
Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.
Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H.
Bonnie S. Birkel, C.R.N.P., M.P.H.
Ms. Sarah Albert, MSAR #

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
FAMILY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

John M. Colmers
Secretary
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Frances B. Phillips
Deputy Secretary
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Public Health Services

Senate Bill 782, enacted during the 2005 legislative session, mandated that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) appoint and convene the Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel (Expert Panel) and establish a Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative. The Expert Panel was charged with: (1) reviewing the appropriateness of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and billing protocols for services provided related to child abuse and neglect; and (2) determining how diagnosis and treatment data may be preserved to provide statistics on the extent of child abuse and neglect in the State, including through the creation of a special billing code. The Expert Panel consists of physicians, child advocates, and other medical professionals with expertise in child maltreatment. (See Appendix A for membership).

In 2008, the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative was renamed Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP), pursuant to amendments to Health-General Article, §§ 13–2201, et. seq, Annotated Code of Maryland. Maryland CHAMP serves to establish local or regional “centers without walls” of pediatric expertise to assist in the accurate and comprehensive diagnosis of child abuse and neglect throughout the State. The Department collaborates with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to administer Maryland CHAMP. Maryland CHAMP recruits local physicians to gain clinical expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment and CHAMP faculty work to develop practice standards and protocols for the assessment and treatment of children. The faculty provides expert consultation and training for local or regional child protection teams in currently underserved jurisdictions. Faculty also guides local or regional teams in the medical aspects of child maltreatment investigations to facilitate the prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect.

Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health concern, yet it is seldom addressed from a public health perspective. In fiscal year 2010, there were 26,977 total completed investigations into child abuse and neglect in Maryland. Of these, 6,747 investigations were “Indicated.” Indicated cases comprise 25% of the completed investigations. In addition, 6,466 (24 percent) of the completed investigations were “Unsubstantiated” due to insufficient evidence. Of the Indicated cases, 1424 were Physical Indicated, 1167 were Sexual Indicated, 4062 were Neglect Indicated, and 94 were Mental Injury Indicated.

By comparison, for fiscal year 2009, data from Child Protective Services Intake showed the total number of investigations and indicated findings referenced were 27,959 and 6,312, respectively. For fiscal year 2008, the total number of investigations and indicated findings referenced were 27,100 and 5,795 respectively.

Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Activities and Recommendations

To fulfill the legislative mandate the Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel met

October 18, 2010 at the Department of Health and Mental Health. The Expert Panel reviewed the activities of the Maryland CHAMP Initiative and these activities are summarized in the following section.

Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers Activities

The Maryland CHAMP Initiative is conducted by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and Division of Child Protection, with funding administered by the Center for Maternal and Child Health. Maryland CHAMP serves to provide training and support to local physicians in order to recruit them to become experts in the field of child maltreatment diagnosis and treatment. Maryland CHAMP seeks to foster collaboration with other disciplines and entities (nursing, family practice, law enforcement, and child advocacy centers). Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS, Chief of the Division of Child Protection at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is the program director for Maryland CHAMP. Five other pediatricians serve as the Initiative's core faculty and all are experts in child abuse and neglect. Faculty members and the counties they represent are as follows: Mesa Baker, MD (Baltimore City); Mitchell Goldstein, MD, MBA (Baltimore City); Scott Krugman, MD (Baltimore County); Wendy Lane, MD, MPH (Baltimore City and Howard County); and Charles Shubin, MD (Baltimore City).

The Maryland CHAMP faculty meets monthly to address the administration of the Initiative. Faculty provides case consultations, peer review, and trainings in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment for local health care providers. A member of the faculty is available to provide consultations to local physicians 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The faculty uses a Web-based application called TeleCAM for child abuse consultations. TeleCAM is a secure, HIPAA compliant Web-based application. It allows medical providers from geographically distant communities to share medical images with one another for the purposes of continuity of care and training. Therefore, it is especially valuable for those who provide services and consultations in child abuse cases. Local examiners are able to post cases, including images, on a secure Web site accessible to Maryland CHAMP faculty. Maryland CHAMP faculty reviews the cases and quickly provides feedback on the evaluation to the local Maryland CHAMP provider.

Maryland CHAMP trained three pediatricians: Allen Haworth, DO (Allegany County); Richard Porter, MD (Garrett County); and Jennifer Wehberg, MD (Wicomico County). The Maryland CHAMP network also includes seven physicians who have been working part-time in child abuse. These physicians do not receive salary support from the Maryland CHAMP program but participate in the Maryland CHAMP training sessions. These physicians and their respective jurisdictions are as follows: Karla Paylor, MD (Baltimore County and Frederick County); Cynthia Rolden, MD (Carroll County); Dianna Abney, MD (Charles and St. Mary's County); Paul Lomonico, MD (Harford County); Fayette Engstrom, MD and Kevin Karpowicz (Kent and Talbot County); Evelyn Shukat, MD (Montgomery County); and Ruth Dwyer, MD (Washington County).

Efforts to reach out to forensic nurse examiners throughout the State have also been successful and they continue to participate in Maryland CHAMP trainings. To increase their involvement even more, the Maryland CHAMP Initiative has hired a forensic nurse practitioner as a member of the Maryland CHAMP faculty. Beyond recruiting nurses, the new nurse practitioner is working with the Maryland Board of Nursing to obtain nursing certification for the Maryland CHAMP Initiative.

During the upcoming fiscal year, CHAMP faculty plan to either recruit one additional local physician or expand the CHAMP network by utilizing current Maryland CHAMP providers to cover previously uncovered jurisdictions.

In fiscal year 2010, Maryland CHAMP held three half-day provider trainings to review child maltreatment diagnosis and consultation procedures. These were held on October 8, 2009, February 11, 2010, and June 10, 2010. The sessions were held at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Trainings are attended by the local Maryland CHAMP physicians, network physicians, and pediatric forensic nurse examiners.

Maryland CHAMP will continue to offer Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for physicians attending the training sessions. The TeleCAM System will be used to develop a library of teaching cases and will enhance training. The Maryland CHAMP Initiative is also considering whether to conduct trainings on the recognition of risk factors for maltreatment, rather than just focusing on the identification of maltreatment after the fact. This additional focus will aid the Initiative in efforts to prevent child maltreatment. Another issue Maryland CHAMP faculty will consider is the problem of the frequent under-evaluation of neglect.

Conclusion

The Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel held its annual meeting and reviewed activities of the Maryland CHAMP Initiative. The Expert Panel found that Maryland CHAMP continues to support the establishment of a Statewide network of providers with expertise in child maltreatment diagnosis and treatment. Maryland CHAMP has expanded trainings to include forensic nurse practitioners, enabling more areas in the State to have local experts nearby. CMEs will be offered to physicians who attend the training program. A case library will be established to enhance training and it is likely that Maryland CHAMP will add training on the identification of risk factors for maltreatment, to broaden provider abilities to not just identify but to prevent child maltreatment.

Appendix A

2010 Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Members

Chair, Marsha Smith, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Perinatal and Reproductive Health
Center for Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Steve Berry, M.S.W.
Department of Human Resources

Lieutenant Roland Denton
Maryland Children's Alliance

To be announced
Maryland Children's Alliance

Mitchell Goldstein, M.D., M.B.A.
Maryland Hospital Association Representative

Wendy Lane, M.D., M.P.H.
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Child Maltreatment Committee

Diane McDonald, M.D.
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Emergency Department Committee

Mary Mussman, M.D.
Physician Advisor to Medicaid
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Charles Shubin, M.D.
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Child Maltreatment Committee

Joan Stine, M.H.S., M.S., C.H.E.S, Director
Center for Health Promotion, Education, and Tobacco Use Prevention
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Al Zachik, M.D., Deputy Director
Mental Hygiene Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Expert Panel Staff:

Joan Patterson, L.C.S.W.-C
Center for Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene