

Fall 2008

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Local CFR Contacts: Please forward to all local team members.

# Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)

## Maryland SCFRT

### Annual Meeting—December 9, 2008

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Dr. Hanover, MD 21076, in the lower level Harry Hughes rooms.

The agenda focus is on infant death investigation in Maryland. Speakers include Dawn Zulauf, chief investigator for the OCME and Dr. Ling Li, assistant medical examiner at the OCME. The Prince George's County local child fatality review team will conduct a mock review. Plan to attend with your local team.

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#### Did you know?...

Effective October 1, 2008 Maryland learner's permit is now valid for two years. This extension allows individuals an opportunity to acquire additional driving experience if necessary without obtaining a new permit. Source: MVA.

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in collaboration with State Farm Insurance has published the Research Report: **Driving: Through the Eyes of Teens**

#### CRASH FACTS

- Speed is a major contributor to teen crash fatalities
- Six out of 10 teen passenger deaths in 2004 occurred in crashes in which another teenager was driving.
- One in five passenger deaths among people of all ages in 2001 occurred when a teen was driving.
- Six out of 10 drivers ages 16-20 who were killed in crashes were unrestrained
- Almost two out of three teens killed as occupants of motor vehicles are unrestrained.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm are continuing research and outreach activities that can ultimately reduce the risk of crash injury for teen drivers and those that share the road with them. Their hope is to share this information with "those best positioned to implement positive change for teen drivers—policy makers, driver's education instructors, parents, teens and others."

[http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/files/PCPS\\_Reports/1289teen.pdf](http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/files/PCPS_Reports/1289teen.pdf)

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Kudos to The Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles, recognized by AAA Government Relations and Safety Advocacy as 1 of 4 states that provides clear links to teen driver information on the state's DMV Homepage.

[www.aapublicaffairs.com](http://www.aapublicaffairs.com)

## Hot Topics

We wish to say a fond farewell to Tasha Greenberg, the State CFRT vice-chairman. Tasha and her family are relocating to Texas. Tasha, many thanks for your leadership on the team! We also thank members of the team whose terms have concluded or have retired: Donna Becker, Dorothy Marge, Jonathan Newell, and John Rusinko.

New members on the team include Akinwande Akintola, Laurel Moody and Roger J. Lerner.

The National Safety Council reminds drivers that it is safer for children to sit in the back seat of vehicles. go to <http://www.kidsinback.org/>



**IT'S A FACT: KIDS ARE SAFER IN BACK!**

TRAFFIC CRASHES ARE A LEADING KILLER OF KIDS. SO REMEMBER TO BUCKLE UP ON EVERY RIDE, AND MAKE SURE KIDS 12 AND UNDER ALWAYS RIDE PROPERLY RESTRAINED IN A BACK SEAT. IT'S THE SAFER SEAT - AT LEAST 30 PERCENT SAFER THAN THE FRONT SEAT.

## Highlighting Local Child Fatality Review Teams

The newsletter will highlight the work of local child fatality review teams. If you have news to share, please contact the newsletter editors: Donna Mazyck at [dmazyck@msde.state.md.us](mailto:dmazyck@msde.state.md.us) or Laurel Moody at [lmoody@bcps.org](mailto:lmoody@bcps.org)

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[www.fha.state.md.us/  
mch/cfr/](http://www.fha.state.md.us/mch/cfr/)

### Howard County CFRT Tackles Domestic Violence!

In response to the 2007 deaths of three siblings due to domestic violence, the Howard County CFRT has taken steps to tackle Domestic Violence issues head on. In doing so, the team leader has conducted several interviews with representatives from the judicial, legal, and support and advocacy systems. Findings from the interview have been summarized and compiled into a report that will be submitted to County Executive, Ken Ulman.

The recommendations are being offered as ways to promote awareness among county residents regarding the on-going presence of domestic violence as a problem in Howard County. The recommendations also include suggested action steps that increase resident knowledge regarding the availability of support and advocacy services for domestic violence victims and their families. The report and its recommendations complement the work and efforts of several county agencies that are collaborating to establish a Family Justice Center in the county.

### Teen Drivers - Pilot Programs

**Partnership for a Safer Maryland** held its quarterly meeting on November 5th at MIEMSS. Teen Driving - Injury Prevention was the focus of the meeting with a review of Maryland Traffic Data and Teen Driver data gathered by the National Study Center for Trauma & EMS. Two local teen driver pilots programs were highlighted at this meeting.

#### Howard County's Teen Driving Contract Program

***"We are Responsible: School-based collaboration to improve teen driving"***

Parents and teens of driving age from 12 public high schools in Howard County are the populations focus of this project. The project incorporated a parent/teen driving agreement within a pre-existing school-based program for high school drivers and their parents in Howard County. The Parking Permit Program was a mandatory 1.5 hour PowerPoint presentation given to all Howard County public high school

students who park on school grounds. Parent and student presence is mandatory in order to obtain a permit. The program produced by the Howard County police department describes Maryland driving laws and the consequences of driving while impaired or distracted. A community organization that promotes incentives for teens "spotted" driving safely is also highlighted.

**Method/Strategies**—the group worked with a local task force on teen driving. Representatives from schools, health department, state highway, public safety, pediatricians and safety advocates developed strategies to improve teen driving outcomes.

#### Key Lessons

- The parent/teen driving agreement can be incorporated into a school-based educational program on safe teen driving practices

- Involvement of teens as liaisons facilitated a smoother school-based program
- Development of a mechanism for additional discussion of the parent/teen driving and parking permit program is required

R. Lichenstein, MD

#### Drive-CAM Project in Southern Maryland

Debbie Jennings & Jackie Beckman, Southern Maryland Highway Safety Coordinators, presented the information about the Drive-CAM project currently underway in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. The Drive -Cam program has been featured on ABC's World News Tonight and NBC's Dateline as a tool for parents to decrease risky teen driving.



#### Resources and Information

The National Study Center for Trauma & EMS is an excellent resource for local jurisdictions to obtain fact sheets and data specific to areas throughout the state as CFR teams are examining pertinent injury prevention programs. Website: <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/NSCforTrauma/>