

Summer 2010

Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)



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Maryland SCFRT

Tools and Resources for Child Fatality Review Teams

The Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team exists, in part, to assist local teams with the child fatality review process. To that end, this article highlights several tools that enhance the work of child fatality review teams.

Child Death Case Review Reporting System

The SCFRT provided training for this electronic, web-based death case review reporting system. We recognize that instituting a new reporting tool requires adjustments. Please share how the program is working for your team. Send feedback and success stories to Joan Patterson at jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us

Tools for Teams

The National MCH Center for Child Death Reviews provides an extensive list of tools and resources on its website. The mission of the Center is to provide resources to state and local CFRTs. It is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The Center "promotes, supports, and enhances child death review methodology and activities at the state, community and national levels."

Visit them on the web at:

<http://www.childdeathreview.org/toolsforteam.htm>

Best Practices in Prevention-Oriented Child Death Review

The Child Injury Prevention Tool enables local CFRTs to move from case review to action with a prevention focus. For example, a team could click on the cause of injury and find a list of major injury prevention strategies that include education, modifications of social, and physical environments, modifications of products and legislative or policy changes. To view the tool go to:

<http://www.childinjuryprevention.org/mechanism.aspx?id=4>

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It's amazing what ordinary people can do if they set out without preconceived notions Where there is an open mind there will always be a frontier.

Charles Kettering, 1876-1958



How's Your Jurisdiction's Case Data Entry Going? Send an email to Joan Patterson at:

jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us

and let us know what's working well and what obstacles your teams are facing using the new Electronic Data Entry system. We need your feedback!



Upcoming Conferences & Training Dates:

Next State CFR Meeting
September 29, 2010

Maryland Suicide Prevention Conference

October 6, 2010

Annual State CFR Conference

November 16, 2010



Agency Highlight:

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
Submitted by Jennifer Maehr, MD, Medical Director
Maryland's Violence Prevention Initiative:

Preventing Re-Victimization and Retaliation among DJS Youth

The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) may supervise at any given time over 800 youth in the fourteen DJS facilities and Youth Centers, over 500 youth in privately operated residential facilities in the State, and approximately 17,000 youth in the community, 700 of whom are in community detention with electronic monitoring. Some of these youth are victims of non-fatal stab and gunshot wounds. The State recognized that these victimized youth were at high risk from further harm or death secondary to re-victimization by or retaliation against their previous attackers. This pattern of re-victimization and retaliation was most evident among DJS youth from the Baltimore City area. In an effort to prevent future harm to DJS youth who had suffered near fatalities, the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) was launched in January of 2008 in Baltimore City. The VPI is a collaborative between multiple agencies including the Department of Juvenile Services, the Baltimore City Police Department (BCPD), the State Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department Operation Safe Kids (OSK), and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

How does VPI work?

Each business day, the DJS Watch Center Liaison determines if any non-fatal shooting or serious stab wound victim under the age of 21 is a youth under DJS supervision. If a victim is under DJS supervision, the BCPD, DJS, and OSK as a group will determine within 24 hours if a safety plan is warranted for the youth. In some cases, relocation of the youth or family and witness protection is required. Daily contact is maintained with the youth and family while there is a pressing safety concern and with hospital staff during the length of a youth's hospitalization. Information reviewed by the agencies in assessing the youth's safety includes:

- A detailed account of events that led up to the shooting
- Hospital reports on the youth's condition, prognosis, and expected release date
- Gang membership
- Presence of known associates or relatives who are victims or perpetrators
- History of past non-accidental trauma or victimization
- History of mental illness or Axis I diagnosis
- Safety of the current residence
- Family and victim's level of concern regarding their safety
- Family dynamics that may impact safety plan or ability to care for the youth
- Potential for retaliation by the youth

The current number of DJS youth who are followed by the VPI in Baltimore City on a daily basis includes over 210 youth under community supervision, 80 in residential placements, 40 to 50 in adult jails, 30 detained in DJS facilities, and 20 to 25 on warrant status. Since the inception of the VPI, one DJS youth who was a stab wound victim died as a result of a gunshot wound which he suffered upon violating his safety plan and re-entering the area in which he was initially stabbed. Because of the Initiative's overall success, the VPI has spread statewide to every jurisdiction and is playing a part in reducing the number of homicide fatalities and near fatalities among the State's high risk youth.

For additional information on the DJS Violence Prevention Initiative go to:

<http://www.djs.state.md.us/violence-prevention.html>

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If you have news to share, please contact the newsletter editors:

Donna Mazyck at dmazyck@msde.state.md.us or Laurel Moody at lmoody@bcps.org

Visit Our State Child Fatality Review website:

http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/cfr_home.cfm

For more information contact: Joan Patterson at jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us