

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU**

**Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel
(Maryland CHAMP)
2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

December 23, 2013

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 2005) and Health General Article §13-2205(d)
2013 Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Legislative Report

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Health-General Article §13-2205(d), 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 Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (CHAMP) Initiative. The enclosed report covers the activities of Maryland CHAMP from July 2012 through December of 2013.

If you have questions concerning this report, please contact Ms. Christi Megna, Assistant Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6509. The Department looks forward to working with you and other members of the General Assembly as we continue to explore ways to reduce child abuse and neglect in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Christi Megna, J.D.
Laura Herrera, M.D., M.P.H.
Michelle Spencer, M.S.
Donna Gugel, M.H.S.
Ilise Marrazzo, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.
Ms. Sarah Albert, MSAR #6039

Background

Senate Bill 782 (Ch. 334 of the Acts of 2005) charged the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) with appointing and convening a Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel (Expert Panel), and establishing a Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative. The Expert Panel is charged with reviewing the appropriateness of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and billing protocols for services related to child abuse and neglect, determining how diagnosis and treatment data may be preserved to provide statistics on the extent of child abuse and neglect in the State, and reviewing activities of the Initiative. The Expert Panel consists of physicians, child advocates, and other medical professionals with expertise in child maltreatment (see Appendix A).

Pursuant to Health-General Article §§13–2201, et. seq, Annotated Code of Maryland, in 2008, the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative was renamed Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP). Through its activities, 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. DHMH collaborates with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to administer Maryland CHAMP. A core group of clinical experts serves as the CHAMP faculty, staff, and network physicians (see Appendix B) who provide training, consultation, and support for local and regional child protection teams. The CHAMP faculty develop practice standards and protocols for the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Faculty members also guide local or regional teams in the medical aspects of child maltreatment investigations to facilitate the prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect. This report covers the activities of Maryland CHAMP from July 2012 through December 2013.

Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health concern. According to the Department of Human Resources’ (DHR) Child Protective Services (CPS), in 2012, there were 27,084 completed investigations into child abuse and neglect in Maryland. Of these, 32 percent (8,580 investigations) were deemed “indicated,” meaning that there was credible evidence which had not been satisfactorily refuted that abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse did occur.

Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Activities

The Expert Panel met on December 14, 2012 and August 27, 2013 to review findings of the Child Maltreatment Workgroup, which was convened by DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua Sharfstein in 2011. At that time the Workgroup identified several areas in need of improvement, including: identification of victims of child maltreatment; prevention efforts; streamlining provider training; assuring adequate resources to assess and treat child abuse and neglect in all jurisdictions; developing treatment guidelines; reviewing payment systems; and improving information sharing. The Expert Panel agreed there was a need to build on CHAMP and develop a comprehensive and standardized health care approach for maltreated children and their families. The Expert Panel will meet at least quarterly through 2014 to expand its membership to include key stakeholders, and undertake a comprehensive review of current programs and resources available in Maryland to both address child abuse and neglect as well as identify gaps in

services. This review will extend from primary prevention to treatment, and include the mental health needs of children. Goals cover improving data collection and analysis related to child abuse and neglect; strengthening partnerships between the multiple State agencies involved in all aspects of child maltreatment cases; expanding the CHAMP network to assure availability of medical professionals skilled in child abuse and neglect evaluation and treatment in underserved areas of the State, including child mental health professionals; and reviewing issues related to payment for services provided in child abuse and neglect cases.

Maryland CHAMP Activities

The Maryland CHAMP program is administered by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Child Protection, with funding administered by DHMH. Howard Dubowitz, M.D., M.S., Chief of the Division of Child Protection at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is the Program Director. Maryland CHAMP provides training and support in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment to local physicians. Maryland CHAMP also collaborates with other disciplines including nursing, family practice, law enforcement, and child advocacy centers.

The goals of Maryland CHAMP and activities from July 2012 through December 2013 directed toward achieving these goals are as follows:

(1) **To improve the protection of children in the State** - Maryland CHAMP provides expert consultation, peer review, and trainings in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment for local health care providers in Maryland. The program maintains a faculty of child maltreatment experts. In FY 2013, one faculty member moved from the State, but two others were recruited, for a core faculty of eight clinical experts. Maryland CHAMP faculty meet monthly to address administrative issues of the program.

(2) **To recruit local physicians to gain clinical expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect** – Two physicians left the Maryland CHAMP program. Recruitment efforts are underway to replace these providers. The need to expand the program’s reach into underserved areas of the State is recognized, and recruitment and training of both physicians and forensic nurse examiners interested in working in the field of child abuse and neglect is a top priority for the coming year.

(3) **To develop and guide the practice of local or regional multidisciplinary teams to improve the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect** – Maryland CHAMP faculty and network physicians provide training, consultation, and support for local and regional multidisciplinary teams in the review of child maltreatment cases.

(4) **To facilitate the prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect** – CHAMP faculty experts and CHAMP network providers frequently serve as consultants and expert witnesses in child maltreatment cases prosecuted in the State.

(5) To provide expert consultation and training through teleconferencing or on-site services in the diagnosis and treatment of physical or sexual abuse and neglect - A member of the Maryland CHAMP faculty is available to provide consultations to local physicians 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The faculty use the web-based application, TeleCAM, for child abuse consultations. TeleCAM is a secure, HIPAA compliant program that allows medical providers from geographically distant communities to share medical images with one another for the purposes of continuity of care, consultation, and training. Local Maryland CHAMP providers are able to post cases, including images, on the secure website which is accessible only to Maryland CHAMP faculty. Faculty review the cases and quickly provide evaluation feedback to the local provider. There were 97 new cases posted to TeleCAM during FY 2013.

Maryland CHAMP held two half-day provider trainings to review a variety of child maltreatment topics. These trainings included: “Forensic Photography” on October 11, 2012 (30 attendees) and “State Crime Lab Evaluation of Evidence” on February 14, 2013 (33 attendees). A third training scheduled in June 2013 was cancelled due to weather. Each training included a session of case reviews. All trainings were held at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore campus, and were also available to providers via live webinar. Participation by forensic nurse examiners has been promoted.

Maryland CHAMP faculty also provided instruction at the University of Maryland School of Social Work’s Child Welfare Academy, which provides training to Maryland Department of Social Services staff. During the past year, Maryland CHAMP faculty provided four full days of training and one webinar. Maryland CHAMP faculty also provided 6 training sessions to a multidisciplinary audience from across the state at the Maryland Children’s Alliance (MCA) conference held on October 25th, 2012. The MCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Maryland child advocacy centers.

The Maryland CHAMP program maintains a website (www.mdchamp.org) which provides numerous resources for professionals and the public, including referral guidelines, practice recommendations, education and policy resources, child maltreatment referral locations for all Maryland jurisdictions, and mental health and community resources for families. In from July 2012 through June 2013, there were over 60,000 visits to the website.

Future Plans

In 2014, DHMH will provide leadership and administrative support to assist Maryland CHAMP in incorporating outcomes measures into the current program and in developing a statewide strategic plan for the CHAMP program. In addition, DHMH will work to integrate recommendations of the Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel into Maryland CHAMP. Maryland CHAMP practitioners will continue to engage primary care practitioners around the State to raise awareness of child maltreatment, to improve understanding of the protective services reporting process, and to develop prevention strategies. Promotion of the library of teaching cases established through TeleCAM will continue to assist local providers in assessing possible cases of abuse and neglect.

Summary

The Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel will undertake a review of current resources to address child abuse and neglect in the State, identify gaps in services, and develop strategies to improve systems serving maltreated children in the State. The Maryland CHAMP Program continues to support the establishment of a statewide network of providers with expertise in child abuse and neglect diagnosis and treatment through professional training, peer review, and expert medical consultation.

Appendix A

Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Members

S. Lee Woods, M.D., Ph.D., Interim Chair
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

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

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

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

Cathy Meyers
Maryland Children's Alliance

Mary Mussman, M.D.
Office of the Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

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

Expert Panel Staff:

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

Appendix B

Maryland CHAMP Faculty, Staff, and Network Physicians

Faculty:

Howard Dubowitz, M.D., Program Director (Baltimore City)
Leena Dev, M.D. (Baltimore City)
Mitchell Goldstein, M.D., M.B.A. (Baltimore City)
Scott Krugman, M.D. (Baltimore County)
Wendy Lane, M.D., M.P.H. (Baltimore City and Howard County)
Charles Shubin, M.D. (Baltimore City)
Evelyn Shukat, M.D. (Montgomery County)
Pamela Holtzinger, R.N., F.N.E.-A/P (Frederick and Washington Counties)

Network Physicians:

Steven Breslow, M.D. (Cecil County)
Fayette Engstrom, M.D. (Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties)
Kevin Karpowicz, M.D. (Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties)
Paul Lomonico, M.D. (Harford County)
Mark Melzer, M.D. (Baltimore County)
Karla Paylor, M.D. (Frederick County)
Richard Porter, M.D. (Garrett County)
Cynthia Rolden, M.D. (Carroll County)
Jennifer Wehberg, M.D. (Wicomico County)

Staff:

Leslie Fitzpatrick, L.C.S.W.-C, Program Manager