

STATE OF MARYLAND

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel**

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S. Lee Woods, M.D., Ph.D., Interim Chair

November 28, 2012

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)  
2012 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 Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP) Initiative. The enclosed report covers the activities of Maryland CHAMP for calendar year 2011.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at 410-767-6805.

Sincerely,



S. Lee Woods, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Surveillance and Quality  
Initiatives, Maternal and Child Health  
Bureau

Enclosure

cc: Marie L. Grant, J.D.  
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary  
Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.  
Donna Gugel, M.H.S.  
Bonnie S. Birkel, C.R.N.P., M.P.H.  
Ms. Sarah Albert, MSAR #6039



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

**Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel  
(Maryland CHAMP)  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA  
Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



## **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 was 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 amendments 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). The goals of Maryland CHAMP are to: (1) improve the protection of children in the State, (2) recruit local physicians to gain clinical expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect, (3) develop and guide the practice of local or regional multidisciplinary teams to improve the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect, (4) facilitate the prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect, and (5) provide expert consultation and training through teleconferencing or on-site services to the local or regional teams in the diagnosis and treatment of physical or sexual abuse and neglect.

Through these 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.

Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health concern. According to the Department of Human Resources’ (DHR) Child Protective Services (CPS), from 2009 to 2011, there were an average of 27,559 completed investigations per year into child abuse and neglect in Maryland. Of these, 25 percent or 6,751 investigations were deemed “indicated”, meaning that there was credible evidence, which had not been satisfactorily refuted, that abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse did occur.

This report covers the activities of Maryland CHAMP during calendar year 2011.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Activities**

On April 13, 2011 Expert Panel members and Maryland CHAMP faculty met to review and discuss a set of recommendations for submission to DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua Sharfstein. The goal was “to build on CHAMP and develop a comprehensive and standardized health care

approach to maltreated children and their families.” This would extend from primary prevention to treatment, and include the mental health needs of children. The following were identified as existing gaps in the system:

- Limited primary prevention related to child maltreatment;
- Varying medical practice related to different payment arrangements;
- Limited psychosocial assessments;
- Inadequate support for expert medical assessments in some areas;
- Limited coordination to ensure health care needs are met; and
- Severe lack of child mental health resources in many areas of Maryland.

The key recommendations were for Maryland CHAMP to partner with DHMH, DHR, the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and other key stakeholders to develop a new system that would establish partnerships with leaders in mental health, and recruit, train, and maintain child mental health professionals in underserved areas. The result would be the development of interdisciplinary teams in each jurisdiction to improve and coordinate health-related services, including mental health services, for maltreated children.

Subsequently in 2011, members of the Expert Panel took part in Secretary Sharfstein’s Child Maltreatment Workgroup, which included representatives from DHMH and other agencies and organizations (see Appendix C). The Workgroup met several times throughout 2011, and was charged with designing a better system to care for abused and neglected children, and building a more coordinated approach focused on improving outcomes. The Workgroup’s aims were to improve the identification and treatment of child maltreatment, increase prevention efforts, streamline provider training, develop treatment guidelines, review payment systems, and improve information sharing.

The Workgroup determined to focus on the following questions:

1. How do we promote consistent identification of children at risk for child abuse and neglect?
2. How do we determine which reports of child abuse require a medical evaluation by a qualified medical provider?
3. What is being done in each jurisdiction to provide appropriate medical evaluations?
4. Are there adequate resources available in all jurisdictions to meet local need?
5. What payment approach supports this system? How could the State streamline the provider payment system to ensure that providers with expertise in identifying and treating child abuse and neglect are compensated appropriately for rendering this important service?
6. How do we ensure that abused and neglected children once identified are linked with on-going behavioral health services provided by a specialist in trauma-informed care as quickly as possible?

Representatives on the Workgroup from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program are reviewing issues related to payment for services provided in child abuse and neglect cases. The Mental Hygiene Administration is reviewing resources and procedures for treating maltreated

children and their families in each jurisdiction. The Workgroup also has as a resource a statewide Needs Assessment conducted in 2011 by Maryland CHAMP. The Workgroup is expected to issue its recommendations in late 2012 or early 2013.

### **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 the DHMH Maternal and Child Health Bureau (formerly the Center for Maternal and Child Health). 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 to local physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment. Maryland CHAMP also collaborates with other disciplines including nursing, family practice, law enforcement, and child advocacy centers.

In 2011, the Maryland CHAMP faculty met monthly to address administrative issues of the program. The 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 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 providers are able to post cases, including images, on a secure website accessible to Maryland CHAMP faculty. The faculty review the cases and quickly provide feedback on the evaluation to the local Maryland CHAMP provider.

In 2011 Maryland CHAMP held three half-day provider trainings to review a variety of child maltreatment topics. These trainings included: “Forensic Photography and TeleCAM Training” on February 10 (24 attendees); “Testifying in Child Maltreatment Cases” on June 9 (38 attendees); and “Forensic Interviewing: Building Rapport and Recognizing Trauma” on October 13 (28 attendees). All sessions were held at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and were attended by local Maryland CHAMP physicians, network physicians, and pediatric forensic nurse examiners. Participation by forensic nurse examiners has been promoted and their attendance at Maryland CHAMP trainings is increasing. Outreach to child welfare workers from the Maryland DHR CPS has also been added, with Maryland CHAMP faculty providing training at the Maryland Child Welfare Academy at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. A variety of topics have been covered including the drug-exposed newborn, failure to thrive, and more.

A statewide Needs Assessment was conducted by Maryland CHAMP in 2011. This systematic review was undertaken to enable the program to assess each jurisdiction’s resources for addressing child maltreatment, and to better understand barriers throughout the State. Also, through the contact and interviews conducted as part of the Needs Assessment, agencies in all jurisdictions were informed of the availability of Maryland CHAMP services. Maryland

CHAMP received supplemental funding from DHMH in 2011 to develop the website ([www.mdchamp.org](http://www.mdchamp.org)) to promote its services and improve outreach efforts.

### **Future Plans**

Maryland CHAMP will continue to develop the CHAMP network through outreach and trainings. It will work to bring training to more physicians, forensic nurses, and other health care professionals. The library of teaching cases established through TeleCAM continues to grow and enhance training. Maryland CHAMP practitioners will work to reach out to 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. Participation of the CAN Expert Panel in the Secretary's Child Maltreatment Workgroup in 2011 will help to consolidate efforts to improve systems serving maltreated children in Maryland.

### **Summary**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel continues, through participation in the Secretary's Child Maltreatment Workgroup, to look into issues of billing and reimbursement related to child maltreatment cases. The Maryland CHAMP Program maintains its support for 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. Trainings for child welfare workers have also been added. A case library and website have been developed to enhance training and promote Maryland CHAMP services.

## Appendix A

### 2011 Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Members

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

### **2011 Maryland CHAMP Faculty, Staff, and Network Physicians**

#### **Faculty:**

Howard Dubowitz, M.D., Program Director (Baltimore City)  
Mesa Baker, 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)  
Pamela Holtzinger, R.N., F.N.E.-A/P (Frederick and Washington Counties)

#### **Staff:**

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

#### **Network Physicians:**

Allen Haworth, D.O. (Allegany County)  
Richard Porter, M.D. (Garrett County)  
Jennifer Wehberg, M.D. (Wicomico County)

The Maryland CHAMP network also includes the following physicians who work part-time in child abuse and neglect:

Dianna Abney, M.D. (Charles and St. Mary's County)  
Fayette Engstrom, M.D. (Talbot County)  
Kevin Karpowicz, M.D. (Talbot County)  
Paul Lomonico, M.D. (Harford County)  
Karla Paylor, M.D. (Frederick County)  
Cynthia Rolden, M.D. (Carroll County)  
Evelyn Shukat, M.D. (Montgomery County)

## Appendix C

### **2011 Secretary's Child Maltreatment Workgroup Members**

The Workgroup included representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

Molly Marra, DHMH Health Care Financing, Chair  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, Health Care Financing, Mental Hygiene Administration, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (formerly the Family Health Administration))  
Department of Education (School Health Services)  
Department of Human Resources  
Governor's Office for Children  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Office of the Public Defender  
State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Baltimore MATCH Program  
Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (CHAMP)  
American Academy of Pediatrics