



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

December 17, 2014

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: Ch. 334 of the Acts 2005 (SB 782) and Health General Article §13-2205(d)  
2014 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 2013 through June 2014.

If you have questions concerning this report, please contact Allison Taylor, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6481. 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: Allison Taylor, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs  
Laura Herrera Scott, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services  
Michelle Spencer, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Donna Gugel, Deputy Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Ilise Marrazzo, Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #6039



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION

**Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel  
(Maryland CHAMP)  
2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Health - General Article § 13-2205(d)**

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Secretary



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## **Background**

Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2005 charged the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) 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 codes and billing protocols for services related to child abuse and neglect, determining if diagnosis and treatment data could be utilized to provide statistics on the extent of child abuse and neglect in the State, and reviewing activities of the Centers of Excellence Initiative. The Expert Panel consists of representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human Resources, the Maryland Children's Alliance, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Child Maltreatment and Emergency Department Committees (see Appendix A). In 2008, pursuant to Health-General Article §§13-2201, et. seq., Annotated Code of Maryland, the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative was renamed Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP).

Child maltreatment is a common and serious public health concern. According to the Department of Human Resources' Child Protective Services (CPS), in fiscal year (FY) 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), there were 24,238 cases of alleged child maltreatment in Maryland. CPS assigns each case to one of two pathways for review: an Investigative Response or an Alternative Response. Cases considered low risk and with no mandatory disqualifying factors (such as sexual abuse or serious physical injury) are assigned to Alternative Response, and no finding of maltreatment is assigned to the case at its conclusion. In an Alternative Response case, CPS works with the family to determine what is needed to prevent any future maltreatment. The Investigative Response cases receive the traditional investigation with a finding of maltreatment and identification of an individual as responsible when appropriate at its conclusion. Of the cases reviewed in FY 2014, 20 percent were deemed low risk and assigned to an Alternative Response. The remaining 80 percent of 2014 cases were assigned to a traditional Investigative Response. Twenty eight percent of these cases (5,505 investigations) were deemed "indicated," meaning that there was credible evidence which had not been satisfactorily refuted that physical or sexual abuse or neglect did occur.

Child abuse and neglect result in significant morbidity, mortality, and costs. Significant ramifications, including removal of children from their families and prosecution of alleged perpetrators, can result from a determination of abuse or neglect. The determination of maltreatment is often suboptimal, done without skilled, multidisciplinary evaluation. There is a shortage of physicians and other health care providers trained to conduct the thorough evaluation of maltreatment cases that is needed. The Maryland CHAMP program has designated a core group of clinical experts in child abuse and neglect to serve as the CHAMP faculty (see Appendix B). The CHAMP program and its faculty are charged with recruiting and training a network of providers throughout the State to evaluate and treat cases of child maltreatment; providing ongoing training, peer review, and assistance to network providers; and developing strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Expert Panel has continued to review the activities of the Maryland CHAMP program annually. This report covers the FY 2014 activities of the Maryland CHAMP program.

## **Maryland CHAMP Activities**

The Maryland CHAMP program is administered by the University of Maryland School of Medicine through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department. Howard Dubowitz, M.D., M.S., Chief of the Division of Child Protection at the School of Medicine, is the Program Director and Chair of the CHAMP faculty. In FY 2014, the Maryland CHAMP program maintained a core faculty of eight clinical experts. CHAMP faculty meet monthly to address administrative issues of the program. The CHAMP faculty provide training and support in the diagnosis and treatment of child maltreatment to local health care providers, and expert consultation to State agencies involved in child abuse and neglect investigations, such as Child Protective Services and law enforcement. In FY 2014, there were nine physicians who participated as CHAMP network providers (see Appendix C).

A member of the CHAMP faculty is available to provide consultations to local providers 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 providers from geographically distant communities to share case information and medical images for the purposes of continuity of care, consultation, and training. Local CHAMP providers are able to post cases, including images, on the secure website which is accessible only to CHAMP faculty. Faculty review the cases and provide evaluation feedback to the local provider. There were 95 new cases posted to TeleCAM during FY 2014.

Maryland CHAMP held two half-day provider trainings in FY 2014 to review a variety of child maltreatment topics. A third training was cancelled due to weather. These trainings included topics such as “Post HIV Exposure Prophylaxis,” “First Line Approaches to Low Mood and Anxiety in Primary Care,” and “Vicarious Trauma.” Each training also included a session of case reviews.

CHAMP faculty also provided two full days of instruction at the University of Maryland School of Social Work’s Child Welfare Academy, which provides training to the Department of Human Resources’ Child Protective Services staff. Training topics included: basic training on physical and sexual abuse and neglect; advanced topics in physical abuse; failure to thrive; sexually transmitted infections; drug-exposed newborns; health care needs of foster youth; and the medical home.

Thirteen trainings on recognition of and response to suspected child maltreatment were provided by CHAMP faculty to law enforcement, reaching more than 400 officers and cadets. The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention provided additional funding for these trainings.

CHAMP faculty provided training sessions at the Maryland Children’s Alliance Conference in October, 2013. The Maryland Children’s Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Maryland child advocacy centers, and providing training and education regarding

child maltreatment. At this statewide conference a CHAMP faculty member led a session on “Challenging Cases in Child Abuse.”

The Maryland CHAMP program continues to maintain a website ([www.mdchamp.org](http://www.mdchamp.org)) that provides resources for health care professionals and the public, including referral guidelines, practice recommendations, education and policy resources, child maltreatment referral locations in all Maryland jurisdictions, and mental health and community resources for families. In FY 2014, there were over 50,000 visits to the website.

## **Future Plans**

To assist with further development of the CHAMP program, the Department has developed a new MOU with the University of Maryland for fiscal years 2015 through 2017, laying out clear goals to better define and expand the CHAMP network. During the term of this MOU, the CHAMP Program will focus on formalizing the training and designation process for CHAMP providers, expanding the program statewide, and securing ongoing funding to support and maintain the CHAMP network. The goal is to ensure that all children in Maryland who are victims of abuse or neglect and need thorough medical evaluation are seen by a qualified health care provider who has received training and designation by the CHAMP program.

A new CHAMP Program Manager has been hired and works in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Department. Her responsibilities include undertaking a comprehensive review of current programs and resources available in Maryland to address child abuse and neglect, and identifying gaps in services; strengthening partnerships between State agencies involved in all aspects of child maltreatment cases; and working with the CHAMP faculty and current network providers to implement the new MOU.

Under the new MOU, in consultation with the Department, the University will maintain a core faculty of recognized experts in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect for the CHAMP program. Currently there are eight members of the CHAMP faculty; all physicians on the CHAMP faculty are board certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics (see Appendix B). Criteria for current designation as CHAMP faculty and providers are being developed, as well as a process for maintenance of designation for both faculty and providers. Maintenance of designation as a CHAMP provider will include continuing medical education or continuing education unit requirements, a minimum number of case reviews with CHAMP faculty by TeleCAM, and a minimum number of cases of child abuse or neglect to be seen per year. Data collection on CHAMP services will be required of each CHAMP provider. Data collection on training and outreach activities, TeleCAM case reviews, and clinical services will also be required of each faculty member.

One goal for the faculty will be to develop a clear process for provider training to bring new providers into the network. In FY 2015 the CHAMP faculty will develop a core curriculum (provided online or in person) to train physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and forensic nurse examiners in the evaluation of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Trainees successfully completing all components of the curriculum will be designated by the Department as CHAMP providers. These CHAMP providers will commit to become a local or

regional CHAMP resource, providing direct patient evaluation, as well as consultation to local health care providers, and Child Protective Service and law enforcement personnel in their jurisdiction or region. The first goal for expansion of the CHAMP network will be to recruit and train CHAMP providers for currently underserved areas. This will include at least one CHAMP provider in Prince George's County, and at least one regional provider to provide services in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The CHAMP faculty will continue to offer ongoing case review support through TeleCAM, to maintain and further develop the CHAMP website, and to provide expanded training opportunities beyond direct conferences to online activities, such as archived lectures, webinars, and self-directed sessions.

The CHAMP Program 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 Maryland. The CHAMP network faculty and providers will continue to engage practitioners around the State to raise awareness of child maltreatment, to improve understanding of the protective services reporting process, and to develop prevention strategies.

## **Appendix A**

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

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

Mitchell Goldstein, M.D., M.B.A.  
Child Maltreatment Committee  
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

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

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

S. Lee Woods, M.D., Ph.D.  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

Vacant  
Maryland Children's Alliance

## **Appendix B**

### **CHAMP Faculty Members**

Leena Dev, M.D. (Baltimore City)

Howard Dubowitz, M.D., M.S. (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County)

Mitchell Goldstein, M.D., M.B.A. (Baltimore City)

Pamela Holtzinger, R.N., F.N.E.-A/P (Frederick and Washington Counties)

Scott Krugman, M.D., M.S. (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)

## **Appendix C**

### **CHAMP Network Providers**

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, D.O. (Garrett County)

Cynthia Rolden, M.D. (Carroll County)

Jennifer Wehberg, M.D. (Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)