



# MARYLAND Department of Health

*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

November 30, 2018

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: Health General Article §13-2205(d) and Ch. 334 of the Acts 2005 (SB 782)  
2018 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 Maryland Department of Health, 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 for Fiscal Year 2018.

If you have questions concerning this report, please contact Webster Ye, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, at (410) 767-6480.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary



MARYLAND  
Department of Health

**Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel  
(Maryland CHAMP)  
Fiscal Year 2018 Report**

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

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**Robert R. Neall**  
Secretary of Health

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## **Background**

Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2005 (SB 782) charged the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health (the Department) to establish the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative and to appoint and convene the Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel. In 2008, pursuant to Md. Ann. Code Health-General Art., §13-2201, the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative was renamed Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers (CHAMP). The CHAMP initiative was developed to provide expert consultation and training to local multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and child advocacy centers (CACs) in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse. The Department continues to provide an annual legislative report on the activities of the CHAMP Program, which include recruitment and training of healthcare professionals, and consultative support.

Child maltreatment is a common and serious public health concern. According to the Maryland Department of Human Services' Child Protective Services, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, there were 58,001 cases of alleged child abuse and neglect in Maryland. Child maltreatment results in significant morbidity, mortality, and costs. Due to the complex nature of child abuse and neglect investigations, multidisciplinary teams comprised of medical professionals, Child Protective Services staff, law enforcement, mental health providers, forensic interviewers, and victim advocates are used to enhance and improve investigations and responses for children and families. Multidisciplinary teams staff child advocacy centers, which are child-friendly facilities where children and families engaged in child abuse investigations can access services. The CHAMP program was developed to provide expert consultation and training to local and regional multidisciplinary teams in the diagnosis and treatment of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

During FY 2018 the Department's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) administered the CHAMP program through staff support of five CHAMP faculty members (see Appendix A) contracted to provide ongoing training, consultation, and case review to local providers. This report covers the FY 2018 activities of the CHAMP Initiative.

## **CHAMP Activities**

The CHAMP Initiative was administered by MCHB through individual contracts with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Frederick Memorial Hospital, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Chesapeake Health Education Program Inc., and XIFIN Inc. In FY 2018, the CHAMP Initiative maintained a faculty of five child abuse medical experts, and the faculty met quarterly to discuss future educational activities, recruitment of network providers (listed in Appendix A), and increasing child maltreatment prevention efforts. The CHAMP faculty provided educational and case review 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. CHAMP faculty provide case review to local providers via a secure, HIPAA-compliant program called XIFIN. Local CHAMP providers can upload case information and images to the secure website, which is accessible only to CHAMP faculty.

In FY 2018, CHAMP held three half-day provider continuing education events to review a variety of child maltreatment topics. These events included topics such as “Acute Examinations,” “Talking with Children: Lessons Learned from the Field of Forensic Interviewing,” and “Sexual Assault Examinations in the Adolescent Population: The Roles of FNEs and Victim Advocates.” Each educational event also included a case review session. The case review session is led by a faculty member and is an opportunity for providers to review and discuss suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. The case review session is particularly helpful for those who practice in low-volume jurisdictions and may not have opportunities to assess less common findings in a clinical setting.

CHAMP faculty members also provided quarterly reports on the number of cases reviewed through XIFIN (Appendix B). Additionally, Dr. Scott Krugman presented on child abuse topics at Georgetown University Department of Pediatrics, Child Welfare Academy, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and hosted a conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center. Dr. Howard Dubowitz presented at the University of Maryland Medical System on child abuse. Pamela Holtzinger, RN, conducted two adult and two pediatric forensic nurse examiner trainings.

## **Future Plans**

In FY 2019, the CHAMP faculty will again conduct three half-day educational activities, in October 2018, February 2019, and June 2019. As in the past, the faculty will provide case review support for local providers.

The CHAMP program will maintain its recruitment efforts throughout the State with support from MCHB staff. The CHAMP program will also continue to explore opportunities for child maltreatment prevention efforts.

## **Appendix A – CHAMP Faculty and Network Providers**

<b>CHAMP Faculty</b>	<b>Hospital Affiliation</b>
<b>Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS</b>	University of Maryland School of Medicine
<b>Mitchell Goldstein, MD, MBA</b>	Johns Hopkins Children’s Center
<b>Pamela Holtzinger, RN, FNE-A/P</b>	Frederick Memorial Hospital
<b>Scott Krugman, MD, MS</b>	Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
<b>Wendy Lane, MD, MPH</b>	University of Maryland School of Medicine

<b>CHAMP Network Providers</b>	<b>County Served</b>
<b>Paul Lomonico, MD</b>	Harford County
<b>Stephanie Sisler, MD</b>	Garrett County

## Appendix B – FY 2018 Quarterly Data

	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Number of Cases Reviewed</b>	31	63	110	86