

Maryland SCFRT Members

Akinwande Akintola, MD

A. LaToya Bates, LCSW-C

Julie Drake, Esq.

Nerita Estampador-Ulep, MD

Vice Chair

Mary Gentile, LCSW-C

Roger J. Lerner, Esq.

Richard Lichenstein, MD

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Laurel Moody, RN, MS

David Putsche

Albert Rolle, MD

Amanda Scott, JD

Marsha Smith, MD, MPH

Hal Sommers, MA

Anntinette Williams, LICSW

DHMH Advisors

Bonnie Birkel, CRNP, MPH

Lee Hurt, MS, MPH

Pam Putman, RN, MPH

Joan Stine, MHS, MS, CHES

S. Lee Woods, MD, PhD

DHMH Staff Support

Joan Patterson, LCSW-C

For Information contact Joan Patterson at (410) 767-6727 or [jpatterson@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:jpatterson@dnhm.state.md.us)

# Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)

## Maryland SCFRT Newsletter

### 2009 Legislative Updates:



**HB 303 Vehicle Laws – Teen Driver Safety** These laws increase the age of driving for teens which is one of the most effective aspects of the Graduated Drivers License (GDL). Learners permit may not be issued until the teen has reached 15 years 9 months, the Provisional License until the teen has reached 16 years 6 months and the full license to teens who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**HB 705 (CB – SB 862) Child Fatality Review – Child Death Case Review Reporting System** This bill allows us to use the National Computerized Child Fatality Review System and specifically authorizes access to identifiable information only to members and staff of the State team. It also authorizes the National Center for Child Death Review to access only de-identified information and requires the National Center for Child Fatality Death Review to act as a fiduciary agent of the state and local teams. This legislation was signed into law and will allow SCFRT to use the National Child Fatality Review System in Maryland



These 3 ATV Bills did not get out of committee:

**SB 548 (Cross bill HB 817) Vehicle Laws - All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) - Safety Standards and Training,**

**SB 547 (Cross bill HB 1169) All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) – Protective Equipment**

**SB 521 Vehicle Laws – Off Highway Recreational Vehicles – Titling**

**HB 144 (CF - SB 421) Social Services Admin. and DHMH—Parents Responsible for Child Abuse or Neglect—Birth of Subsequent Child**  
This bill was signed into law by Governor O'Malley on May 7. It requires the Secretary of DHMH to provide the Executive Director of Social Services Administration with birth record information for a child born to an individual who is identified as responsible for abuse or neglect



**HB 1079 Vehicle Laws—Mandatory Seat Belt Use— Enforcement**  
No action was taken on this bill that would limit a police officer to enforcing seat belt laws only as a secondary action when the police officer detains a driver for a suspected violation of another provision of the code. Maryland currently has a primary seat belt law which means that the motor vehicle can be stopped for only this infraction. Maryland scores high on seat belt use—91%, amongst the highest in the nation.

**SB 98 Vehicle Laws— Electronic Communications Safety Act** A [ban on text messaging by all Maryland drivers](#) was signed into law by the governor and becomes effective Oct. 1st. This law prohibits a person from using a text messaging device to write or send a text message while operating a motor vehicle in motion or in the travel portion of the roadway.

Other Cell Phone Bills will have to wait until next year's session.

### WELCOME to our new SCFRT members:

**A. LaToya Bates, LCSW-C**, Director of the Center for Infant and Child Loss, **Ling Li, MD**, Designee from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and **Vernice McKee, MSW**, Designee for the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources  
**Julie Drake, Esq.**, Designee for the State's Attorney, **Marsha Smith, MD, MPH**, Designee Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and **Joan Stine, MHS, MS, CHES**, Advisor, Director Center for Health Promotion

**Maryland SCFRT  
News  
Spring 2009**



**Upcoming Conferences:**  
**Maryland Suicide Prevention  
Conference October 7, 2009.**

**Next State CFR meeting  
September 16, 2009**



**Congratulations to new SCFRT  
Vice Chair, Nerita Estampador-  
Ulep, MD** announced at March 2009  
SCFRT meeting. Nerita is one of two  
SCFRT members representing the  
American Academy of Pediatrics.  
Nerita will be coordinating plans for  
the **SCFRT Annual Meeting** at the  
Maryland Department of Transporta-  
tion ... **Save the Date!!**

## Highlighting Local Child Fatality Review Teams

The newsletter will highlight the work of local child fatality review teams. If you have news to share, please contact the newsletter editors: Donna Mazyck at [dmazyck@msde.state.md.us](mailto:dmazyck@msde.state.md.us) or Laurel Moody at [lmoody@bcps.org](mailto:lmoody@bcps.org)

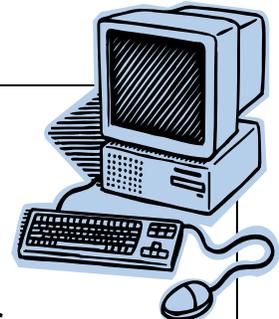
### Spring is here! Warm Weather and Open Windows

In the United States annually, approximately 4,000 children, mostly toddlers, fall out of windows. The Montgomery County Pediatric Window Falls Prevention Task Force was created in spring 2008 after several Montgomery County children under 5 years of age fell out of windows that had only screens and no protective mechanism i.e. bars or barricades. The mission of this group is to promote awareness about window safety during the spring and summer months as these are the times of the year when we hear about this preventable pediatric injury. A new bilingual brochure was created and is now being distributed throughout the community by our local team members. A traveling display board was created and this spring is being showcased in the Child Care Administration so that Licensed Child Care Providers are also receiving this education. Our goal is for no more children to fall out of windows this season. For more information about this topic, please contact Montgomery County's Health Promotion Program at

### State CFR Team Learns More About The National Child Death Case Review Reporting System

Teri Covington, Director of the National Center for Child Death Review met with members of the SCFRT at the May 12, 2009 quarterly meeting. Teri shared that the reporting system was first funded in 2002 when 30 people from 19 states met to determine essential data elements that could identify risk factors and "get to the heart" of child death review. The reporting system is housed with the Michigan Public Health Institute. Currently, 28 states are already using the National Reporting System and 55,000 deaths are entered. The database can produce 32 different standardized reports and can link to other national data information systems such as National Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting. These reports can be shared with county governments and other stakeholder groups to advance the efforts of preventing unnecessary childhood injury and death. Benefits of this reporting system include opportunities to strengthen local team reviews by targeting questions that should be asked as part of a comprehensive child death review. Once entered, cases can be edited as needed.

Our SCFRT is currently developing a training plan for local CFR teams. Once initial training has occurred, Teri states it takes "approximately 15 minutes to enter a case in the system. Despite the noticeable length of the database, there are several skip patterns throughout the program and not all fields require data input. To learn more about the National Child Death Case Reporting System go to [www.childdeathreview.org/](http://www.childdeathreview.org/).



### Have you visited the STATE CFR website lately?

[http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/cfr\\_home.cfm](http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/cfr_home.cfm)

It has been recently updated and is an excellent resource for the work of local teams. Includes Guidelines for Local CFR Case Review and Important Links to Related Resources: Center for Infant and Child Loss, National Center for Child Death Review and National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review. Check it out! Let us know what other information you would like to see on the website to enhance your team's efforts.