



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

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
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)
2019 Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel Legislative Report**

Dear President Miller and Speaker Jones:

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 2019.

If you have questions concerning this report, please contact me or my Chief of Staff Tom Andrews at 410-767-0136 or Thomas.andrews@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary



**Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Panel
(Maryland CHAMP)
Fiscal Year 2019 Report**

Health General Article §13-2205(d)

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 initiative, which include recruitment and training of health care 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) 2019, there were 59,527 cases of alleged child abuse and neglect in Maryland. Child maltreatment results in significant morbidity, mortality, and health care 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 CACs, which are child-friendly facilities where children and families engaged in child abuse investigations can access services. In Maryland, 24 local CACs respond to over 5,000 children each year for allegations of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and other maltreatment of children. The CHAMP initiative was developed to provide training and ongoing support to local providers, and expert consultation to local or regional CACs in the diagnosis and treatment of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

During FY 2019 the Department's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) administered the CHAMP initiative 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 2019 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 School of Medicine, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Chesapeake Health Education Program Inc., and XIFIN Inc. In FY 2019, the CHAMP initiative maintained a faculty of five child abuse medical experts. The faculty met quarterly to discuss future educational activities, recruitment of network providers (listed in Appendix A), and 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 online program called XIFIN. Local providers can upload case information and images to the secure website, which is accessible only to CHAMP faculty for review.

In FY 2019, CHAMP held four half-day continuing education events for health care providers to review a variety of child maltreatment topics. 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.

In FY 2019, the Department has also been working with Maryland Children's Alliance to conduct a statewide assessment of each CAC's resources for helping assess and address child maltreatment. Maryland Children's Alliance is a private nonprofit organization accredited by the National Children's Alliance as a State Chapter to serve as a convener of CACs across Maryland. The Maryland Children's Alliance plays a vital role in providing accreditation support and professional development for local member centers.

The statewide assessment, which will be completed in fall 2019, includes the following items:

- (a) CAC sources for funding and training medical providers;
- (b) Number of children served per CAC;
- (c) Number of exams performed per CAC;
- (d) Number of medical provider hours each CAC needs; and
- (e) CAC training needs for staff and medical providers.

Future Plans

In June 2019, the Department released a Request for Proposals to solicit applications from hospitals, academic centers, or other organizations with expertise in child abuse and neglect to administer the Maryland CHAMP initiative statewide and to ensure that all CACs in Maryland have access to medical evaluation providers and expert advice and support. The current individual contracts will remain in place until one institution is selected to administer the CHAMP initiative. Under this new contract, a CHAMP faculty will be maintained and the initiative will continue to recruit and train health care professionals as CHAMP providers. The initiative will also continue to provide educational activities, consultation and case review support to local providers, and to explore opportunities for child maltreatment prevention efforts. The selected contractor will provide quarterly reports of CHAMP activities to the Department.

Appendix A – CHAMP Faculty and Network Providers

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

CHAMP Network Providers	County Served
Paul Lomonico, MD	Harford County
Stephanie Sisler, MD	Garrett County

Appendix B – FY 2019 Quarterly Data

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of XIFIN Cases Reviewed	65	50	51	82