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Audrey Bergin  
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# Check up



WINTER 2017

## Home Health Workers' Response to Domestic Violence

On Dec .1, 2016 Phyllis Sharps, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Associate Dean at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing conducted a training on domestic violence geared towards home health workers. Health workers in the home have an unique opportunity to observe, assess and intervene with victims of domestic violence. Dr. Sharps described various types of abuse that occur in families (family violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence) and across the lifespan (child abuse, teen dating violence, elder abuse). Dr. Sharps also spoke to the various tactics an abusive partner uses and the impact on health. In addition to having an understanding of domestic violence, home

health workers could observe risk factors for family violence,



**Dr. Phyllis Sharps is a national expert on screening for violence during home visits, having developed the Domestic Violence Enhanced Visitation Program (DOVE).**

including individual, couple, community and societal factors. Asking screening questions in the home may be difficult as privacy is essential for safety of both the client and the worker. Dr. Sharps provided ways to introduce questions about abuse so the client is not offended or caught off guard, as well as strategies to maintain safety for both the patient and the worker.



## Legislative Updates

The Maryland General Assembly Session is underway, and the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence are in support of a bill entitled, Health Care Decisions Act – Advance Directives and Surrogate Decision Making – Disqualified Individuals. This bill would allow health care providers to deem certain individuals (Respondents to a Pro-

TECTIVE Order, or those separated or divorced from a patient who is incapable of making informed decisions) unable to make decisions about the health care of a patient despite the presence of prior advance directives. The goal is to prevent an abuser (spouse, intimate partner, family member, guardian) from making health care decisions for someone they may have abused or injured.



For more information on this and other bills impacting domestic violence victims:

Maryland General Assembly website:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence:

[www.mnadv.org](http://www.mnadv.org)

## Maryland Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Programs

### **Abuse and Domestic Violence Program**

Anne Arundel Medical Center  
2001 Medical Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(443) 481-1209  
Coordinator: Rae Leonard

### **Family Violence Program Sinai Hospital**

2401 W. Belvedere Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 601-8692  
Coordinator: Penny Green

### **Domestic Violence Program (DOVE) Northwest Hospital**

5401 Old Court Road  
Randallstown, MD 21133  
(410) 496-7555  
Manager: Audrey Bergin

### **Family Violence Response Program Mercy Medical Center**

301 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 332-9470  
Coordinator: Tania Araya

### **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center at Dimensions Healthcare Prince George's Hospital Center**

3001 Hospital Drive, Suite 3000  
Cheverly, MD 20785  
(301) 618-3154  
Coordinator: Karalyn Mulligan

### **SAFE Domestic Violence Program Greater Baltimore Medical Center**

6701 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21204  
(443) 849-3323  
Coordinator: Colleen Moore

### **University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center/Harford Memorial Hospital**

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource  
Center (SARC) Harford County  
410-836-8431  
Contact Person: Maura Burton

### **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program**

#### **MedStar St. Mary's Hospital**

25500 Point Lookout Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
240-434-7496  
Coordinator: Yvonne Dawkins

### **Domestic Violence & SAFE Programs Howard County General Hospital**

5755 Cedar Lane  
Columbia, MD 21044  
443-718-3127  
Coordinator: Joey Middleton

### **Domestic Violence Prevention Program R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center**

22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-328-9833

## Upcoming Seminar: Human Trafficking

The Coalition will be sponsoring a seminar on Human Trafficking on April 6th, by Dr. Joyce Williams, at the Maryland Hospital Association in Elkridge.

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor at Stevenson University and University of Maryland, and as a Forensic Nurse she was deployed as a member of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team to United Flight 93 following 9/11 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania in 2001 and also to Baton Rouge, LA in 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. With a long record of awards, publications, and much experience, Dr. Williams now serves on the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Victim Services Committee and is active in the development of medical protocols for victims and the education of emergency department personnel working with trafficked individuals.

For more information, see page 4.



## National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence

**FUTURES  
WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

Every two years the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence hosts the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence. The conference highlights the latest research and promising practices to advance the health care system's response to domestic and sexual violence, bringing together the field's leading medical, public health, and domestic

violence experts from across the United States and the world. Presenters and participants from across the globe will be in San Francisco for the next gathering, September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

For more information: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/national-conference-on-health-and-domestic-violence/>

## Retirement of the Coalition's Coordinator



Betsy Lehmann

After decades of dedication to the Maryland Health Care Coalition, Betsy Lehman has begun a well-earned retirement. Betsy worked as administrative staff for the Baltimore County Medical Association in 1996 and was assigned to their Violence Prevention Committee, out of which grew the idea for a group of health care providers to address domestic violence. She says, "People showed up! The room couldn't hold them all." The effort developed into the formal and independent Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1998, with Betsy on the Board of Directors. She has been proud to watch the Coalition grow all these years and appreciates input and support from so many, remembering the first President and the continuing support of MedChi. Betsy transitioned to serving as the Coalition's Coordinator around 2005, a role in which she served until her retirement in April of 2016. Since that time she has hardly slowed down. She is a docent at Ladew Topiary Gardens, she serves on the Board of the Harford County Historical Society and chairs their Hays House Museum, currently overseeing a project to catalogue historical textiles. She's a busy grandmother who sews, knits and gardens. Betsy has done so much to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Maryland health care community—kudos!!



## A Comprehensive Approach to Human Trafficking for Health Professionals

### This seminar will discuss:

- General indicators for victims of human trafficking
- Risk factors that make youth vulnerable to trafficking
- Impact of trafficking
- Screening tools
- Impact on physical and psychological health
- Roles of law enforcement, social workers, and health providers



### SOCIAL WORK CEUs

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners certifies that this program meets the criteria for 2 credit hours of Category I continuing education for social workers and associates. Provided by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Audrey  
MHCCADV@gmail.com

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Joyce P Williams, DNP, FAAN**

Assistant Professor,  
Nursing Graduate and  
Professional Studies,  
Stevenson University

### LOCATION

**Maryland Hospital Association**  
6820 Deerpath Rd. | Elkridge, MD  
21075

### PARKING & DIRECTIONS

Ample free parking is available. The far right door of the building is the closest entrance to the seminar location.

### REGISTRATION

Please register by **April 5, 2017** at:  
<https://htforhealthcare.eventbrite.com>  
Registration is free of charge.

# New VOCA Funding

The Health Care Coalition has been operating with minimal funding, mainly a small grant from the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). VAWA funding has been used to conduct a few trainings around the state on the health care response to domestic violence, and conduct three seminars a year on such topics as home health workers' response to domestic violence, stages of change, and children witnessing domestic violence. The Coalition has also used this funding to help establish and provide technical assistance to hospital-based domestic violence programs. VAWA funding also allows the Coalition to conduct an annual hospital-based program forum. The forum is an all day event for hospital-based domestic violence program staff to discuss topics specific to their work. In 2016, the forum focused on children witnessing abuse and

connections to Child Protective Services.

As of October 1, 2016 the Coalition received additional two-year funding through GOCCP from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This funding will allow the Coalition to provide more support around the state on a variety of health and domestic violence is-



**VOCA was passed in 1984, and uses fines and fees from federal criminal offenders for victim services.**

sues. The Coalition is working with the Johns Hopkins Health Systems (both downtown location and Bayview campuses) to assess their current response to domestic violence and implement possible improvements. The Coalition Coordinator will work on demographic variables for all hospital-based domestic violence programs to clearly and uniformly define and collect. Tracking outputs from the programs will allow us to see the scope of victims being served.

Finally, VOCA funding is being used to target trainings in "Health Enterprise Zones" (HEZs). The HEZs include Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, which will be targeted in the first year, and St. Mary's County and West Baltimore, which will be the focus of the second year. Each zone has a hospital-based domestic violence program to help assess where training is needed and facilitate presentation.



Maryland Health  
Care Coalition  
Against Domestic  
Violence

## Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1211 Cathedral Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-539-0872 or 800-492-1056 x3316

Email: [dvcoalition@medchi.org](mailto:dvcoalition@medchi.org)

<http://healthymaryland.org/public-health/domestic-violence/>

For more information on Domestic Violence or to join the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, please contact us at [dvcoalition@medchi.org](mailto:dvcoalition@medchi.org).

*Founded in 1998, the mission of the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership within health care in promoting a proactive and effective response to intimate partner violence through screening, identification, education, intervention and treatment of domestic violence victims.*

**Contact the Coalition for free training  
in your health care agency.**