

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone: 410-539-0872  
Fax: 410-727-5967  
dvcoalition@medchi.org

# Check Up



Maryland Health  
Care Coalition  
Against Domestic  
Violence

WINTER 2011

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## Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011

PRESENTED BY

**Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell**

Professor, Anna Wolf Chair  
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

**For complete details and reservation information,  
see form on page 4.**

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## Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence Receives Mary Byron Award

Congratulations to the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence whose Lethality Assessment Program-Maryland Model (LAP) was selected as one of four 2010 national recipients of the prestigious *Celebrating Solutions Award* given annually by the Mary Byron Project. The program was selected from over 300 entries throughout the U.S.

Since its beginning in 2005, the

Lethality Assessment Program-Maryland Model has grown to encompass 106 law enforcement programs and 20 domestic violence service providers statewide. The number of participating law enforcement agencies continues to increase daily throughout the state and nationwide. Jurisdictions in 11 other states across the country have implemented the LAP.

The Mary Byron Project was established in 2000 in memory of a young woman whose murder led to the use of automated crime victim notification technologies, created the *Celebrating Solutions Awards* to recognize local innovations that demonstrate promise in breaking the cycle of violence. Programs are selected that can serve as models for the nation and are awarded \$10,000.

“More than 4 million women each year in the United States are physically harmed by their husband, boyfriend or other intimate partner.... Women who have been abused may develop sleep disturbances, sexual dysfunction, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, and malnutrition, and they may attempt suicide.”  
*JAMA, August 5, 2010*



## Compendium of State Statutes and Policies

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) has published a concise review of laws and policies across the United States with regard to domestic violence. Promising and innovative practices along with suggestions for amending laws and regulations are included in the publication.

The Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence is pleased for its mission to be included as Maryland's public health

response. Other Maryland initiatives listed include fatality review statutes, denial of insurance discrimination, and mandatory reporting requirements. In Maryland, injury caused by domestic violence is generally confidential health information. Mandatory reporting in Maryland applies only to gunshot wounds or child or vulnerable adult abuse. For more information, see the Coalition brochure, *Confidentiality and Reporting Requirements in Maryland*.

A Guide for Health Care Professionals

### Confidentiality and Reporting Requirements in Maryland

Responding to Abuse and Neglect of Children, Intimate Partners and Vulnerable Adults



## Health Care Reform and Domestic Violence

The new health care law passed by Congress, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, includes several provisions of importance to domestic violence victims. Beginning in 2014, insurance companies, providers and programs that receive federal dollars are prohibited from denying coverage based on domestic violence history as a pre-existing condition. Before this, seven states had allowed insurers to deny coverage to domestic violence

survivors, and only 22 states had adequate insurance discrimination protection.

The new law has specific inclusions that aim to integrate violence and abuse protection into public health and adolescent health programs. One component includes funding to develop and implement best practices for addressing domestic violence during home nursing visits. According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund,

although up to 48 percent of women surveyed who received home visits reported incidents of domestic violence, few programs have been developed to address this issue. Because adolescent girls in abusive relationships are 3.5 times more likely to get pregnant than non-abused girls, healthy relationships is a topic suggested for inclusion in health programs and school-based curriculum about pregnancy prevention.

### Coalition Grants

Funding for this newsletter and other initiatives of the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence have been made possible through funding provided through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Recovery Act (VARA). Reprinting of brochures has been funded by a grant from the Herbert Bearman Foundation.

## Rape Reporting in Baltimore City

According to an audit recently presented to the Baltimore City Council, more than half of nearly 100 previously discarded rape reports have now been reclassified as rapes or other sex crimes. The Sexual Assault Response Team, a panel formed in June by Mayor-Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, with representation from police, prosecutors, and victim advocates from TurnAround, Inc. led the review. The need for comprehensive changes to the way police in Baltimore City handle rape claims has led to

the institution of new policies and personnel to ensure that all assault reports are referred to a specialized unit and can not be dismissed at the scene.

Statistics indicate that the new procedures are already having an impact. After a steep 10-year decline, reported rapes in Baltimore are up 20 percent since new policies have been instituted. Gail Reid, TurnAround advocate and Coalition board member, sees a posi-

tive change in the way claims of sexual assaults are being addressed by Baltimore police.

The Baltimore Police, State's Attorney's office, TurnAround, Mercy Medical Center and the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice have come together as part of the city SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) to improve the immediate and ongoing response to victims of sexual assault. The response is based on an approach that is

collaborative, in order to assure that victims who come forward to report sexual assault are treated with dignity and respect and that cases are full investigated. Assuring that victims of sexual assault have both access to and support throughout the criminal justice process is essential to efforts to reduce sexual violence in the community.

## Congress Reauthorizes Family Violence Legislation



Both houses of the U.S. Congress recently passed legislation reauthorizing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), which expired in 2008. This is the only federal program dedicated to supporting shelters, crisis lines and other local victim assistance programs across the country. Over 2,000 community-based domestic violence

programs provide emergency shelter to more than 300,000 domestic violence victims and their children each year.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year there are on average 1,200 deaths and two million injuries to women caused by intimate partner violence.

The U.S. Bureau of Statistics finds that four or five women are killed by their husbands or boyfriends each day in the United States.

## Training for Hospitals and Facilities

The Coalition and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence are partnering to offer trainings on domestic violence to health care personnel. Federal funding through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has allowed us to conduct these on-site trainings at hospitals and other health care facilities across the state. In 2010, over 500 health care professionals were trained statewide. If you would like to arrange a training on some aspect of domestic violence for your facility, call Amy Johnson at the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 301-352-4571 or Betsy Lehmann, Coordinator for the MD Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 410-592-8693.



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# Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence

## OBJECTIVES

- Understand the causes, types and symptoms of traumatic brain injury (TBI) for women abused by partners.
- Evaluate current data from women in Baltimore City abused by intimate partners in terms of probability of TBI.
- Learn ways to identify cognitive, behavioral and physical symptoms of TBI.
- Learn to screen and properly refer suspected cases of TBI.
- Learn strategies for working with patients with TBI.

## SOCIAL WORK CEUS



The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners certifies that this program

meets the criteria for 2 credit hours of Category II continuing education for social workers and associates. Provided by The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

## QUESTIONS

Please contact Betsy Lehmann at 410-592-8693, fax 410-727-5967, or email [dvcoalition@medchi.org](mailto:dvcoalition@medchi.org).

**Tuesday, January 25, 2011**  
**9:30 Refreshments and Networking**  
**10:00-12:00 Program**

PRESENTED BY

**Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor, Anna Wolf Chair  
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

## LOCATION

**MedChi,**  
**The Maryland State Medical Society**  
**1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201**

***Free parking is available in the church lot on Maryland Avenue across from MedChi.***

## REGISTRATION

**Please register by phone, email, or fax by January 18.**  
Registration is free of charge.

Name/Title/Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_