

(F) "MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM" MEANS A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS WITH EXPERTISE IN VARIOUS HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES WHO PROVIDE CONSULTATION, TREATMENT, AND PLANNING IN CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

13-2102.

(A) THERE IS A CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) ~~THE PURPOSE~~ PURPOSES OF THE INITIATIVE ~~IS~~ ARE:

(1) TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE STATE;

(2) TO RECRUIT LOCAL PHYSICIANS TO GAIN CLINICAL EXPERTISE IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT;

(3) TO DEVELOP AND GUIDE THE PRACTICE OF LOCAL OR REGIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS TO IMPROVE THE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATION OR A CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE;

(4) TO FACILITATE THE APPROPRIATE PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; AND

(5) TO PROVIDE EXPERT CONSULTATION AND TRAINING TO LOCAL OR REGIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH TELECONFERENCING AND ON-SITE SERVICES.

13-2103.

~~(A) THE INITIATIVE SHALL BE OPERATED, MANAGED, AND ADMINISTERED BY THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS.~~

~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COOPERATE AND ASSIST THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS IN OVERSEEING THE INITIATIVE.~~

13-2104.

THE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FACULTY SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET:

(1) ASSIST LOCAL AND REGIONAL JURISDICTIONS TO DEVELOP STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF LOCAL OR REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE;

(2) PROVIDE TRAINING AND CONSULTATION TO LOCAL OR REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT;