

A Beacon of Calm Amid the Waves of Grief



A close-up photograph of a beach covered in numerous seashells. Overlaid on the shells are numerous names of children, many of whom have passed away, serving as a powerful reminder of the center's focus on infant and child loss.

Names visible on the shells include:

- Kayla
- Christopher
- Jake
- Kylee
- Charles
- Breelyn
- Hannah
- Asia
- Bennie
- Celeste
- Emily
- Michelle
- Janet
- Elle
- Zachary
- Curt
- Mason Jaylin
- Mason Levi
- Isaiah
- Casey
- Grace L.
- Jordan
- Kaitlyn
- Parker
- Tylour
- Alexis
- Tyler
- Michael
- Grace M
- Kasyn
- Dillon
- Dennis
- Natalie
- Natasha
- Kenneth
- Mercedes


Center for Infant & Child Loss

University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

June 30, 2022

Delegate Mark S. Chang
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Chang,

I want to thank you for meeting with your constituents, who also happen to be bereaved parents and members of the Center for Infant & Child Loss (CICL), Advisory Board. That meeting resulted in your advocacy for CICL to receive funding supporting the organization's mission of providing grief counseling and support to Maryland families facing the sudden and unexpected death of their child. Although the State's budget that included CICL funding was approved in early 2021, CICL's funding was placed in a restricted funding category. After months of additional advocacy, the funding was finally released to CICL in February 2022.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) released the funding (\$117,799) to be used during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022. With the release of the funding came several scopes of work (deliverables) identified for CICL. This compendium was developed to demonstrate how CICL utilized the funding you fought so hard to assure was received.

CICL was able reestablish the Empty Arms Project ordering 200 bears to be packaged for shipment to hospital emergency rooms across the state of Maryland. Those bear packets are presented to a family member when their child dies in the emergency room. The funding also supported the distribution of Breelyn's Blankets to labor and delivery units at hospitals across the state.

CICL was able to host a Spring/Summer Training Series for professionals in the field that covered several topics including: Effective Maternal and Paternal Interviewing, Secondary Trauma in the Helping Profession, Stress Management, Depression: Hope Through Understanding and Treatment, Grief & Loss: Skills for Addressing Youth Grief.

In addition to the Summer Series, CICL hosted a 2-day Infant Safe Sleep & Bereavement Conference which included both professionals and bereaved parents. The topics focused on infant loss, reducing the risk of infant and child death, continuity in messaging across the state, and understanding grief and healing from the parent perspective. The evaluations from the conference tell the story of a well-informed one-of-a-kind blend of professionals and parents coming together to understand education and compassion in treating the parents of grieving children and the professional's role.

The attendance of both the Summer Series Seminars and Safe Sleep Bereavement Conference was over 1500 attendees. This was all done within a 5-month period. (February 15, 2022, thru June 30, 2022).

CICL also developed a tool, with the assistance of bereaved parents in the Infant Loss Support group. The Bereavement Tool Kit is available to first responders, front line workers, and even family members who are involved firsthand with parents who've experienced a loss. It is an information tool that provides context to what families are going through during the grieving process. It models a compassionate approach to grieving families while ascertaining relevant information about their child's death.

CICL was also able to fully restock the library of grief and bereavement materials (books, journals, manuals, and materials for siblings) that are mailed to families after a death. The Infant Safe Sleep posters and brochures (English & Spanish) were revised and prepared for hospital distribution. CICL's website and database, and Mission & Vision brochure were also updated. The monthly Infant Loss Support Group & Child Loss Support Group have been ongoing and will continue.

As the only legislatively appointed grief and loss program on the state's Child Fatality Review Team, CICL has honored the commitment of assuring that Maryland families facing the sudden and unexpected death of their infant or child have access to no cost bereavement intervention, counseling, and information based on best practices and current research. CICL is dedicated to the education and training of persons working in health and childcare, emergency response, law enforcement, and community services to raise awareness of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) and promote preventative measures and practices to reduce the risk of injury and death of infants and children.

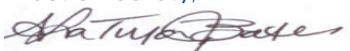
For over 40 years, CICL was annually funded with a grant from MDH. State funding was supplemented by fundraisers sponsored by CICL (Annual Golf Fundraiser, Annual Walk Fundraiser, and the Vegas Event). Since 1975 the grant awarded by MDH has generated approximately \$4.8 million dollars towards CICL's operating expenses to date. Since 1991 the annual fundraisers sponsored by CICL, or donations generated from families has supplemented CICL's bereavement and counseling support has generated approximately \$3.6 million dollars. In recent years, grant funding has been significantly reduced and fundraising dollars have decreased.

If CICL had an endowment of \$4 million dollars, the revenue from the endowment could generate the annual operating budget for the organization indefinitely. This endeavor would eradicate the worry each year of CICL's potential closure which would eliminate the grief and bereavement support services to families across the state. Revenue generated from annual fundraisers could be used to expand services rather than supplement operating expenses not received by the state to CICL, an organization providing needed services to Maryland's grieving families.

If an endowment currently is too ambitious, annual funding from the state would cover CICL operating expenses (approximately \$325,000 annually). Full funding of CICL from the state, would allow CICL to utilize fundraising expenses and annual donations to begin the process of establishing an endowment from within the organization. It would be a long-term mission that could ultimately generate a self-sustaining organization.

This compendium highlights CICL successes for families, made possible by the due diligence from CICL's Advisory Board, the University of Maryland's School of Medicine, and legislative support. Despite all efforts, on July 1, 2022, full funding was denied by MDH even though CICL met every deliverable established in the Inter Agency Agreement. It is our mission to continue the work of CICL established 45 years ago. We can not continue our work, hire staff, and meet organizational objectives without state funding. The Center for Infant & Child Loss is a small organization that does huge things.

Most sincerely,



A.LaToya Bates, MSSA, LCSW-C

CICL, Director, Bereavement Counselor, and Events Coordinator

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET 2021

...provided that \$117,799 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be used only to provide additional grant funding for the Center for Infant and Child Loss under the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus Department of Pediatrics. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts administrative funding to restore the grant to the Center for Infant and Child Loss under the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus Department of Pediatrics to the prior funding level of \$137,799.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
655 W. Baltimore Street, Suite 14-029
Baltimore, MD 21201-1559

December 17, 2021

Dear Dr. Reece,

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of Health Dennis Schrader's office regarding the Center for Infant and Child Loss (CICL). The Secretary's office reviewed your correspondence and asked me to respond as the most appropriate unit in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to answer your questions.

The Center for Infant and Child Loss has a history of providing important bereavement and interventions to Maryland families. Members of MDH's Child Fatality Review and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Teams have referred families to this important service.

MDH's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) values CICL's important work and is pleased to award \$117,799 to CICL for State Fiscal Year 2022 (through June 30, 2022) to provide resources for bereaved families and enhance the MCHB's efforts to reduce infant and child mortality. MCHB staff will contact CICL staff for the next steps in the award process.

Thank you again for your correspondence and sharing your concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at Shelly.Choo@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Jinlaine Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services

cc: Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Courtney McFadden, MPH, Deputy Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Admin
Shelly Choo, MD, MPH, Director, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

201 W. Preston Street - Baltimore, MD 21201 · health.maryland.gov · Toll Free 1-877-463-3464 · Deaf and Hard of Hearing Use Relay



February 11, 2022

E. ALBERT REECE, MD, PhD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine
655 West Baltimore Street, 14-029
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www.medschool.umaryland.edu

Latoya Bates, MSSA, LCSW-C
Director, Center for Infant and Child Loss
Department of Pediatrics

Dear Latoya,

I am writing to personally thank you for your incredible hard work and diligence in serving as the Director for the Center for Infant and Child Loss (CICL) for the past 13 years. I am so glad that all our efforts were able to convince the Maryland Department of Health of the critical importance of the work the CICL does, and to show that support with the \$118,000 funding. I am hopeful that the funding will be renewed in July as well.

With greatest gratitude and appreciation for your leadership and service to the Center for Infant and Child Loss, and to the many Maryland residents who receive your support when they so desperately need it.

Thanking you kindly.

Sincerely,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

cc:
Steven Czinn, MD
Kevin Kelly, JD
Tony Bibbo

DENTISTRY • LAW • MEDICINE • NURSING • PHARMACY • SOCIAL WORK • GRADUATE STUDIES
The Peabody Hall is the historical symbol of the University of Maryland School of Medicine - America's oldest public medical school, founded in 1807.

EMPTY ARMS PROJECT

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



For 11 years the Cockerham's hosted the Annual SIDS Annual Bull and Oyster Roast. This event was a family affair that took place on the second Saturday in October. It was established in loving memory of Chip and Sharon's son, Jonathan Cockerham who died of SIDS in 1996. The committee was made up of Sharon's sisters, Donna and Sandi, their mother Margaret and a host of other family and friends committed to raising awareness. Over the years this event not only raised more than \$70,000 for CICL, it helped to heal many hearts but has supported bereaved parents through the Center's Empty Arms Project.

A stuffed bear wearing a ribbon imprinted with CICL's toll-free number, and a card giving suggestions for coping in the next few hours and days is given to the newly bereaved upon leaving a hospital emergency department. An average of three to six empty arms bears are given per request to emergency rooms when available. The average per year is 40 to 50 based on availability.

Our families are the heart and soul of this organization.



Center for Infant & Child Loss

Hi there,

8-18-2022

I received your contact information from Cory Keffer, a Child Life Specialist at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Back in 2016, my two children were each given a special teddy bear in the pediatric emergency department at AAMC. The first photo attached below is what original bear looked like. The brand was First and Main.

My youngest daughter became extremely attached to her bear, as it represented her little sister (whom we lost that day).

She lost bear in 2018 while we were moving. Several boxes didn't arrive at our new home, and unfortunately my daughter's box of stuffed animals was one of the boxes that never was located. Four years later and she still misses bear dearly.

I've searched eBay religiously since, but I have never been able to find this bear. I contacted AAMC in 2018 and spoke with Kellie Matters, the Child Life Specialist who cared for my kids during our ER visit. She was helping me search, but I assumed the hospital no longer had these bears because I never received an update from her. Come to find out, she did reply to me and was able to locate the bear, however the message went into my spam folder, and I didn't physically see it until the other day (while I was looking for something else)! Ugh!!

Can you please let me know if you still have these bears, and if you could help me replace it for my daughter?

Thanks,

Lori Ann

8-29-2022

Look who's here!!

I have a very happy little girl. Thank you so much Latoya.

She also loved the pink bracelets. Very thoughtful of you.

Thanks again for all of your help!!

- Lori Ann

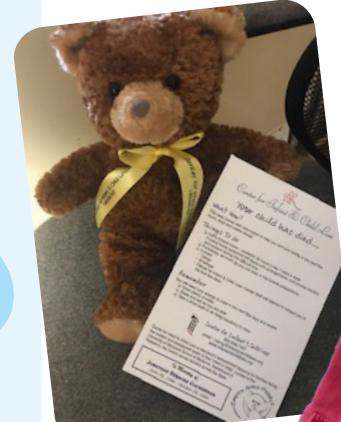
LaToya,

8-22-2022

This is amazing news! Thank you so much for sharing this update with me, and for helping this family to reunite with their beloved bear. It sounds like this is an incredibly meaningful bear for them, and I am so glad to hear that this mom will be able to provide this replacement for her daughter. I appreciate your time, and your efforts in tracking down this bear. Lori Ann shared with me that you went to great lengths to search for it, and I know that she is so appreciative.

Best,

Cory



BREELYN'S BLANKET BRIGADE



The handmade blankets are delivered to emergency room and labor & deliver units across the state for babies and small children that have died to be wrapped in and presented to their parents. To date hundreds of blankets have been delivered to many hospitals across the state of Maryland. Breelyn's parents wanted other parents to receive their children in love and care the way they received Breelyn after she died. Thank you Summer for this beautiful tribute in loving memory of your daughter.



 Center for Infant & Child Loss

In June of 2016, our baby Breelyn unexpectedly died. When we were able to see her at the hospital, she had been covered in a hand made blanket. Seeing that blanket let us know that others were able to show love when we weren't there to do so. I was fixated on the blanket and the love, energy, and effort that it symbolized.

Our blanket mattered so much to me and I learned that my young niece Rose could crochet so I figured that I could learn too. I made my first squares and challenged others to do the same. People send me squares, blankets, quilts, and supplies. I've received squares from 5 and 6 year old siblings in CA who were earning community service hours. A TX woman sent me a blanket and a note on how, on her mother's deathbed, she was still missing her baby that had died. A man in prison in OH made a blanket in honor of his son David who had died of cancer. A woman in WA sent me a blanket that had been intended for her future family that she ended up not having. Numerous middle, junior, and high school classes have learned to crochet in order to make squares and blankets. I receive blankets from all over the US and Canada.

We've been able to place hundreds of blankets because the Center for Infant and Child Loss handles distribution to Maryland hospitals for the unexpected deaths of children. When a death is anticipated/expected, a parent can prepare and bring their own special items for their child. When an unexpected death occurs, there is no time to grab that love item, and thanks to the Center for Infant and Child Loss, Breelyn's Blanket Brigade is there with a blanket to cover the sweet child and show love and support.

Each blanket is labeled... Made with love by Breelyn's Blanket Brigade. And, having received my own blanket once upon a time, I know just how much love comes from each of these blankets. And I know that each blanket makes a difference in the worst of moments and CICL makes the blanket placement possible. I'm so grateful to CICL for helping me to reach parents just like me.


Summer Porter

Founder- Breelyn's Blanket Brigade)

Good afternoon,

Our mission in the MCH unit is to serve as a hospital support, identify any barriers to the mother and child's wellbeing, and provide outpatient resources for mothers and babies. The social worker and I are currently in the beginning phase of brainstorming ways to host a MCH resource fair and invite community resources to provide education and information to our hospital community at St. Agnes.

I am very interested in the work that you all do at Center of Infant and Child loss. I wanted to know do you all attend community events to distribute resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

(Ascension St. Agnes)

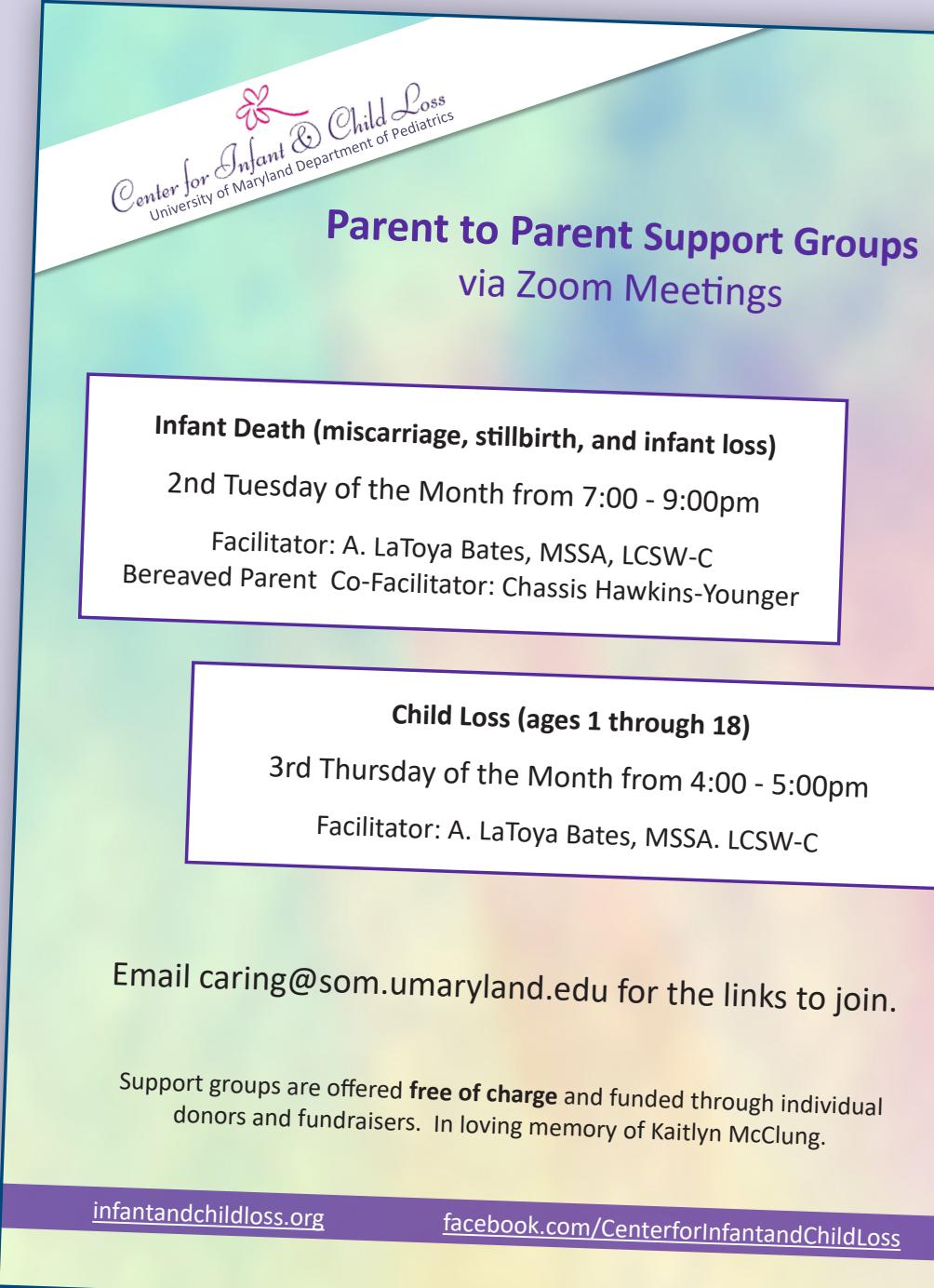
INFANT & CHILD MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP

Dear Delegate Chang:

My name is Chassis Hawkins-Younger, and I am the co-facilitator of the monthly infant loss support group with LaToya Bates. As a mom whose first child died at 37 weeks gestation, I cannot stress how important it is to have a parent-to-parent support group to go to while navigating your emotions and your life after loss, while navigating your grief and your journey of healing. It's comforting to have a free, safe, non-judgmental space to express and work through your feelings while being there for someone else who's journey may have been different, but their result was also the same as yours. The support groups held by CICL provide bereaved parents with a village, they provide a community. Surviving and finding a new way to thrive after a traumatic experience like the loss of a child is heavy, and that weight is made just a tiny bit lighter when you know that you're not isolated. Having a support group means that you're not in it alone. I'm grateful for the help that I've gotten from it and for the opportunity to help support others. It's immeasurable.

Best,

Chassis Hawkins Younger
cmh5390@gmail.com



The flyer features a blue and green gradient background. At the top left is the logo for the Center for Infant & Child Loss, University of Maryland Department of Pediatrics, featuring a stylized flower icon. The main title "Parent to Parent Support Groups via Zoom Meetings" is centered in large purple text. Below this, two sections are outlined in purple boxes: "Infant Death (miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss)" and "Child Loss (ages 1 through 18)". Each section includes the meeting day and time, facilitators, and a bereaved parent co-facilitator. At the bottom, it says "Email caring@som.umaryland.edu for the links to join." and provides information about support group funding.

Center for Infant & Child Loss
University of Maryland Department of Pediatrics

Parent to Parent Support Groups
via Zoom Meetings

Infant Death (miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss)
2nd Tuesday of the Month from 7:00 - 9:00pm
Facilitator: A. LaToya Bates, MSSA, LCSW-C
Bereaved Parent Co-Facilitator: Chassis Hawkins-Younger

Child Loss (ages 1 through 18)
3rd Thursday of the Month from 4:00 - 5:00pm
Facilitator: A. LaToya Bates, MSSA. LCSW-C

Email caring@som.umaryland.edu for the links to join.

Support groups are offered **free of charge** and funded through individual donors and fundraisers. In loving memory of Kaitlyn McClung.

infantandchildloss.org facebook.com/CenterforInfantandChildLoss

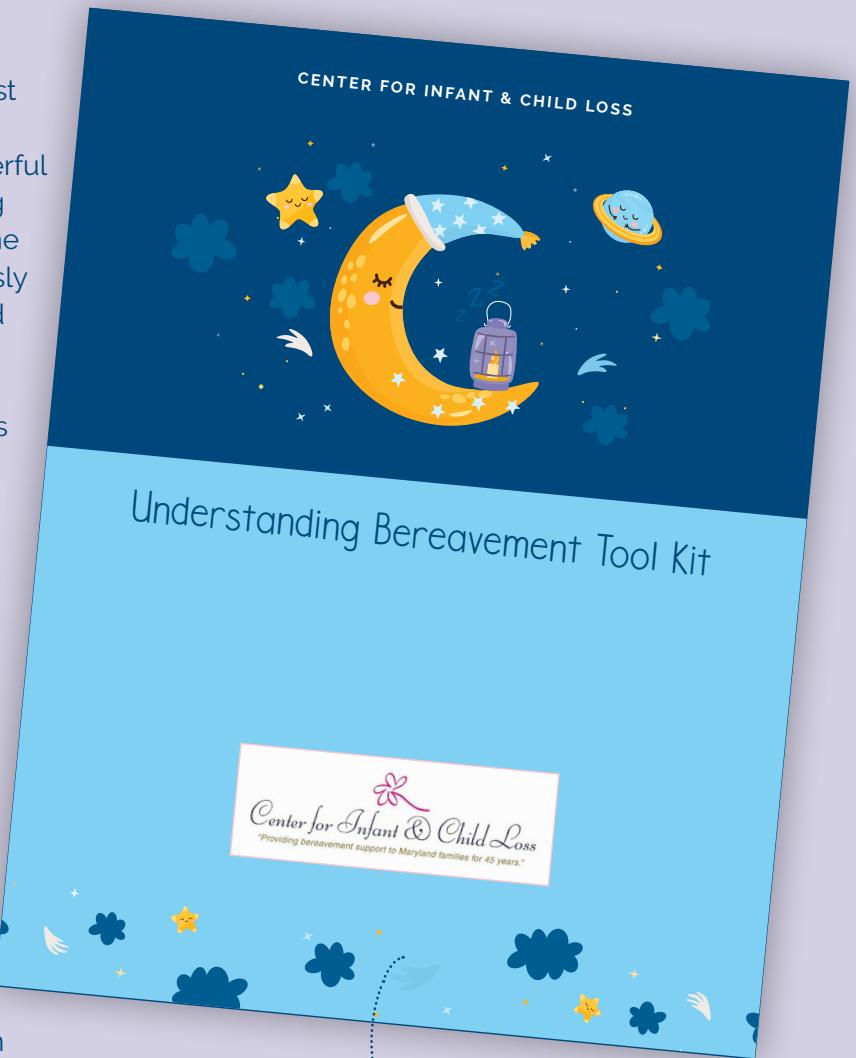
BEREAVEMENT TOOL KIT

The support group from CICL has been a lifeline for me in the moments of my greatest grief and (as rays of light and healing broke through my grief-clouds over time) a wonderful opportunity to honor Celeste's life in sharing my progress with others. I look forward to the meetings every month and feel tremendously blessed to have found this space. I had tried several other support groups before finding CICL's format to be the best. I love the co-facilitation structure that LaToya and Chassis have which blends both LaToya's clinical skill and Chassis's personal experience and is very focused on centering the present challenges and successes of bereaved parents. I always walk away feeling heard, feeling supported, and with a new thought/resource/perspective.

I was honored to be able to contribute to the bereavement toolkit. I believe that the final product will be an invaluable resource for a wide range of community members across the state: providers and first responders, family members and friends, parents and partners. It offers both evidence-based and experience-based information about trauma and grief in an easy to read and digest format.

Best,

Sarah DeMaio



*Click here to
review the full
document*

INFANT SAFE SLEEP & BEREAVEMENT CONFERENCE

Ms. LaToya Bates did a superb job of setting a positive and interactive tone to the conference by her facilitating the presentations in an organized manner, and making real good use of the Q&A and Chat functions.

Alexander A. Goodwill, MSW,
LICSW/ DC Child and Family
Services Agency

I appreciate the info for creating space for those grieving and info on impact vs Intent. I also appreciated info on Compassion and Companionship with those we support in their grief journeys. Also enlightening was the info on how men grieve in depth. Maybe the next conference could have a separate day just to talk more about how men grieve vs. women and include some activity ideas that dads/men could do to help them through their grieving journey. Thank you to all presenters and attendees. And a big thanks to Ms. Latoya for her dedication and support to so many families.

Absolutely amazing conference. I learned so much new and refreshing information on a very challenging topic. I look forward to sharing the information with our team and coming to the next conference.

I appreciated the organization of the conference that began with a review of the data analysis and overview of safe sleep. I also appreciated the historical review. The difference between SIDS and SUID was very useful as well as Best Practice reminders included in all presentations. Tom's presentation was very enlightening as information and conversations around men's grieving is often overlooked. Dr. White's presentation on Building Resiliency after Loss was an excellent conclusion to the conference with info on healing, self care and risk reduction.

INFANT SAFE SLEEP & BEREAVEMENT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:
A Public Health Discussion of Infant Safe Sleep and the Parent Perspective of Grief and Loss.



June 22 - 23, 2022
9:00am until 12:00pm
both days

Register at this Eventbrite Link:
[Center for Infant & Child Loss](#)
Providing bereavement support to Maryland families for 45 years

6 free CEUs in Category 1 Social Work Available
Courtesy of Kayla's Village

This conference is made possible by a grant from the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

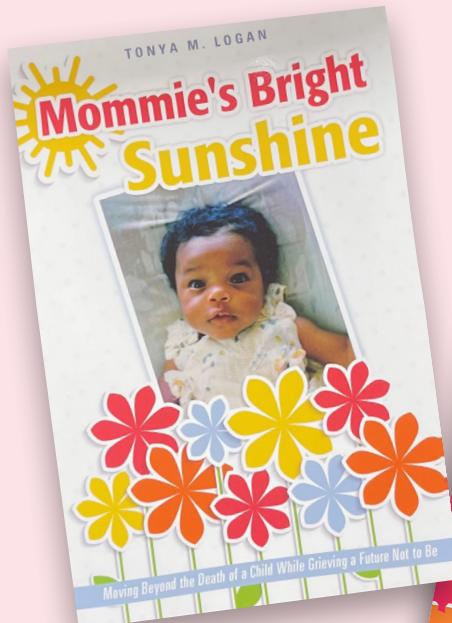
This virtual conference was unlike any conference I've ever been to! The information given came from a community focused point of view that is something I really appreciated, doing the work that I do and working with mothers and families in marginalized communities. Thank You.

CICL SPRING/SUMMER TRAINING SERIES

I have been involved with the Center for Infant and Child Loss (CICL) soon after my daughter, Kayla, died on September 6, 1996. I am now a member of the Advisory Committee as I want to share my testimony with others and offer encouragement as bereaved parents navigate their journey toward healing. I was the facilitator of the Bryan Palmer bereavement groups which was orchestrated through the partnership with CICL and have filled in for Joani Horchler when she was unavailable to facilitate CICL's bereavement groups. As a way to let others know I strive to move beyond trials, tragedy, and trauma rather than simply engaging through "textbook learning," I have conducted seminars on the topics of depression, stress management, and grief and loss for parents and professionals. I am infinitely grateful to CICL for its ongoing support and connection via the annual walk, golf tournament, and memorial service as well as the compassionate expertise of LaToya Bates as executive director. When I became connected to CICL, there was a staff of four. Mrs. Bates does a remarkable job with maintaining services as the solo staff member. The newsletter shares valuable information and helps us all to focus on the positives such as "safe passages" of children born after the devastating loss of a beloved child. My prayer is that CICL will continue to thrive and expand which will not be possible if funding is withdrawn. I would hate to imagine where I would be without this invaluable resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya M. Logan
LICSW, LCSW-C



CICL SPRING/ SUMMER TRAINING SERIES:

Center for Infant & Child Loss

CICL is offering a series of trainings for social workers, case managers, nurses, clinicians, parents, and community health providers working with vulnerable populations. The workshop series will offer social work theory and methods designed to enhance the knowledge of professionals working with parents, children and families in their practice/position.



Tonya M. Logan, LICSW and LCSW-C, has over 27 years of professional clinical experience working with those managing conflict and trauma. A native Washingtonian, she holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Ms. Logan spent the bulk of her career in DC and Maryland, working with biological parents and foster parents by securing permanency whether via reunification, adoption or independent living. She was the clinical director of a program which provided in-home services to families at risk of abuse and/or neglect in an attempt to strengthen and stabilize families so they would be diverted from the child welfare system. Ms. Logan transitioned to being the supervisory social worker in a non-public school for students.

STRESS MANAGEMENT* — MAY 12, 1:30-2:30

This comprehensive and interactive seminar will enable all participants to define trauma and mental health based on social work theory. The various types of stress, its effects, and symptoms will be discussed specific to managing healthy and unhealthy stressors to establish a balanced life. Take-away strategies will be discussed and practiced.

To register for Stress Management click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-tickets-336656768457>

DEPRESSION: HOPE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND TREATMENT* — MAY 23, 1:00-2:00

This presentation will incorporate social work theory and methods when identifying causes and symptoms of depression. This seminar is designed to underscore the impact of depression upon the human spirit while emphasizing the potential healing power of certain strategies to reduce or eliminate this form of suffering. Participants will be empowered to consider the differences when an adult or a teen is affected while working to alleviate the devastating disease of depression.

To register for Depression: Hope through Understanding and Treatment click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-tickets-336694623677>

GRIEF AND LOSS: SKILLS FOR ADDRESSING YOUTH GRIEF* — JUNE 20, 9:30-12:30

Grief and loss have many facets when observed in youth. For them, these difficult moments can be voluminous. How and where do we talk about the sudden death or terminal diagnoses of their loved ones? We will expound on the definitions of grief, loss, bereavement, and mourning. Using evidence based social work theory, we will explore the various developmental differences and responses to normal versus complicated grief.

To register for Grief and Loss: Skills for Addressing Youth Grief click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-tickets-336694623677>

* Free Social Work Category 1 CEU (1 hour), May 12 - Free Social Work Category 2 CEU (1 hour), May 23
Free Social Work Category 1 CEU's (3 hours), June 20

 This webinar series is made possible by a grant from the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

My name is Mita Vogel and I am a career child welfare social worker who has had the honor and privilege of both working with- "training for" the CICL as well as using the CICL as a referral source for families who are dealing with the loss of a child. While I can speak to the outstanding, life saving work that the CICL is doing for families, I would like to speak specifically to the irreplaceable and essential work that the CICL does to make professionals in the field better at their jobs of helping families keep their children safe.

Work place training is time consuming and expensive. It is also often done under the guise of "making workers aware" but not "making sure they are aware and they can actually use the information" or as a means to provide an accountability of "we told you about this so make sure you do it this way". That may be fine for those who make widgets, but as professionals who are in the field of working with children and families, good training must give the workforce involved not only knowledge, but actionable skills. This is not as easy.

The CICL, and more directly LaToya, delivers on this - again and again. Even more succinctly, LaToya holds trainers to this expectation and she gets it, she welcomes it, she nurtures it, she demands it. This is how good training happens and why the training done by the CICL is so needed for professionals all over the state.

Training these professionals- that by the way are not staff of the CICL but instead a general workforce from all over Maryland, DC and Northern Virginia, is essential. The CICL offers essential training to multiple disciplines and delivers knowledge and SKILLS to a professional workforce that can use this knowledge and these skills immediately to help families in multiple jurisdictions- the impact is absolute. The CICL expects this and LaToya is cognizant that awareness of an issue is only half of the equation- giving professionals the skills to take awareness and create actionable work with a family is what real training is about and it how children and families are actually helped.

For example- In a training I delivered for CICL, I discussed the points of Safe Sleep and how to work with families about them- I used the outstanding, knowledge based video created by the CICL about Safe Sleep and then in the training worked through how to actually deliver that information and asses if a family was understanding the information and how to work with them around implementing the Safe Sleep practices for the babies that need to sleep safely. This is information operationalized in a way that is actionable and assessable focusing on skill building of the professional as well as skill use of the family.

Mita Vogel
LMSW, Bereaved Parent



CICL SPRING/ SUMMER TRAINING SERIES:

Center for Infant & Child Loss
A National Resource Center for Families and Professionals

CICL is offering a series of trainings for social workers, case managers, nurses, clinicians, parents, and community health providers working with vulnerable populations. The workshop series will offer social work theory and methods designed to enhance the knowledge of professionals working with parents, children and families in their practice/position.

Carmita (Mita) Vogel, LMSW, received her BA in psychology from Northern Vermont University and her MSW from SUNY Stony Brook with a Planning, Administrator and Research concentration.

Over the course of her career her primary focus has been working with and for children and families and the agencies that serve them. This experience has included residential treatment clinician with dually diagnosed children and adults, child protective services and continuing services, mandated treatment program development and facilitation for physically abusive parents, teenage mothers, and babies, and middle and high school substance abuse assessments. She also has worked extensively in the field of forensics with adult populations and has been a trainer and curriculum developer for statewide training of child welfare programs.

Ms. Vogel has also been an Adjunct Faculty at University of Maryland SSW and Towson University and has presented at the local and national level.

JUNE 7TH 1:30 TO 2:30 PM
Infant Safe Sleep Risk Factors: What does the research say and how do we put that information to use when working with families?

There is much information and recommendations related to infant safe sleep presented to families at various stages of pregnancy and post birth; however, is it presented in a way that families can actually use? This training will take a look at risk factors associated with Infant Safe Sleep and provides recommendations based on social work theory and current research. Communication techniques will be highlighted when talking to families about infant safe sleep, while honoring familial factors such as culture, socioeconomic situations, and intergenerational input.

To register for Stress Management click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-free-social-work-ceus-tickets-34479342547>

JUNE 14TH 1:30 TO 2:30 PM
Best Practices in Maternal and Paternal Interviewing

When working with families involved in various circumstances related to child welfare, it is important to be aware of roles of parents. Practitioners should strive to conduct interviews with compassion, detail, and accuracy to allow parents be efficient story tellers. Creating a calm atmosphere, establishing a professional, yet positive rapport, can only enhance the interview process. This training will focus on clinical/social work methods most effective when conducting parent interviews.

To register for Depression: Hope through Understanding and Treatment click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-free-social-work-ceus-tickets-34482334907>

JUNE 28TH 1:30 PM TO 2:30 PM
Secondary Trauma in the Helping Profession- What do I do with this?

This session will discuss secondary trauma from a perspective that is not just about self-care. Using various methods of defining and understanding secondary trauma, this training will offer tools to reframe secondary trauma and provide resources to help attendees' process trauma, manage it, and establish appropriate coping methods and balance for a stronger career and healthier lifestyle. This TRAINING IS NOT CEU ELIGIBLE.

To register for Grief and Loss: Skills for Addressing Youth Grief click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cicl-springsummer-training-series-free-social-work-ceus-tickets-344834819227>

This webinar series is made possible by a grant from the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BEREAVEMENT MATERIALS FOR FAMILY GRIEF PACKETS

In the first days and weeks and months after losing Casey I was, of course, a complete mess. I had many people around for support, some of which I have already mentioned. There were, of course, a few people who stood by me either physically or emotionally that were very low key and very helpful for this very reason. These friends, Roni, Juliet and Stephanie were my saviors of sanity.

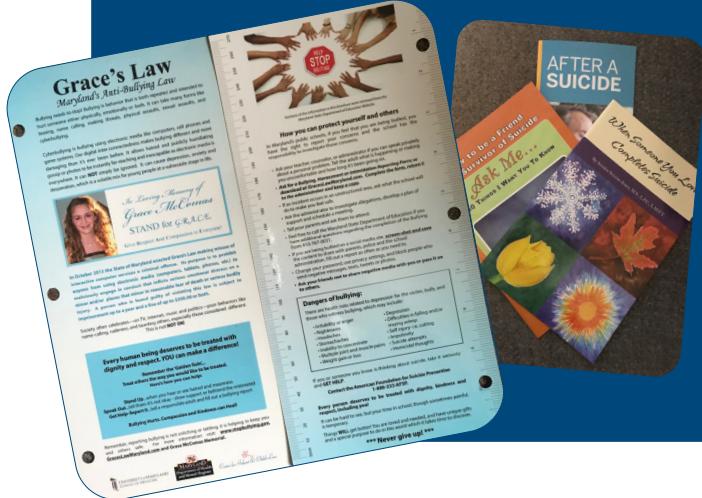
Roni and Juliet have been my best friends for years. Stephanie is a mother I was connected with through the Center for Infant & Child Loss. I say they were the saviors of sanity because in such an insane time, they were able to ground me and keep me calm.

One of the first things I wanted to do when I lost Casey was talk to another mother who lost her child. I thought somehow she could tell me what to do, how to act, how to go on, something that would help me not be so lost. For some reason speaking to someone who has already gone through what I am going through was imperative. Stephanie gave me the kind of support only another mother who lost a child could give. I looked to her as my mentor and guide through this dark and awful time. She let me know that I could call or text her any time of the day or night if I wanted to talk about anything at all. Not only was she helpful to me in the very beginning, but she was there for every one of my "firsts" and all of the questions I had.

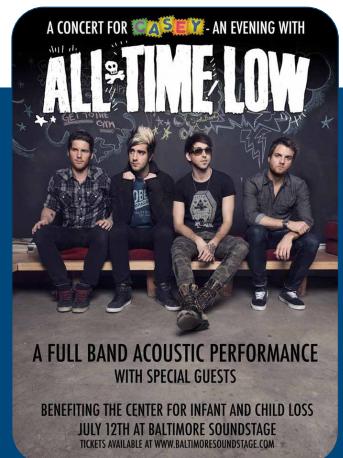
Cody Leavitt



SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE



With the rise in suicide among young children, full funding would allow CICL to update the anti-bullying rulers for high schoolers and create an age-appropriate version of the ruler for middle schoolers. This initiative falls in line with the increasing mental health crisis among youth.



INFANT SAFE SLEEP BROCHURES

Always remember the ABCDs of safe sleep by placing your baby on their Back in a Crib and remember Don't smoke around your baby.

For more information call, 410-706-5089

Your baby has finally arrived. Congratulations!

Keep Your Baby Safe and Healthy!

Follow the tips in this brochure to help your baby grow and stay healthy and happy!

Until their first birthday, babies should sleep on their back for all sleep times - naps and at night in a crib, bassinet, pack n play.

Place your baby into your bed to sleep or comfort. Place your baby back in their own sleep space when you are to go to sleep.

Nursing is not recommended for any Keeping baby in the same room you sleep for the first 6 months, or for the first year is recommended IDC.

Babies have a lower risk of SIDS if they are breastfed. AAP recommends breastfeeding as the source of nutrition for your baby about 6 months. After you add solids, continue to breastfeed until 12 months or longer.

*The Consumer Product Safety Commission urges parents to ONLY use sleep products that meet federal safety standards for sleep. <http://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2012/american-academy-of-pediatrics-advises-sleep-recognition-meeting-back-to-best/>

Do not smoke during pregnancy or after your baby is born. Keep your baby away from places where people smoke - even outside.

Make sure your baby has supervised tummy time while awake every day. It will help strengthen the muscles in his neck and shoulders for when he learns to turn over.

It is fine to swaddle your baby until they start trying to roll over. However, make sure that baby is always on his or her back when swaddled - not too tight that could make it hard to breathe or move their hips. Weighted swaddle products are not recommended.

Schedule and go to all well-child visits. Your baby will receive important immunizations at these doctor visits.

Try giving a pacifier at nap time and bedtime. This helps reduce the risk of SIDS, even if it falls out after the baby is asleep. If you are breastfeeding, wait until breastfeeding is going well before offering a pacifier.

Si bebé finalmente ha llegado, ¡Felicitaciones!

Haga que el tiempo para dormir sea un tiempo seguro

Siempre coloque su bebé *solo*, de espaldas y en una cuna.

El lugar más seguro para que su bebé duerma o descansé es solo, en una plástica/manta cubierta en una cuna, amamantando en una cama portátil para pasar la noche o tomar siestas. Colocar a su bebé de espaldas reduce el riesgo de muerte infantil súbita.

Mantener la cuna del bebé libre de almohadas, mantas, bordes acolchados, elementos que ayuden al bebé a dormir en determinada posición, y de juguetes de peluche.

Las superficies blandas pueden provocar asfixia. Asegúrese de que la cabeza del bebé permanezca descubierta.

Unicef recomienda que el cojín firme que encaje perfectamente en la cuna.

De esta manera el bebé no quedará atrapado entre el cojín y el lado de la cuna.

Utilizar un chupete/chupito limpio y seco al poner al bebé a dormir (hasta los 12 meses).

Si usted está amamantando a su bebé, espere hasta que su niño tenga un mes de edad o esté acostumbrado a ser amamantado, antes de utilizar el chupete.

Cree una zona libre de humo alrededor de su bebé

Fumar puede aumentar el riesgo de muerte infantil súbita y problemas respiratorios.

Proporcionar a su bebé "tiempo boca abajo" mientras él está despierto y usted lo supervisando.

Eso le ayudará a fortalecer los músculos del cuello y los hombros para cuando aprenda a darse la vuelta.

Visite a su bebé con una bolsa de dormir y un mamecito y así lo dormirá más caliente.

Los pediatras recomiendan utilizarlos en lugar de usar mantas. Estar demasiado cubiertos puede causar sobrecalentamiento.

Cuando viaje, asegúrese que su bebé tenga un lugar seguro para dormir.

Amamante a su bebé.

Le ayuda a su bebé a estar saludable y reduce el riesgo de muerte infantil súbita.

Información llamar al 410-706-5089

¡Manteniendo a su bebé seguro y saludable!

¡Siga estos consejos de este folleto para ayudar a su bebé a crecer y mantenerse sano y feliz!

**Center for Infant & Child Loss
Providing support to parents in Maryland whose babies die before age 1.**

University of Maryland School of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics, Division of Community Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine

737 W. Lombard St., Room 233, Baltimore, MD 21201

410-706-5089

www.infantandchildloss.org

Gina Marie Lecceophoto Photography

INFANT SAFE SLEEP POSTERS

“

Hi Jean, Thanks for reaching out to me. I would like one of each of the two posters for safe sleep please. Also, If I could get 100 of the Share Your Room not your Bed in English and 25 in Spanish that would be great. Also, let's do 50 of the general safe sleep one in English as well.

Thanks so much!

Take care!

Jina L. Bell

BSN, RN

CFR & FIMR Board
Coordinator

Childhood Blood Lead
Program Nurse Coordinator

Diabetes Prevention
Program Lifestyle Coach

7 Steps to Safe Sleep for Your Baby

Take these
7 steps to lower the
risk of
Sudden Infant
Death



www.infantandchildloss.org
410-706-5089

You'll both sleep
better!

1. Always remember the **ABCDs** of safe sleep by placing your baby, **Alone** on their **Back**, in a **Crib** and remember, **Don't** smoke around your baby.
2. Use a tight fitted crib sheet over a firm mattress and make sure baby is on a flat/non-inclined surface*.
3. Make sure there are no pillows, blankets, bumper pads, or stuffed toys in the crib.
4. Sleeper sacks are safer and keep babies warm. Keep baby's face and head uncovered.
5. Make sure your baby does not get hot. Don't overdress your baby.
6. Use a clean, dry pacifier when placing baby to sleep (up to 12 months of age).
7. Breastfeed your baby. It reduces the risk of sudden infant death.

*The Consumer Product Safety Commission urges parents to **ONLY** use sleep products that meet federal safety standards for sleep on a flat/non-inclined surface*.

For more information about safe sleep, visit our website at
www.infantandchildloss.org or call 410-706-5089.

Center for Infant & Child Loss
"Providing bereavement support to Maryland families for 45 years."

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

 Like us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/CenterforInfantandChildLoss

CICL OUTREACH STATISTICS

CICL is a Maryland statewide program designed to be family focused and community based to assure a compassionate response in the sudden and unexpected death of an infant or child. The purpose of CICL is to assist families as they process the death of their child and foster hope for the future. CICL studies trends in death while working with state collaborators to identify preventive practices to reduce the risk of future injuries and deaths.

WHEN FULLY STAFFED, CICL EMPLOYS:

CICL DIRECTOR

Oversee the day-to-day operations including but not limited to preparing and implementing business plan, oversee operating budget, conduct meetings with Advisory Board, communicate with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Local Health Department (LHD) across the state, serve as a Legislatively Appointed member of the State Child Fatality Review Team.

CICL BEREAVEMENT COUNSELOR

Provide outreach to families experiencing the sudden and unexpected death of their child as authorized by the OCME, facilitate monthly infant and child loss support groups, and communicate with LHD, hospitals, and community centers to make available CICL injury prevention materials for distribution. The Counselor will also provide injury prevention education and training as appropriate.

CICL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Oversee the annual fundraisers sponsored by CICL or assist families planning fundraisers to support CICL initiatives and publish quarterly newsletter.

CICL OFFICE MANAGER

Ordering office supplies, filing, uploading relevant information to CICL database, responding to correspondence, drafting letters and other clerical functions.

Updated user-friendly website



CICL receives data from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) for the sole purpose of grief counseling services. CICL receives notification of infant/child deaths (birth through 16), and upon approval from the assigned medical examiner will contact the family for grief counseling and referrals as appropriate. The OCME provides next of kin's name, phone number and address to CICL, pursuant to COMAR 10.03.01.08. The University of Maryland, School of Medicine is a unit of Maryland State government and CICL is a program with the School of Medicine's, Department of Pediatrics. This arrangement has served Maryland's bereaved families for over 45 years.

John A. Stash D.O.
Interim Chief Medical Examiner,
State of Maryland
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

STATISTICS

On average CICL receives notification and authorization from OCME to contact 175 to 200 families per year to provide bereavement support services. The initial contact by bereavement counselor offers immediate grief support to the family making available CICL resources and supports, mailing grief packets tailored to the families' specific needs. A follow up letter is sent to the family within 2 months of the death to assure the family that CICL remain available for support, follow up questions or additional resources as cause of death is determined by OCME. A third and fourth letter is sent at the one-year anniversary of the infant/child death and the first birthday after the death. All correspondence includes bereavement support materials and an open opportunity to reach out to CICL for continued support. CICL hosts monthly infant loss support groups and monthly child loss support groups (24 meetings per year).

CICL's outreach to all state birthing hospitals, community health departments and other collaboratives lead to an annual average of 1200 infant safe sleep brochures and posters, 120 blankets for labor and delivery rooms, and 200 bereavement bears to all hospital emergency rooms. In 2022 CICL's training initiatives reach well over 1500 professionals across the state. CICL's Infant Safe Sleep Video on YouTube has been viewed over 16,000 times. CICL cannot keep Anti-Bully Rulers in stock because they are highly requested by high schools across the state.

1200
infant safe sleep
brochures & posters

CICL cannot keep
**ANTI-BULLY
RULERS**
in stock

*because they are highly requested
by high schools across the state.*

120
blankets for
labor & delivery
rooms

24
meetings
PER YEAR

200
bereavement bears
to all hospital
emergency rooms

CICL contacts
175 - 200
families/year
to provide
**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
SERVICES**

ABOUT CICL

Overview

Center for Infant & Child Loss (CICL) was established in 1975 to fulfill the unmet needs of Marylanders facing the tragedy of the sudden unexpected death of a child. All Maryland families of children aged 0 to 16 years dying suddenly and unexpectedly are offered services at no cost. Private funds have played a critical role as 65% of the annual budget is funded through philanthropy. Gifts to the Center for Infant & Child Loss are administered by the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc.

CICL, a 501(c)3 organization, is a part of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Community Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, and is advised on program development by the CICL Advisory Board.

Families & Communities

CICL is engaged in a number of key activities, including:

- ❖ Provide bereavement counseling for families and communities experiencing the sudden and unexpected loss of an infant or child up to age 16, including distribution of grief resource packets and support groups to families.
- ❖ Act as a liaison between families and the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Serve on the State's Child Fatality Review Team.
- ❖ Utilize national, State & local resources to support families.
- ❖ Identify and conduct educational and training programs that focus on safe parenting practices and how to help grieving families. The audience for education and training includes childcare providers, foster parents, expectant teen mothers and young parents, nurses and other health and welfare professionals.
- ❖ Review with community partners relevant data to determine trends in injury and death, then identify interventions and preventative practices to reduce the risk, and share pertinent information with families and the community.
- ❖ Maintain outreach efforts and special projects for bereavement and grief, as well as, injury prevention.

Special Projects



CICL initiatives provide help to bereaved families through any stage of grief or growth. In addition, we identify interventions and preventive practices to reduce the risk of death and share pertinent information with families and the community.

Safe Sleep Video Production



With the help of bereaved parents and area physicians, CICL produced a 9-minute safe sleep video that speaks directly to the issues surrounding safe sleep and what it can mean for the health of your baby. The video is used statewide by birthing hospitals as part of the postpartum education of new moms and is accessible by visiting bit.ly/CICLSafeSleep on YouTube.

CICL Healing Connections



In the darkness of those first days, families may not know where to turn to deal with their grief and to ask questions. CICL proactively contacts families within days of their child's death and offers services including a grief package tailored to their specific needs.

CICL Healing Connections offer monthly infant loss and child loss support groups for families as they cope with the death of their child. The ultimate goal is to offer a space for growth and social support through communication and exercises with others experiencing the death of their child.

CICL Healing Connections offer a Parent-to-Parent link to grieving parents to other parents, who are further along in the healing process, through a network of volunteers who have offered to speak with newly grieving parents. These volunteers offer a sympathetic voice from someone who can truly relate to what they are going through.

CICL Anti-Bullying Initiative



CICL is working directly with the family of Grace McComas, after whom Grace's Law is named. In Maryland, Grace's Law makes it a criminal offense to misuse interactive computer services to maliciously engage in conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor and/or places that minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. Targeted informational materials are being made available to public schools across the state as well as to other organizations and interested parties.

ABOUT CICL

Grief Support

Empty Arms Project



A stuffed bear wearing a ribbon imprinted with CICL's contact information, and a card giving suggestions for coping in the next few hours and days is given to the newly bereaved upon leaving a hospital emergency department.

Kaitlyn & Casey's Friendship Bracelets



Kaitlyn & Casey's Friendship Bracelets are included in the grief packets that are sent to families across the state that have experienced the sudden and unexpected death of their infant or child. The bond of friendship between the parents of these children gone too soon, is a powerful force and it is what links people together to create triumph out of tragedy.

Breelyn's Blanket Brigade

The handmade blankets are delivered to emergency room and labor & deliver units, across the state, for babies and small children that have died, to be wrapped in and presented to their parents. Breelyn's parents wanted other parents to receive their children in love and care, the way they received Breelyn after she died.



Keep Your Baby Safe & Healthy

Safe Sleep Brochures

Providing a safe sleep environment for baby is one of the most important things parents and caregivers can do to reduce the risk of sudden infant death. CICL materials include posters, "Keep Your Baby Safe & Healthy, Share Your Room Not Your Bed" brochures and companion posters in English and Spanish.



Annual Fund Raising Events



Annual CICL Golf Invitational & Evening Reception

Held since 1991 on the first week in October, this event is the CICL's premier fundraiser, generating \$2.6 million over 30 years. Sponsors, golfers and volunteers from Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, and other areas around the country come to participate and support CICL's efforts. Participants enjoy a day of golf, evening reception, live and silent auctions, and more. The event has been sold out many years and is known as one of the most organized tournaments in the metro area.

In Loving Memory of Zachary Dohrman

Walk/Run for Infant & Child Loss

Since 1999, the Walk/Run is held annually in May. Participants choose from 1, 3, or 7 mile routes and come from all over the metropolitan Baltimore/Washington areas. We encourage families, individuals and "team" support. For over 20 years, the Walk has raised more than \$300,000 to support CICL's services.



In Loving Memory of Joanna Beans & Devin Campbell



Annual Dr. G's Vegas Night

Started in 2014 in memory of Dr. Ron Gutberlet, Dr. G's Vegas Night is a fundraiser held in honor of the founder of CICL. He was known for his ability to create revelry and laughter everywhere he went. He strongly believed in the mission of CICL and this event, in his honor, has raised more than \$85,000.

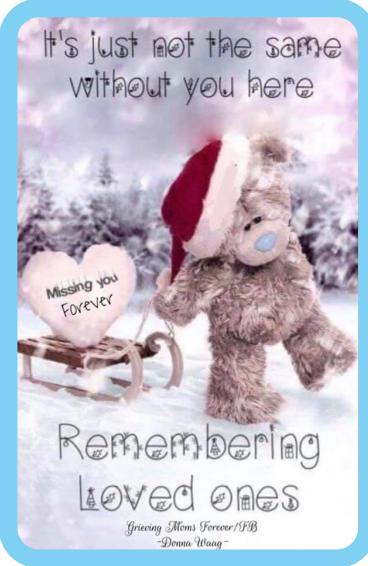
In Loving Memory of Dr. Ronald Gutberlet

CICL MEMORIAL

Each December CICL hosts "Remembering our Children", a memorial service to commemorate the lives of children who have died. This program is in conjunction with the Annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting Service. CICL recognizes the significance of assuring that the infants and children are honored and their place on this earth is recognized and valued. Participating families are enriched by the experience and support received.



Worldwide Candle Lighting Day Second Sunday in December
www.NationalDayCalendar.com



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DJ

Holiday season is the worst time of the year for bereaved parents. The CICL Memorial service gives me the forum to talk about my son to others who know exactly what I am going through. The opportunity to share our stories really helps in dealing with the holiday season.

Dennis G. Kenny, Sr.



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

"When we focus our energy towards constructing a passionate meaningful life, we are tossing a pebble into the world, creating a beautiful ripple effect of inspiration. When one person follows a dream, tries something new or takes a daring leap, everyone nearby feels that energy and before too long they are making their own daring leaps and inspiring yet another circle."

~Christine Mason Miller~

"The Positive Pear"