

Upstate New York Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program

Fall 2006



Saving babies' lives one family at a time

Special points of interest:

- North American Conference on SBS
- Buffalo Bills support SBS Program
- Governor Pataki signs "Cynthia's Law"
- Ontario models Upstate SBS Program
- Successful results from Hospital-Based and Community Physicians' Programs

Did you know?

- 1 The SBS Program presented at the North American Conference on SBS in Utah Sept. 2006
- 2 SBS Program participates at the 2nd "NY Loves Safe Babies" event
- 3 Joint Commission Resources highlights SBS Program

Upstate Program Presents at the 6th North American Conference on SBS

Nurse Coordinators Kathy deGuehery, RN, and Kim Smith, RN traveled to Park City, Utah with Mark Dias, MD September 13-16, 2006 to present at the National Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome. Kathy and Kim presented the nursing perspective of the Upstate State New York Education Program. Their presentation highlighted the crucial role nurses play in the success of the program. The SBS Education Program is totally nurse-driven, and would not be possible without the nurses support. There were many other presentations from programs who are replicating the Dias program in their region. Several of these programs are achieving similar positive results. The Upstate NY SBS Program has become *the model* for hospital-based prevention programs.



Lt: Kim Smith, RN, Mark Dias, MD, and Kathy deGuehery, RN in Park City, Utah

Buffalo Bills Support SBS Program



The Upstate New York Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program continues to receive generous support from the Buffalo Bills. Proceeds of former Bills trainer Eddie "Abe" Abramowski's book, *Tale of the Tape* continue to benefit the program. Eddie and Pat's dedication to this cause honors their adopted grandson, who was a victim of SBS. This support makes it possible to continue to educate families in our region in an effort to eliminate this preventable form of child abuse.

"Abe" & Pat Abramowski

Pataki Signs “Cynthia’s Law”-Assault of Child Carries Stiff Penalty

In July 2006, Gov. George Pataki signed “Cynthia’s Law” into the books, strengthening the prosecution of persons who seriously injury children by recklessly shaking them. The law will take effect November 1, 2006 and would make this type of assault a Class D felony punishable by between 2-7 years in prison. The new law would give prosecutors greater leverage to charge a felony. This law is named for Cynthia Gibbs, an 8-month-old from Yonkers, NY who died in 2000 when her baby-sitter shook her so violently the toddler fractured her skull and died. “Cynthia’s Law” also calls for the NY State Health Department to develop a media campaign to publicize the dangers of violently handling a toddler.



SBS Coordinators Conduct Prevention Workshop in Toronto, Ontario



Nurse Coordinators, Kim Smith and Kathy deGuehery were guest speakers at a training session and planning meeting of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program March 27-28, 2006 in Toronto, Ontario. Representatives were on hand from six regions in Ontario for the workshop highlighting the Upstate New York Program. This partnership has been ongoing for the past several years as the Ontario region prepares to launch the “Dias” model of SBS prevention in their region.

Update on the Hospital-Based and Community Physicians’ Programs

The Upstate New York SBS Education Program has educated over 130,000 families since its inception. At present we are pleased to report a signed commitment statement return rate of 91% WNY, 89% in FLR, and 94% in the Watertown region. Approximately 75% in WNY and 50% in FLR physicians offices are currently participating in the program. These endeavors have been well-received by the physicians and parents alike. Upstate New York continues to report a 50% decrease in infant abusive head injuries since providing SBS education to parents.

Kudos to all of you for your tireless efforts over the past several years to educate the families of New York’s children about the dangers of violent infant shaking. Our sincere thanks to you for your continued commitment!



For further information about the Program:

Upstate New York SBS Education Program

Kaleida Health Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo

716-878-7441

www.wchob.org/shakenbaby

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