



Mayerson Center for Safe
and Healthy Children

Committed to:

- Identifying and preventing child abuse
- Helping families provide safe and nurturing homes
- Educating professionals
- Empowering communities to recognize and report abuse
- Developing and validating new diagnostic, prevention and treatment strategies
- Protecting victims from offenders

Call 513-636-SAFE:

- *To make a referral for evaluation*
- *To schedule an appointment*
- *For more information*

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Children and teenagers who have been sexually abused within the previous 72 hours or who have injuries may need an emergency evaluation. If the child is within the Cincinnati Children's treatment area, call 513-636-4200 and ask the operator to page the social worker on call.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE:

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, contact your local Children's Protective Services agency. In Hamilton County, that number is 513-241-KIDS. If the abuse occurred within the Cincinnati Children's treatment area, the 241-KIDS staff will arrange consultation with the Mayerson Center.



Mayerson Center for Safe and
Healthy Children
MLC 9012
3333 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039

513-636-SAFE (voice)
513-636-0204 (fax)

mayerson_center@cchmc.org



Visit www.cincinnatichildrens.org/Mayerson for online child abuse learning materials, resources and additional information about the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children.

The Mayerson Center

for Safe and Healthy Children



Committed to preventing and treating child maltreatment



The Mayerson Center

for Safe and Healthy Children

The Mayerson Center, a 7,200 square-foot facility, includes a medical exam suite, rooms for collaborative forensic interviews, individual and group therapy areas, a beautiful playroom and dedicated space for research efforts.

Inside the doors of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children, a team of experts from throughout the community is driven by a common commitment: to prevent child abuse and to work for the health and dignity of children who have been abused.

A National Children's Alliance full member, the Mayerson Center provides services to abused or neglected children and their families in a state-of-the-art facility.

Children and families faced with child abuse find a safe and child-friendly environment in the Mayerson Child Advocacy Center. Here they receive compassionate care from our multi-disciplinary team. Physicians, nurses

and social workers from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center work side-by-side with community law enforcement officials, county Children's Services workers and prosecutors to evaluate allegations of child abuse and neglect and coordinate follow-up services for victims. All of these professionals working together in the Mayerson Center streamlines the investigation and helps ease the pain for children and their families.

The Mayerson Child Advocacy Center

IMPROVING HAMILTON COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE

The agencies and organizations that investigate child abuse cases in Hamilton County made a courageous decision that would improve the quality of the community's response to child abuse and help prevent it.

They decided to establish a child advocacy center at the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children – located within Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center – bringing together in one location professionals from across the community who provide support and protection to child abuse victims and families.

The Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation and Cincinnati Children's made a significant investment in the people and facilities needed to establish the center. Hamilton County Children's Services, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office committed their organizations to this bold initiative by relocating their staff to Cincinnati Children's.

The result? The creation of better coordinated, more effective, and child-focused services to investigate, prosecute, treat and prevent child abuse.



The Mayerson Center's collaborative staffing by both community and medical center experts, combined with its reputation and location within a leading children's hospital, positions it as one of the leading child abuse centers in the nation.



An Integrated Team Approach

"The benefits of working together in the Child Advocacy Center were immediately apparent to me," says Officer Sharon Berger. "Wasted time and delays tracking down critical case information is eliminated. Our weekly team meetings keep us on track and working effectively since all of the experts sit down together to discuss findings and share information. All of the facts are presented and verified. We are investigating abuse allegations faster and doing a better job."

What happens at the Mayerson Child Advocacy Center?

Children who allege abuse are interviewed at the Mayerson Center by a specially trained staff member. Instead of separate interviews with doctors, social workers and police officers, the child is usually interviewed only once. The Mayerson Center team coordinates their questions and, by working together, spares the child from multiple, repetitive interviews about sensitive topics.

- Children are interviewed by one of our trained specialists. The interview is usually video recorded for later review.
- Team members and investigators from protective agencies may observe the child's interview from another room. Their questions for the child are communicated to the interviewer prior to the interview's conclusion.
- The child can have a medical examination by pediatric specialists immediately after the interview.
- The team collaborates to determine the best next steps to ensure the child's safety and to prevent further abuse.
- If juvenile or criminal charges are filed by the prosecutor, our court-appointed victim's advocate assists the child and non-offending caregivers through the legal process.



Emergency Assessment and Crisis Intervention



Victim and Family
Services Include:

- *Crisis intervention*
- *Short-term counseling*
- *Anticipatory guidance*
- *Medical therapy*
- *Referral to local therapist*
- *Group therapy for non-offending parents*
- *Victim financial compensation assistance*

When abused children come to the Mayerson Center, our team works together to ease their pain and to provide immediate help.

One teenager's story: After class, a high school student disclosed to her teacher that she was being sexually abused at home by her father. The student was afraid to go home and was asking for help. Her teacher called the Hamilton County child abuse hotline, 241-KIDS. Law enforcement officers met the student at school and brought her to the Mayerson Center where she was immediately interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer and examined by a Mayerson Center physician. Police and Children's Services workers observed the interview remotely so that she only had to tell her painful story once.

After the student's interview and examination, the police officer quickly obtained search warrants in order to look for confirmatory evidence, and a Children's Services worker acted immediately to arrange interviews with the teenager's siblings and mother. Social workers from the Mayerson Center comforted the student and helped her to manage feelings of anxiety and guilt, feelings many victims of abuse experience. The following day, Mayerson Center staff made arrangements for mental health therapy for the teenager and connected the non-offending parent to needed community resources.



Education and Outreach

Training Nurses, Improving Outcomes

Mayerson Center experts train nurses throughout Ohio to conduct pediatric sexual assault evaluations and to deliver emergency medical care to victims of child sexual abuse. This statewide program is called the Pediatric Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner (P-SANE) Program and can be combined with Mayerson Center-sponsored telemedicine technologies so that communities that lack expert physicians can obtain reliable and competent evaluations.

"The knowledge and experience we gained from working for an entire week with experts at the Mayerson Center have been invaluable to our community," says Coletta Danneker, RN, of Chillicothe, Ohio. "We learned how to perform expert evidence collection. They also taught us how to take quality photos – even helped us purchase the equipment we needed – so that we can utilize their telemedicine program and consultation services. We have greatly improved the quality of care we provide by being able to quickly share medical photos electronically with the experts at the Mayerson Center when our physicians want a second opinion."

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALS AND HELPING COMMUNITIES



Mayerson Center team members offer educational programs for students, physicians and other community professionals. The center's outreach begins in Cincinnati and extends nationwide.

Insuring the Children Child Abuse Fellowship: With a generous gift from Insuring the Children, the Mayerson Center trains pediatricians to become experts in child abuse diagnosis and treatment.

Child Abuse Elective: Medical students and residents from Cincinnati and across the nation come to the Mayerson Center to learn about child abuse.

The Childhood Trust: Mayerson Center team members are instructors with The Childhood Trust, an affiliate of Cincinnati Children's. The Childhood Trust's forensic interviewer training is nationally recognized for its excellence.

Every Child Succeeds: Mayerson Center team members work with Every Child Succeeds, a Tristate home visitation program. Every Child Succeeds helps parents raise healthy children and works to prevent child abuse.

Internet Courses and Peer Review: Mayerson Center faculty teach and provide peer review sessions over the internet. Physicians and nurses from across the country participate in these cost-effective, timesaving and innovative educational offerings.

"Through our educational programs, we are helping communities build the capacity to diagnose and treat child abuse victims. The Mayerson Center provides us with an ideal environment to teach at the patient's bedside, in the classroom and remotely over the internet."

– Robert Shapiro, MD, Medical Director, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children



A Pioneer in the Use of Telemedicine

Mayerson Center faculty provide rapid electronic consultation to physicians, social workers and law enforcement officers when they suspect that a child has been abused. Photographs and examination recordings are sent electronically to the Mayerson Center for diagnosis and direction.

"We look to the Mayerson Center for help when a child's injuries seem inconsistent with the explanation provided," says Sergeant Sue Madsen, Union Township Police Department.

"The real benefit is timing," she says. "In law enforcement, a delay in diagnosis can make or break a case. The Mayerson Center's telemedicine consultation provides us with an immediate and expert opinion, and because the center's expertise is well recognized and respected throughout the state, their opinion holds up in court.

"With the Mayerson Center's immediate and expert opinion, we can prevent unwarranted removal of children from their homes. This is a fantastic service to families, children and the county."



Research

A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH CLINICAL RESEARCH ADVANCES



Post Injury Growth and Development Clinic
Physicians and researchers follow children who suffer inflicted brain injuries to ensure that their full physical and developmental potential is achieved, to identify long-term effects of brain injury and to develop better rehabilitation treatments.

Trauma Treatment Replication Center
Psychiatrists and psychologists train Cincinnati-area children's mental health providers in evidence-based child abuse treatment models. They work with the federally funded National Child Traumatic Stress Network to evaluate these specific treatment models and improve their effectiveness in community settings.

Clinical research is a major component of our mission. Our research team is led by nationally known child maltreatment experts, and all of the outstanding resources within Cincinnati Children's are available to us. The focus of our research is the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of child abuse.

Mayerson Center research results include:

- Showing the importance of expert evaluations to eliminate diagnostic errors
- Finding new tests for infections when sexual abuse is suspected

Research Projects

Mayerson Center research projects include:

Inflicted brain injury

- Finding blood tests for rapid brain injury diagnosis
- Identifying specific injury with state-of-the-art imaging
- Improving outcomes
- Implementing effective prevention

Sexual abuse

- Finding effective mental health treatments
- Teaching proven treatment techniques
- Studying how injuries heal
- Validating more accurate testing for infections

Physical abuse

- Improving diagnostic accuracy of unexplained fractures
- Studying gaps in medical education

"Today, there are very few mental health treatments for abused children and they work with only limited success. The Mayerson Center's mission is to develop and validate treatment programs that work." – Frank Putnam, MD, Director, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children



Pat Myers Scholar's Fund

A TRIBUTE TO A PIONEER

The Pat Myers Scholar's Fund was established in 2003 with gifts by the Cincinnati Children's Co-operative and Junior Co-operative societies in tribute to Patricia Ann Myers, LISW. The fund provides support for a Mayerson Center social worker who demonstrates clinical excellence, promotes community service and participates in scholarly activities. In addition, contributions to the Pat Myers Scholar's Fund support the Mayerson Center's yearly child abuse conference.

Pat was the director of the Division of Social Services at Cincinnati Children's from 1977 to 2003 and was the Mayerson Center's clinical director until her death in August 2003. She was a nationally recognized expert on child abuse and neglect and was one of the founding members of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children.

Her passion for helping abused and neglected children was intense and infectious. She established the original Child Abuse Service at Cincinnati Children's and taught countless professionals about the identification and management of child abuse. In 2002, Pat received the Social Worker of the Year Award from the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in recognition of her outstanding community service, teaching and research.



Pat Myers, LISW

How to Donate

If you would like to make a contribution to the Pat Myers Scholar's Fund or to the Mayerson Center, please call 513-636-7233. We are thankful for our partnerships with friends who open their hearts and give generously to ensure that our work can continue.



A National Innovator in the Fight Against Child Abuse

Health care professionals and researchers throughout the country seek out the expertise of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children staff. Many unique resources position the center as one of the country's leading child advocacy centers.

State-of-the-art technology is utilized throughout the center, giving Mayerson Center faculty the resources they need to offer unique, high quality training to other professionals, while at the same time protecting patient privacy and dignity. The faculty's innovative use of teleconferencing and telemedicine serves both surrounding and distant communities.

Dedicated research space is evidence of the Mayerson Center's commitment to leading the country in the development of effective child abuse treatment and prevention models.

Housed within Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, one of the nation's finest pediatric facilities, Mayerson Center team members collaborate with the medical center's sub-specialty services and have access to a state-of-the-art education center, specialized libraries and research labs.

Mayerson Center Leadership



*Frank W. Putnam, MD
Director*



*Robert A. Shapiro, MD
Medical Director*



*Heidi A. Malott, MSW, LISW
Clinical Manager*

Our Financial Partners:
Helping the Mayerson Center
Protect Children

The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children gratefully acknowledges the following major contributors whose generosity and support allow us to pursue our mission:

- *Bremer Foundation*
- *Co-operative Society*
- *Junior Co-operative Society*
- *Insuring the Children*
- *Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation*

The Mayerson Center

for Safe and Healthy Children

Vision: *To assure safe, healthy and nurturing families and communities where all children can reach their full potential.*

Mission: *To be the national leader and resource in the development and validation of best practices for the evaluation, treatment and prevention of child maltreatment.*