

CARE Center open house draws 50 visitors

ENTREVILLE — On April 25, Queen Anne's County Child Abuse Response & Evaluation (CARE) Center held an open house. The CARE Center, a children's advocacy center, was established formally in September 2011 through a signing of a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum was between Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services, the Queen Anne's Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Entreville Police Department and the Queen Anne's County State's Attorney's Office.

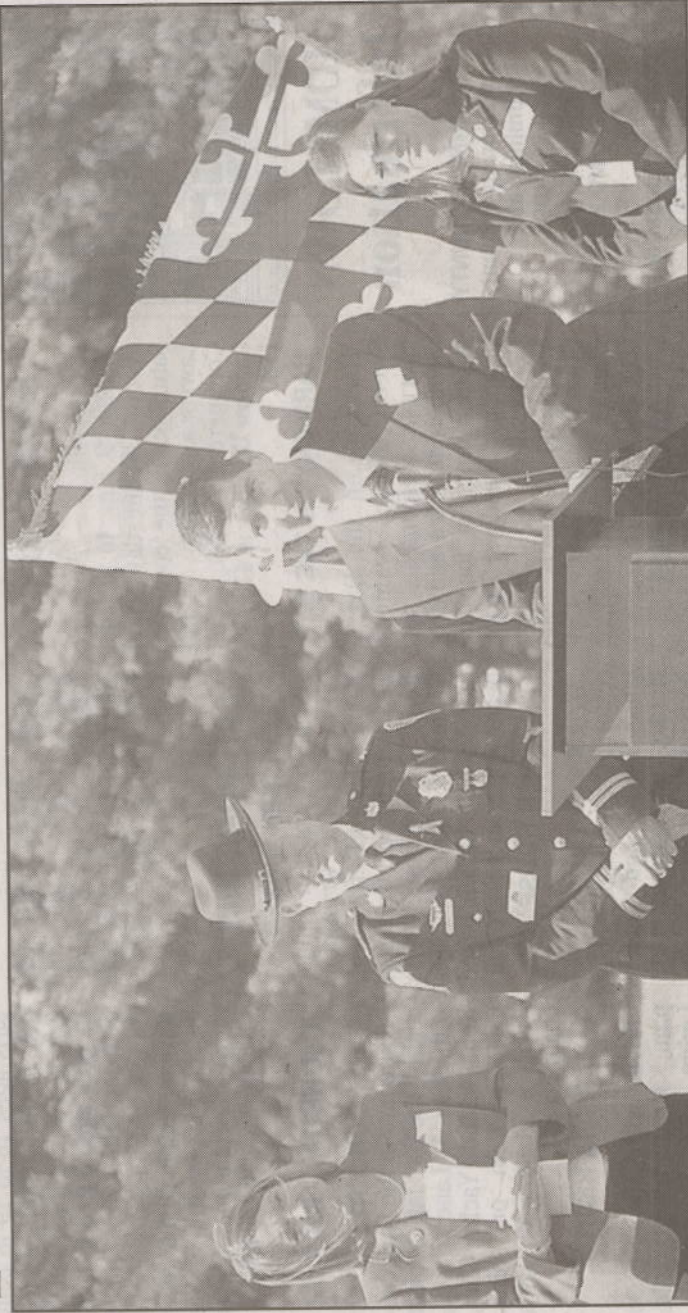
More than 50 visitors attended. Queen Anne's County Commission Vice President Philip Dumenil presented a proclamation to the CARE Team recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Queen Anne's County State's Attorney Lance Richardson, MSP Barrack

Commander Lt. Dwayne Boardman, Centreville Police Chief Charles Rhodes and Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services Director Cathy Dougherty all members of the CARE Center Executive Committee addressed the group to describe community benefits of a collaborative approach to child maltreatment.

Del. Stephen Hershey Jr., R-36-Queen Anne's, toured the center and spoke with various members of the CARE team to learn more about child abuse on the Eastern Shore.

Richard Sossi also attended the event on behalf of U.S. Rep. Andrew Harris, R-Md-1st.

Through the CARE Center, the investigative, medical, mental health and judicial handling of child maltreatment cases in Queen Anne's County is coordinated in a compassionate, sensitive manner by a team of experienced professionals.



State's Attorney Lance Richardson addressing the guests, with Cathy Dougherty QAC DSS Director, Chief Rhodes & Susan Coppage, Assistant Director DSS.

Through a regional initiative, the Mid-Shore Medical Program supports the CARE Center by providing forensic-trained medical practitioners to perform medical examinations in a child-friendly environment at the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center in Easton. Combining the wisdom of this "multi-disciplinary team" assures children are not re-victimized by the system. Children receive services in a safe, culturally respectful environment.