



**COUPLE
PLANS AN
OZZFEST
WEDDING**
LIFE, B5

**55hoursPLUS
FESTIVAL
HISPANO**
FUN IN MILLSBORO

Get breaking news
on your cell phone
Text **DELNEWS** to **44636** to get
breaking local news as it happens.

Sponsored By:



The News Journal

delawareonline.com

75 cents

... KENT & SUSSEX

FRIDAY Aug. 20, 2010

State warns Bradley's patients

Former pediatrician may have administered diluted, expired vaccines

By CRIS BARRISH
The News Journal



Dr. Melvin L. Morse said he first informed the state about his concerns in 2007.

to the parents of Bradley's patients, the Division of Public Health and Attorney General's Office warned that their children may need to be reimmunized "against infection."

The letter went to families of patients Bradley treated during the 15 years he worked in the Lewes area and a few years in the Milford area.

The warning stems from

a report by Dr. Melvin L. Morse, who said he considered joining Bradley's Milford office in 2007. Though Morse told The News Journal he informed state officials in 2007 that Bradley told him he was giving bogus saline vaccines and kept expired vaccines, Deputy Attorney General Patricia Dailey Lewis said her office first heard the allegation from Morse in April — more than



**THE SEX ABUSE CASE
AGAINST DR. EARL B. BRADLEY**

four months after Bradley was arrested for raping children.

Over the last four months, See BRADLEY — A2

Read the re-vaccination letter and Q&A that the state Division of Public Health is sending to former patients of Bradley's, read more about the Bradley case and view an interactive timeline at delawareonline.com/bradley

nized" patients during the 15 years he worked around Lewes and Milford.

In a letter sent Wednesday

ATHLETES GET EXTRA LAYER OF PROTECTION



Del. aims to hold on

Urban
legends
circle

After numerous interviews, though, authorities decided Morse's allegation about Bradley could not be substantiated. "No one said they observed him giving expired or watered-down vaccines," Lewis said.

Rattay said public health officials conducted a routine site visit at Bradley's offices in 2007 and "found no expired vaccines." They also found none after his December arrest, she said.

Rattay's office also discussed the matter with Shefer and other vaccine experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and concluded patients needed to be notified.

"They strongly recommended that, when in doubt, take a conservative approach and revaccinate," Rattay said.

Attorney Bruce L. Hudson, who represents dozens of former patients and has already sued on behalf of about 20, said he will take Morse's deposition in the cases.

"Taking Dr. Morse's deposition might help us find out who else suspected Bradley, help us find out who else to talk to and it might open up some new evidence," said Hudson, whose suits have accused Beebe Medical Center, the Medical Society of Delaware and several doctors of negligence for failing to notify authorities about Bradley's suspicious behavior.

In an interview Thursday, Morse said he welcomes the opportunity to discuss Bradley with Hudson and applauded the state for notifying patients about the vaccines. Morse said his own daughter had received vaccines from Bradley and he has since had her revaccinated.

"I think they are doing the responsible thing," Morse said. "People have a right to know their kids might not have been immunized."

Vivian Rapposelli, director of Family Services, said in April that a records search turned up no letter from Morse or any complaint about Bradley prior to his arrest.

Kimberly DeFelice, a Family Services treatment worker who Morse said interviewed him about the allegations, said this spring that she spoke with Morse about his "personal issue" but "never discussed Bradley with him."

Morse said he did not send the letter to the Delaware Board of Medical Practice, which is charged with investigating complaints against physicians. Doctors licensed in Delaware who "reasonably believe" another doctor is guilty of unprofessional conduct by law have an "affirmative duty" to report such behavior. Morse, who had just received his Delaware medical license in February 2007, said he did not know about the reporting requirement.

A state investigation this year into why previous allegations of inappropriate touching and sexual abuse by Bradley were not reported to the board in 2004 and 2005 concluded that prosecutors and doctors alike broke the law. No one is being prosecuted, however, because the two-year statute of limitations has expired, Chief Deputy Attorney General Charles E. Butler has said.

Revaccinations urged

Lewis, who heads the Family Division at the Attorney General's Office, said she first heard of Morse's complaint this spring after he posted some of the allegations about Bradley on a website he maintains. Officials contacted Morse, and he provided state officials with the same letter he gave to the newspaper, she said.

Lewis said her office took the complaint seriously, especially because some of the patient records that aides were reviewing had inconsistent information about vaccinations.

Morse's experiences

Morse, 56, a pediatrician and author who studies and writes about near-death experiences, moved to Sussex County from Washington state in 2006.

Morse said he is currently working two days a week at pediatric offices in Sussex County.

Soon after moving to Delaware, Morse said, he considered working at the office Bradley had opened in Milford. Bradley's main office, BayBees Pediatrics, was near Lewes.

The News Journal first spoke with Morse in April, after he sent the newspaper a letter that said he reported bogus vaccinations by Bradley to "numerous" unnamed state authorities in 2007. In the letter, Morse, whose family has been involved in a case investigated by the state Division of Family Services,

accused Delaware authorities of retaliating against him because they "feel guilty" for not acting on his report about Bradley in 2007 and shutting down his office.

In an interview that month, Morse said he examined the refrigerator where Bradley kept vaccines and saw only vaccines for Medicaid patients. He said there were no vaccines for paying patients, which Bradley would have had to buy.

Morse said that when he asked Bradley where the patients' vaccines were, he "just kind of looked at me and said, I just give them saline." I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

Morse said he spent a few days at the Milford office, a time during which Bradley "would bring us expired vaccines and try to convince me to give them to his patients."

Morse said he decided Bradley was unethical and wrote a letter that he sent to the Division of Family Services and other authorities. He provided the newspaper with an unsigned copy of a letter dated Feb. 22, 2007, and addressed to "To Whom it May Concern" that outlined his concerns. Division investigators spoke to him at the time about the claims, Morse said.

FROM PAGE A1

officials have interviewed nurses and others who had worked with Bradley, but they could not substantiate Morse's claim. "We did everything we could to prove or disprove this," Dailey Lewis said. Nevertheless, she said, officials decided to inform parents "out of an abundance of caution."

Dr. Karyl T. Rattay, Delaware's public health director, said children who might have been given bad vaccines are not in immediate danger, but they might need to be re-vaccinated. She stressed that the state has not seen a spike in infection rates.

Dr. Abigail Shefer, associate director of the Science, Immunization Services Division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, agreed it would be wise for children to get vaccinated again. The government recommends that children receive 12 different vaccines for such diseases as measles and polio from birth to age 18, plus an additional one for influenza annually.

"There really isn't any danger" from diluted or expired vaccines, Shefer said. "They might have reduced potency, and that's why we recommend revaccination."

Parents contacted Thursday didn't seem alarmed by the latest disturbing allegation against Bradley, who allegedly recorded dozens of sexual assaults over an 11-year period. But mothers said they would discuss the new twist with their children's current doctor.

Laurie Carter said her son, now 8, was Bradley's patient until his second birthday. She said that his nurse gave the boy a few vaccinations and was very diligent - going as far as showing her the bottle with the expiration date. "So I find it hard to believe he got expired stuff," Carter said.

However, one mother, whose daughter was allegedly abused by Bradley in 1999, said Bradley was capable of anything.

"There's nothing that would surprise me at this point with what he was doing," the woman said.