

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF MATERNAL, CHILD & FAMILY HEALTH
DIVISION OF PERINATAL & WOMEN'S HEALTH**

**Senate Bill 307 – Uniform Maternal Screening Act
Update: June 5, 2009**

- ❖ Senate Bill 307, “Uniform Maternal Screening Act”, passed on 4/3/09 by unanimous vote. The bill was signed into law on 5/28/09 by Governor Manchin. Several key legislators and members of the Perinatal Partnership were in attendance to witness the bill signing.
- ❖ As a refresher, the purpose of this bill was to develop a more comprehensive and uniform approach to maternal risk screening by developing a standardized tool to alert OB providers of the need for further evaluation and assessment of high-risk pregnant women.
- ❖ The bill establishes an Advisory Council on maternal risk assessment within the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH). The Council must include:
 - At least one private maternity service provider;
 - At least one public maternity service provider;
 - One representative from each of the State’s three medical schools;
 - The Bureau for Public Health Commissioner (or a designee);
 - The OMCFH Office Director (or a designee);
 - At least one representative of a tertiary care center; and
 - At least one certified nurse midwife
- ❖ OMCFH will work with the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health to select and appoint the initial Advisory Council members. Names of potential participants will be solicited from the West Virginia ACOG Chapter, Deans from the three Schools of Medicine, CEOs of the tertiary care centers and the West Virginia Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives. Letters of invitation are expected to be mailed out by mid-late June.
- ❖ The bill also granted legislative rule-making authority to the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Legislative rules are being drafted at this time. The draft rules will not identify a specific tool to include any statements that will preclude the Advisory Council from making changes to the tool when needed. Following internal legal review by DHHR, the draft rules will be submitted to the Legislative Rules Committee.

- ❖ Implementation of this bill requires administrative and operational expenses (estimated at \$70,424), although no new State funds were allocated by the legislature. Estimated expenses will include such activities as:
 - Advisory Council expenses (meetings, conference calls, copying, etc.) (\$2500)
 - Printing (25,000 forms/year - \$5000) and distribution (\$2000) of the new uniform maternal risk screening tool to all West Virginia maternity service providers. Prior cost estimates were based on revision of an existing State developed non-copyrighted perinatal risk screening tool or development of an entirely new tool. Expenses will increase significantly if a copyrighted tool is selected by the Advisory Council. If the Council opts to purchase a commercial, copyrighted risk screening tool, expenses are estimated to increase by approximately \$20,000.
 - Staff support will be required to manage a statewide data repository and data entry of the risk screening forms (\$37,560), data review, analysis and preparation of technical reports (\$23,364) for the Advisory Council.

The financial estimates outlined above may be revised once the Advisory Council selects a final tool.

- ❖ OMCFH will charge the Advisory Council with developing the plan for educating the provider community when the final risk screening tool is complete.
- ❖ Health surveillance data collected from the screenings will be used to develop technical reports for the Advisory Council to identify patterns/trends in at-risk and high-risk pregnancies and over time, evaluate and improve health policy, programs and services for pregnant women.