



## **Texas Maternal Health Committees**

### **Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force**

The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force was created by Senate Bill 495, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The multidisciplinary task force within the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) studies and reviews cases of pregnancy-related deaths and trends in severe maternal morbidity, determines the feasibility of the task force studying cases of severe maternal morbidity, and makes recommendations to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in Texas. The task force and DSHS must submit a joint report on the findings of the task force and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and appropriate committees of the Texas Legislature by September 1 of each even-numbered year, beginning September 1, 2016. Members of the task force are appointed by the DSHS commissioner. Task force members appointed by the commissioner serve six-year staggered terms.

### **Perinatal Advisory Committee**

The Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC), created by House Bill 15 of the 83rd Texas Legislature (Regular Session), develops and recommends criteria for designating levels of neonatal and maternal care, including specifying the minimum requirements to qualify for each level designation and a process for the assignment of levels of care to a hospital. The PAC also makes recommendations for dividing the state into neonatal and maternal care regions, examines utilization trends in neonatal and maternal care, and recommends ways to improve neonatal and maternal outcomes. The PAC is supported administratively by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

### **Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies**

The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB) began officially operating as the state perinatal quality collaborative in 2013. TCHMB started as the Expert Panel advising Healthy Texas Babies, the state infant mortality reduction initiative housed at DSHS. In 2015, UT Health Northeast, in partnership with UT System, began supporting TCHMB through a three year contract with DSHS. TCHMB is a multidisciplinary network made up of health professionals throughout the state. Their mission is to advance health care quality and patient safety for all Texas mothers and babies, through the collaboration of health and community stakeholders in the development of joint quality improvement (QI) initiatives, the advancement of data-driven best practices, and the promotion of education and training.