

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2296

By: Leist

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety and maternal and infant health; amending 63 O.S. 1991, Sections 1-230, 1-231 and 1-234, which relate to Healthy Futures Steering Committee of the Healthy Futures Program of the State Department of Health; modifying contents of certain reports; modifying certain policy; adding to powers and duties of Committee; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 1991, Section 1-230, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-230. The Healthy Futures Steering Committee of the Healthy Futures Program of the State Department of Health shall submit an annual report on ~~or before January 1, 1992, and each~~ January 1 ~~thereafter,~~ of each year to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Governor regarding the policy and progress of state and, local and private programs and practices providing prenatal, delivery and infant care services ~~including~~ and reimbursement and payments for medical care policy in this state. The report shall include all

findings and recommendations of the Board developed pursuant to Section ~~4 of this act~~ 1-234 of this title, expenditures, costs, recommendations regarding legislation, statutory and policy changes, funding needs and other matters pertaining to the ~~State Department of Health's and the Department of Human Services'~~ provision of prenatal, delivery and infant care services and reimbursement and payments for medical care expenses provided by state, local and private entities for the citizens of this state. The report shall provide in detail, current expenditures and costs for ~~each program programs and practices~~ and statistics by geographical areas of the state which relate to improvements in pregnancy outcome and improvements in coordination of prenatal, delivery and infant health services in the state.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 1991, Section 1-231, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-231. ~~Section 1~~ A. This section and Section 1-232 through Section 5 1-234 of this ~~act~~ title shall be known and may be cited as the "Maternal and Infant Care Act" ~~which~~.

B. The Maternal and Infant Care Act shall have as its purpose, the coordination, development and enhancement of a system of maternal and infant health services in the state in order to decrease infant mortality by providing prenatal care to pregnant women and such other policy changes deemed necessary by the Board to increase and strengthen infant and maternal health in this state.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 1991, Section 1-234, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-234. The Healthy Futures Steering Committee of the Healthy Futures Program of the State Department of Health shall:

1. Assess existing state ~~and~~, local and private programs and policies which provide prenatal, delivery and infant care services in the state, ~~with particular emphasis on services for women and infants of low-income households;~~

2. Develop a comprehensive strategy, ~~including funding therefor,~~ for the provision of prenatal, delivery and infant care services and policies to all women and infants in the state. The strategy shall include the ~~provision~~ providing of services and payment or reimbursement for medical care on a community level, county level and, statewide level and private level. The statewide strategy shall include approaches which eliminate barriers to accessing and delivering maternal and infant health care services and policies. Current barriers ~~to services~~ for the receipt of prenatal, delivery and infant care to ensure healthy infants and mothers, and to decrease mortality, such as the shortage of maternal and infant health care providers, cumbersome procedures regarding eligibility and reimbursement for Medicaid, lack of affordable insurance which covers maternal and infant health care services, misdirected and misused public funds, and professional liability costs for maternal and infant health care providers, should be addressed;

3. Meet with other state officials and agencies and private entities which are responsible for the provisions of maternal and infant health care services and policies at regular intervals as established by the Board and when otherwise necessary to ensure that the purpose of the Maternal and Infant Care Act is accomplished promptly and thoroughly;

4. Recommend legislation and modifications in existing state programs, including any programs federally funded, which are necessary for the effective implementation and administration of this act;

5. Review and approve requests for proposals for comprehensive community model projects which render access to early and continuous care to pregnant women and infants. The criteria for the request for proposals shall be developed by the Healthy Futures Steering Committee of the Healthy Futures Program of the State Department of

Health. Provided, nothing in this paragraph shall require a state agency to fund such projects unless funds have been appropriated to the agency for such purpose. Proposals for projects shall include mechanisms for management and oversight of the program through local boards with broad community and provider-based representation; and

6. Perform such other duties as required by law or as necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Maternal and Infant Care Act.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 1996.

45-2-7928

KSM