**Massachusetts Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee**

**Membership Application**

**Overview**

Maternal death, a sentinel event, has dramatically decreased in Massachusetts over the last century. There is a long history of reviewing maternal deaths in Massachusetts which began as a systematic effort in 1941 when the Committee on Maternal Welfare of the Massachusetts Medical Society initiated case reviews of maternal deaths with the goal of improving maternal health.

Since 1997, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has convened the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) to review maternal deaths, study the incidence of pregnancy complications, make recommendations to improve maternal outcomes, and eliminate preventable maternal death. Understanding the causes of these deaths provides insight into the factors that contributed to both maternal morbidity and mortality, which can inform strategies to reduce the incidence of these tragic events.

**Committee Member Responsibilities**

The MMMRC is a multi-disciplinary committee with representation from obstetrics and gynecology, forensic pathology, nurse-midwifery, maternal fetal medicine, academia, anesthesiology, nursing, psychiatry, mental/behavioral health and public health. In addition, geographical and hospital level representation are taken into consideration. Committee members are appointed to three year terms with renewal options available as deemed appropriate by DPH.

All MMMRC members are expected to attend at least 2 meetings annually (up to 4 meetings annually) with each meeting lasting three hours. MMMRC members serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive compensation for their participation in the review process. All MMMRC members must sign the MMMRC Study Pledge of Confidentiality before participating in any reviews. Signed forms are electronically retained and considered effective as long as DPH and IRB deems appropriate.

In preparation for a MMMRC review meeting, copies of all de-identified case summaries scheduled for review are distributed to the committee members at least two weeks before the next scheduled MMMRC meeting. The Committee member will review the abstracted record and come to the MMMRC meeting prepared to discuss the case with the other Committee members and determine preventability. At times with complex medical cases, the full medical record may be shipped to a committee member with expertise in the cause of death.

Committee members will be reminded at the start of each meeting that all information discussed in the reviews must remain confidential and may not be used for reasons other than for the maternal mortality review. In addition, all MMMRC members will be reminded at the start of each meeting that they may not expose hospital, provider, or patient-identifying information about a case should they recognize it.

DPH staff will facilitate the discussion to determine if the case was pregnancy related and preventable and if so, what policy or system changes are recommended to prevent a future death. The MMMRC Medical Records Abstractor will complete the Committee Decision Form for each case, recording the final determination of the committee. At the conclusion of the MMMRC, all case associated materials will be left for DPH staff to dispose of safely and in accordance will the disposal of confidential information.

Failure to comply with the defined responsibilities will result in termination from the MMMRC. Members who are terminated from the MMMRC are ineligible for future participation.

**Application Process**

Committee members are appointed by DPH. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete this application and submit along with a resume/CV to:

Beth Buxton, LCSW

Director, Maternal Health Initiatives

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

250 Washington Street 5th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

**Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of Work: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What organization/discipline will you be representing?: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\**See attached CDC MMRC Ideal Member Representation spreadsheet for a list of priority organizations/disciplines. Please list all organizations and/or disciplines that you represent.*

Describe what interests you about joining the MMMRC, what expertise you will bring to the review process and how you will use the information learned during a review to further the work of the committee to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity across the Commonwealth.

*(Maximum of 500 words)*

Resume/CV Attached? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_