

New law provides that a district attorney in a parish with a population of not less than 27,000 and not more than 30,000, a parish with a population of not less than 150,000 and not more than 160,000, and a parish with a population of not less than 300,000 and not more than 400,000 may convene a multidisciplinary team to assist in making a determination of the appropriate disposition of a case where a pregnant woman under arrest tests positive for controlled dangerous substances for which she does not have a valid, legal prescription, as provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.

New law requires members of the multidisciplinary team to serve for a term of two years.

New law provides that the multidisciplinary team may include:

- (1) A La. board-certified physician trained in obstetrics and gynecology.
- (2) A licensed nurse with experience in caring for drug- or alcohol-exposed newborn infants.
- (3) A law enforcement officer employed by a local or state law enforcement agency.
- (4) An employee of the Dept. of Children and Family Services with a background and experience with federal and state benefits, such as Medicaid.
- (5) An individual associated with a nonprofit organization with a background and experience in charitable and faith-based resources for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse or addiction.
- (6) A licensed social worker or counselor with training and experience in the treatment of drug or alcohol addiction.

New law provides that "appropriate disposition" may include the filing of a petition for involuntary commitment as provided for by law.

Provides that the authority in new law shall exist from the time of arrest to the time of dismissal, acquittal, or conviction.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 40:1094)