

BARBARA MARX BROCATO & ASSOCIATES

**DATE:** Thursday, February 6, 2020

**BILL:** **Senate Bill 255 – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment**

**COMMITTEES:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable William C. Smith, Chairman

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

On behalf of our client Clinic Management and Development Services, Inc. (CMDS) we support Senate Bill 255. Established in 2008, CMDS offers management and consulting services to individuals and groups who are passionate about serving the community through substance use disorder and mental health treatment

This bill “requires correctional units to screen pregnant incarcerated individuals for substance use disorder at intake using a validated screening tool regardless of the jurisdiction of confinement or the length of time that the individual is expected to be at the correctional unit. In addition, the bill establishes requirements for correctional units relating to the assessment, treatment, and release of pregnant incarcerated individuals with a substance use disorder.”

SB255 provides an important level of care for pregnant women who need prenatal care, substance abuse treatment and behavioral health treatment. This care is especially important for pregnant individuals upon their release. This bill will help to connect individuals with community-based substance abuse treatment and prenatal care providing an essential and currently lacking continuity of care. This will improve outcomes as well as maintain treatment regimens so essential for maintaining health and well-being for mom and baby.

Community based treatment centers are an invaluable resource and provide a critical role in the fight against substance abuse and improving the lives of those they treat. Care coordination between community centers and institutions of public safety does not exist in a meaningful way. SB255 will help bridge the gap and provide much needed services to pregnant individuals who already face numerous challenges and obstacles.

For these reasons CMDS urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 255.