

New malpractice review panels forming in state

BY JOHN PFEIFER

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The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services is accepting applications from attorneys interested in chairing three-doctor medical review panels, created by legislation passed earlier this year and a new step in handling malpractice suits.

The medical panel legislation, modeled after a similar law in Indiana, requires legal claims against doctors, nurses, dentists, nursing homes and other health care providers be evaluated by a panel of licensed medical specialists to determine whether “standard of care” was breached.

Kentucky’s law takes effect

June 29.

Molly Nicol Lewis, KCHFS deputy general counsel, notified the 14 state bar association governors May 22 that applications were being accepted for the chairperson positions, which will be selected on a “case-by-case basis.”

“We already have 50 attorneys who have expressed interest,” KCHFS Deputy Secretary Timothy Feeley said.

Feeley said the panels will consist of three doctors, with a non-voting attorney as chair, performing an administrative review of medical records before suits are filed.

“The goal is to end frivolous

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