



2026 Black Maternal Health Conference & Training Institute™

September 10–12, 2026 • Atlanta, Georgia

DRAFT SESSION AGENDA OUTLINE — FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

DRAFT — Subject to Change

This outline agenda is intended to support professional development requests, travel approvals, and conference registration planning. Session topics, speakers, tracks, and formats are still being finalized and are subject to change. A final program will be published closer to the conference date.

Conference Tracks Overview

Track	Focus
Research & Evaluation (RE)	Evidence-based research, data, community-driven inquiry, outcomes studies, and evaluation methodologies that advance knowledge in Black maternal health.
Holistic Care & Clinical Innovation (HC/CI)	Clinical practice, hospital and public health systems, integrative and holistic approaches, doula and midwifery integration, care delivery innovation, and wellness-centered models of care
Culture Shift (CS)	Narrative, storytelling, health communications campaigns, community healing, birth justice, cultural transformation, and leadership development within Black maternal health ecosystems.
Policy & Advocacy (PA)	Legislative and regulatory engagement, advocacy strategies, systems change, health policy, and community organizing for Black maternal health equity.
Expressive Arts (EA)	Film, performance, visual, and creative arts as vehicles for healing and community engagement in Black maternal health.

TRAINING INSTITUTE DAY — THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Time (EST)	Program
9:00 – 9:45 AM	Registration, Check-In & Welcome
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Full-Day Training Sessions & Workshops — Morning Block Training Sessions (running concurrently in separate rooms): 1: Heart Focus: Connecting the Dots between Preeclampsia Awareness & Human Lactation 2: What Zora Taught Us: Black Feminist Methodology and Ethics in Practice 3: Trauma-Informed Care for Ourselves and Our Community 4: Widening the Aperture of Reproductive Justice from Menarche to Menopause

	• 5: From Urgency to Alignment: A Roadmap to Strategic Planning for Black Maternal Health Organizations • 6: From Preconception Through the Fourth Trimester: A Skills-Based Training to Improve Black Maternal Health Outcomes
1:00 – 1:55 PM	Lunch (All Training Institute Attendees)
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Training Sessions — Afternoon Continuation <i>Sessions 1–6 continue in their respective rooms (afternoon block).</i>
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Workshops — Afternoon Block <i>*Some workshops are offered in the morning block</i> Half-Day Focused Workshops (running concurrently): • Workshop A: “Bringing on a period”: The Role of Emergency Contraception and Period Pills for Menstrual Regulation in Primary Care and Midwifery Care • Workshop B: From Passion to Policy: Building an Advocacy Action Plan for Black Maternal Health • Workshop C: Pour Into You: Rest and Sustainability for Birth Workers • Workshop D: Care Without Martyrdom: A Support Circle + Skill Lab for Birth Workers • Workshop E: Cultivating Grace: A Holistic Group-Based Model for Supporting Black Perinatal Mental Health • Workshop F: So You Want to Open a Birth Center... Now What? • Workshop G: Mothering the Mother: African-American Postpartum Traditions
5:30 PM – 7 PM	Black Mama Night – Film Screening

BMHC26 DAY 1 — FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Time (EST)	Program
8:00 – 8:50 AM	Registration & Networking
8:50 – 9:50 AM	BMHC26 Opening Welcome & Morning Plenary Panel <i>Opening remarks • Acknowledgments • Speaker panel discussion</i>
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session Block A <i>Topics include:</i> • Perinatal Mental Health, Trauma-Informed Care & Healing-Centered Practice • Black Midwifery, Doula Integration & Birth Justice • Food as Medicine, Nutrition & Preconception Care • Climate Justice, Environmental Health & Maternal Outcomes • Community-Grounded Research & Evaluation Methods • Poster Sessions: Holistic Care & Clinical Innovation Research & Evaluation
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch, Networking & Exhibitor/Merchant Hall
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Afternoon Plenary Panel
1:30 – 1:50 PM	Break — Exhibitor Hall, Poster Presentations & Networking
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Breakout Session Block B <i>Topics include:</i> • Postpartum Care Systems, Remote Monitoring & Care Gaps for Black Mothers

	• Trauma-Informed Clinical Interventions in Perinatal Settings • Storytelling, Narrative & Culture Shift in Black Maternal Health • NICU Families: Mental Health, Support & Innovation • Policy Advocacy, Medicaid Doula Coverage & Systems Change • Cardiovascular Health, Hypertension & High-Risk Obstetric Care
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Attendee Transition — Exhibitor Hall, Poster Presentations & Networking
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Breakout Session Block C <i>Topics include:</i> • Reproductive Justice, Bodily Autonomy & Queer-Inclusive Perinatal Care • Doula Workforce Sustainability, Compensation & Certification • Ancestral Wisdom, Faith-Based Frameworks & Holistic Healing • Birth Equity in Clinical Settings: Respectful Care & Anti-Racism • Community Health Worker Models & Community-Clinical Partnerships • Expressive Arts, Performance & Healing — Special Sessions
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Poster Viewing & Exhibitor Hall

BMHC26 DAY 2 — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Time (EST)	Program
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration/Check-in, Exhibitors, Merchants & Networking
9:00 – 9:50 AM	BMHC26 Day 2 Welcome & Morning Panel <i>Remarks • Acknowledgments • Speaker panel discussion</i>
9:50 – 10:00 AM	<i>Attendee Transition to Breakout Session Block D</i>
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session Block D <i>Topics include:</i> • Lactation, Breastfeeding Support & Postpartum Systems • Structural Racism, Social Determinants & Birth Outcomes Data • Black Maternal Mental Health: Community Care & Peer Support Models • Practitioner Wellbeing, Burnout & Sustainability in Birth Work • Building Surveillance Systems & Community-Led Data Infrastructure • Poster Sessions: Culture Shift Policy & Advocacy
11:30 AM – 11:50 AM	Lunch, Networking & Exhibitor Hall
12:00 PM – 1 PM	Afternoon Plenary Panel
1 PM – 1:20 PM	Break — Exhibitor Hall, Poster Presentations & Networking
1:20 – 1:30 PM	<i>Attendee Transition to Breakout Session Block E</i>
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Breakout Session Block E <i>Topics include:</i> • Preconception Care, Infertility & Assisted Reproductive Technology • Black Fatherhood, Family-Centered Care & Partner Support • Perinatal Loss, Grief & Liberation-Centered Care • Housing Instability, Economic Justice & Maternal Health Inequities

	• Technology, AI & Community-Driven Research Innovation • Policy Panels: State & Federal Advocacy Strategies for Black Maternal Health
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Attendee Transition — Exhibitor Hall, Poster Presentations & Networking
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Breakout Session Block F <i>Topics include:</i> • Environmental Justice, Climate Preparedness & Disaster Resilience • A Decade of Black Maternal Health Movement Building: Lessons & the Road Ahead • Global Black Maternal Health: Diasporic Perspectives & International Care Contexts • Birth Justice Infrastructure: Power-Building, Community Organizations & Systems Change • Special Sessions & Expressive Arts Presentations
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Closing Day 2 Remarks & Closing Plenary
7:30 – 10:30 PM	BMHC26 Awards Dinner <i>Welcome remarks • Presentation of Awardees • Recognition of sponsors • Dinner</i>

Session Types Include: 30-Minute Oral Presentations • 60-Minute Oral Presentations • Group Panels
• Lightning Talks • Special Sessions • Poster Presentations • Expressive Arts Sessions

For conference registration and information, visit blackmaternalhealthconference.com