



2026 BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH[®]
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA

BMHC26

Program Book



BMMA
BLACK MAMAS MATTER ALLIANCE

WWW.BLACKMATERNALHEALTHCONFERENCE.COM

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Beloved Community and all BMHC26 Attendees,

Welcome back to Atlanta, Georgia. It is my honor to welcome you to the biennial **Black Maternal Health Conference and Training Institute® (#BMHC26)**, a space built by and for our community, centered on Black Maternal Health, birth justice, and reproductive justice.

This year, Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) marks ten years since we founded this organization and established what is now a global Black Maternal Health movement. A decade of showing up and speaking out. A little over a decade of research, policy, community organizing, and culture shift. A decade of building something that did not exist before we built it, together. Maternal health care in this country remains in crisis, and the work represented in these rooms is among the most essential and innovative responses to it anywhere in the world.

This conference celebrates that decade and recommits us to what is still ahead. Our theme, ***Rooted in Justice and Joy***, says it plainly. Justice and joy are not rewards we earn later. They are the ground we stand on now. BMHC26 brings together clinicians, advocates, researchers, birth workers, policymakers, and community members from across the country and around the world. Over the next three days, beginning with our Training Institute, you will find conversations that challenge you, sessions that build practical skills, and connections that will sustain you long after you leave Atlanta. From policy and advocacy to holistic care, research, and culture shift, every room here is designed to move this work forward.

We are especially grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), our presenting sponsor, whose support made this year's convening possible. RWJF's investment reflects something this movement has said from the beginning, which is that lasting change requires partners willing to resource Black-led leadership and trust the people closest to the work.

We are also honored to celebrate two extraordinary leaders through our BMHC Awards. Congratulations to **Mama Linda Jones**, recipient of the *Mama Umm Salaamah "Sondra" Abdullah-Zaimah Birth Worker Award*, and to **Dr. Monica R. McLemore**, recipient of the *Jackson, Rowley, Hogan Excellence in Black Maternal Health Scholarship Award*. Your contributions to this movement are immeasurable, and we are privileged to honor you.

None of this happens without the village. To our Board of Directors, all our Alliance Partners, BMMA staff and volunteers (*past and present*), funders, sponsors, donors, and everyone who has carried this work in their own community, THANK YOU!

To every attendee, whether you are joining us in person or virtually from anywhere in the world, thank you for being here. We are especially glad to welcome our global stakeholders, including those who have taken this work into their own regions and countries and launched Black Maternal Health initiatives where they live. Your presence, in person or online, is an act of commitment. Let us learn together, build together, and leave this conference ready to carry the work forward with even more clarity, conviction, and joy.

With sincere gratitude,

Angela D. Aina

Angela Doyinsola Aina, MPH
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BREANA LIPSCOMB, MPH, CO-CHAIR
JESSICA ROACH, MPH, CO-CHAIR
KWAJELYN JACKSON, MS, TREASURER
KAY MATTHEWS, LCHW
MONICA RAE SIMPSON

KRISHANA M. DAVIS, MPA
TENISE HORDGE, DHA, MBA, BSE, IBCLC
SOPHIA KERBY, MBA
LEANNE LEVERS, PHD
MIA LOGAN

STAFF

AYANNA ROBINSON, PHD, MPH, DIRECTOR, RESEARCH & EVALUATION
AYANNA WOOLFORK, MPH, PROGRAM ANALYST, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DANIELLE S. RIVERS, MPH, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
DIANA MENDOZA, OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE
DKÉAMA ALEXIS, INITIATIVES ASSOCIATE
FATUMA DAHIR, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
GIANNA WILSON, MPA, MANAGER, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
JANET A. DICKERSON, COMMUNICATIONS/P.R. LEAD CONSULTANT
JASMINE L. MITCHELL, MPH, PMP, CHES, POLICY FELLOW
MILAN A. SPENCER, MPH, MCHES, CLEC, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS
OUMIE MBYE, MPH, HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
PHOEBE WESCOTT, MPH, SENIOR MANAGER, TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
SANG HEE WON, MPH, CONSULTANT, RESEARCH & EVALUATION
STEPHANIE ARISTIDE, MPH, POLICY & ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE
TONNI OBERLY, PHD, MPH, CONSULTANT, POLICY ANALYST
WANJA NGUGI, MPA, PMP, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY



PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

2025-2026 PARTNERS

- ANCIENT SONG INC. – NY
- BAOBAB BIRTH COLLECTIVE – AL
- BIRTHING CULTURAL RIGOR, LLC – TN
- BLACK GIRLS' BREASTFEEDING CLUB, LLC
- BLACK MOTHERS BREASTFEEDING ASSOCIATION – MI
- BLACK WOMEN BIRTHING JUSTICE – CA
- BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS – CA
- BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE – GA
- BLOOM COLLECTIVE – MD
- CENTER FOR BLACK WOMEN'S WELLNESS – GA
- CHOCOLATE MILK CAFÉ NATIONAL INC. – NJ
- CHOICES CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH – TN
- COMMONSENSE CHILDBIRTH INC. – FL
- DEM BLACK MAMAS PODCAST – SC
- DIVERSITY UPLIFTS, INC. – CA
- FEMINIST CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE LIBERATION – GA
- GEORGIA BLACK DOULA NETWORK – GA
- JAMAA BIRTH VILLAGE – MO
- KULUNTU REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CENTER – GA
- MAMATOTO VILLAGE – DC
- MOTHERING JUSTICE – MI
- NARRATIVE NATION, IRTH APP – NY
- NATIONAL BLACK MIDWIVES ALLIANCE – FL
- NZINGHA MATERNAL HEALTH RIGHTS AND RESEARCH – GA
- OSHUN FAMILY CENTER – PA
- PERINATAL HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVE – NJ
- RESTORING OUR OWN THROUGH TRANSFORMATION (ROOTT) – OH
- RJ SQUARED LLC – NC
- SANKOFA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & HEALING CENTER – NY
- SHADES OF BLUE PROJECT – TX
- SISTERREACH, INC. – TN/IL
- SISTERS IN LOSS – VA
- SISTERSONG – GA
- SOUTHERN BIRTH JUSTICE NETWORK – FL
- THE AFIYA CENTER – TX
- THE FOUNDATION FOR BLACK WOMEN'S WELLNESS – WI
- THE MELANATED MAMMARY ATLAS – FL

2025-2026 COLLABORATORS

- BREANA LIPSCOMB, MPH
- CAITLIN WILLIAMS, PHD
- EBONY MARCELLE, DNP, CNM, FACNM
- FLEDA MASK JACKSON, PHD
- IFEYINWA ASIODU, RN, PHD
- ISABEL MORGAN, PHD, MSPH, CPH
- JAMILA PERRITT, MD, MPH, FACOG
- JILL DENSON, PHD, MSW
- MONICA R. MCLEMORE, PHD, MPH, RN
- NIA MITCHELL, PHD, MPH
- NICOLE CLARK, LMSW
- PHILICIA W CASTILLO-SANDERS, MPH
- RAENA GRANBERRY
- SAYIDA PEPRAH-WILSON, PSYD



SCHEDULE

TRAINING INSTITUTE DAY



TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:30am - 9:45am	CHECK-IN & WELCOME	KENNESAW
10:00am - 1:00pm	• FULL-DAY TRAINING SESSIONS • WORKSHOPS – MORNING BLOCK	GARDEN COURT LEVEL
1:00pm - 1:55pm	LUNCH (ALL TRAINING INSTITUTE ATTENDEES)	KENNESAW
2:00pm - 5:00pm	• FULL TRAINING SESSIONS – AFTERNOON CONTINUATION • WORKSHOPS – AFTERNOON BLOCK	GARDEN COURT LEVEL
6:00pm - 7:30pm	BLACK MAMA MOVIE NIGHT 🎧	HABERSHAM BALLROOM



*Supported in part by
GE HealthCare Foundation*

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00am - 8:50am	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING CHECK OUT OUR EXHIBITOR AND MERCHANT HALL	GARDEN COURT
8:50am - 9:50am	BMHC26 WELCOME & MORNING PLENARY PANEL ((•))	GRAND BALLROOM
10:00am - 11:30am	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK A ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
11:30am - 12:30pm	LUNCH — NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR/MERCHANT HALL	GRAND BALLROOM AND GARDEN COURT
12:30pm - 1:30pm	AFTERNOON PLENARY PANEL ((•))	GRAND BALLROOM
1:30pm - 1:50pm	BREAK — EXHIBITOR HALL, POSTER PRESENTATIONS & NETWORKING	GARDEN COURT
2:00pm - 3:30pm	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK B ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
3:30pm - 4:00pm	EXHIBITOR HALL, POSTER PRESENTATIONS & NETWORKING	GARDEN COURT LEVEL
4:00pm - 5:30pm	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK C ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
5:30pm - 6:00pm	POSTER VIEWING & EXHIBITOR HALL	GARDEN COURT LEVEL



LIVESTREAMING

SCHEDULE

DAY 2

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00am - 8:50am	REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN, NETWORKING CHECK OUT OUR EXHIBITOR AND MERCHANT HALL	GARDEN COURT
8:50am - 9:50am	WELCOME & MORNING PANEL ((•))	GRAND BALLROOM
10:00am - 11:30am	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK D ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
11:30am - 11:50pm	LUNCH – NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR HALL	GRAND BALLROOM AND GARDEN COURT
12:00pm - 1:00pm	AFTERNOON PLENARY PANEL ((•))	GRAND BALLROOM
1:00pm - 1:20pm	BREAK – EXHIBITOR HALL, POSTER PRESENTATIONS & NETWORKING	GARDEN COURT
1:30pm - 3:00pm	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK E ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
3:00pm - 3:30pm	EXHIBITOR HALL, POSTER PRESENTATIONS & NETWORKING	GARDEN COURT LEVEL
3:30pm - 5:00pm	BREAKOUT SESSION: BLOCK F ((•))	GARDEN COURT LEVEL & FIRST FLOOR
5:10pm - 5:30pm	CLOSING REMARKS ((•))	GRAND BALLROOM
7:30pm - 10:30pm	BMHC26 AWARDS DINNER (TICKETED EVENT)	GATHERING SPOT, ATL



LIVESTREAMING

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:50am - 9:50am	BMHC26 WELCOME & MORNING PLENARY PANEL ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
10:00am - 11:30am	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK A ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
11:30am - 12:30pm	BREAK FOR LUNCH	
12:30pm - 1:30pm	AFTERNOON PLENARY PANEL ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
1:30pm - 1:50pm	BREAK	
2:00pm - 3:30pm	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK B ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
3:30pm - 4:00pm	BREAK	
4:00pm - 5:30pm	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK: C ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
5:30pm	END OF DAY 1	

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:50am - 9:50am	WELCOME & MORNING PANEL ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
10:00am - 11:30am	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK D ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
11:30am - 11:50pm	BREAK FOR LUNCH	
12:00pm - 1:00pm	AFTERNOON PLENARY PANEL ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
1:00pm - 1:20pm	BREAK	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK E ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
3:00pm - 3:30pm	BREAK	
3:30pm - 5:00pm	BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK F ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE
5:10pm- 5:30pm	CLOSING REMARKS ((.)))	VIRTUAL VENUE

DAY 1

DAY 2

HYBRID EXPERIENCE

BMHC26 is a hybrid experience that offers valuable, engaging content for everyone, whether you attend in person or remotely.

In-person Attendees will be able to attend all on-site events and access all virtual content in the BMHC26 app.

Virtual Attendees will be able to attend all sessions held in the Grand Ballroom and Habersham Ballroom via livestream. Livestreamed sessions are noted with the following icon: ((⦿))

BREAKOUT SESSION AND POSTER DESIGNATIONS

NOTE: CE, CEU, CERP credits are only available for in-person sessions

Tracks

Policy/Advocacy (PA) | Holistic Care/Clinical Innovation (HI/CI) | Research/Evaluation (RE) | Culture Shift/Creative (CS) | Expressive Arts (EA)

CEs, CEU, CERP Type

CE and CEU credit type information for each breakout session is available on the BMHC26 app. Download the app and navigate to the session details to confirm which credit type applies to each session you attend.

To learn more about continuing education credits offered at BMHC26, visit: blackmaternalhealthconference.com/continuingeducation or scan the QR code



DAY 1: SPEAKERS

SPONSORED IN PART BY



Morning Plenary

THE ECONOMICS OF BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH: *From Evidence to Ecosystem*



Fadesola Adetosoye
Senior Expert, Associate Partner, and affiliated leader of the McKinsey Institute of Economic Mobility



Rose Aka-James, MPH
Director of Health, U.S. Programs, CARE USA



Dr. Natalie Hernandez-Green
Executive Director, Morehouse School of Medicine Center for Maternal Health Equity



Gabrielle "Gabby" Dirden,
Director of Implementation, US Programs.

Afternoon Plenary

10 YEARS OF BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCACY: *State Policy Wins, Lessons Learned, and the Road Ahead*



Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes
PA (D-24)



Rep. Dr. Jasmine Clark
GA (D-108)



Sen. Natalie Murdock
NC (D-20)



Rep. Morgan Cephas
PA (D-192)



Rep. Gina H. Curry
(PA D-164)

PLENARY CO-SPONSORED BY HHF AND
CENTER FOR BLACK HEALTH AND EQUITY



BREAKOUT SESSION DAY 1

BLOCK A: 10:00am - 11:30am

#20	At the Crossroads: Nursing Incivility Anti-Racism and Respectful Care in Perinatal Health (R/E) Jallicia Jolly; Kanika Harris Color evasion and empathy in clinical practice: A causal attribution approach to understanding obstetric providers' perceptions on maternal health disparities (R/E) Jasmin Darville	Andover
#58	Black Doula Lens: A Photovoice Circle for Reimagining Birth Healing and Justice (CS) Dr. Shauna Wallace	Ansley
#41	Shifting the Culture of Black Maternal Health in an Extreme Weather and Disaster Impacted South (CS) Rachel Powell	Ascot
#17	Inherited Protection (HC/CI) Clemente Love	Brayton
#16	Listening Screening and Supporting: A Culturally Responsive PTSD Intervention for Pregnant Black Women (HC/CI) Chaela Nutor; Nicole Sessions Listening without reproducing harm: Integrating psychological safety into maternal safety research (R/E) Karey Sutton	Chancellor
#23	The Role of Mindfulness in Having Diabetes While Pregnant: A Qualitative Study with a High Risk Population From Baltimore (R/E) Maura Tenor Association Between Endometriosis and Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy in Black Women: Insights from Correlational Data and Implications for Maternal Health Equity (R/E) Calbeth Alaribe	Fulton

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 1

BLOCK A: 10:00am - 11:30am

#46	Black Queer Women Couples Family Planning: Reflections from the A.R.T. for Hope Study (R/E) Shemeka Thorpe; Natalie Malone	Galleria
#14	Strategies of Building Irrepressible Communities Rooted in Black Maternal Vitality (C/S) Toshira Maldonado The Power of We: Collective Care Collective Impact. (HC/CI) Nichole Wardlaw; Nataki Hill; Shanteny Jackson; Lisa Brown	Highlands
#34	Maternal Health Policy Beyond the Momnibus (PA)  Elizabeth Dawes	Habersham
#52	From Survival to Sovereignty: Designing a Black Perinatal Workforce That Grows With Its People (HC/CI) Aya Iwai-Folk	Lennox
#26 (mixed tracks)	Black Mothers Are the Impact, Providers Are the Lever: Rethinking Clinical Decision-Making, Perfectionism, and Trust in Black Maternal Mental Health (HC/IC) Shayla Johnson Responsive Care for Pregnancy After Loss Marjorie Vail Beyond “Congratulations”: Designing Trauma-Informed Communication for Birth Loss and Everything Between Rahmatu Kassimu	Kennesaw
#59	Ain’t I a Leader? Radical Black Birth Worker (BBW) Radical Leadership (R/E) Lesa Clark	Waverly

BREAKOUT SESSION DAY 1

BLOCK B: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

#54	Communicating the Black Maternal Health Crisis through Film and Dance (EA) Stephanie Baker; Keisha Gee	Andover
#33	Our Mamas Our Mission: Advancing Black Maternal Health Through Policy and Advocacy in Mississippi (P/A) Nakeitra Burse; Asia Rush	Ansley
#18	Drops of love: A community-led donor milk sharing initiative advancing equity in East Orange, New Jersey (HC/CI) Brittany Wright; Siara Maldonado Rooted in Justice, Designed for Joy: Building Gold-Standard Community-Based Doula Programs (C/S) Shontei Hampton, Twylla Dillon	Ascot
#57	Braiding Power Building Futures: Institutionalizing Ancestral Wisdom to Shift Workforce Culture. (C/S) Marlee-I Mystic; Brittini Chicuata	Brayton
#30 (mixed tracks)	Scaling Preventative Care: Leveraging a Food Is Medicine Pilot to Implement a Community Doula Program Nkemka Egbuho NOURISH Maternal Food as Medicine Program: Case Study Tambra Stevenson Ancestral Plates for Modern Births: Culturally Informed Prenatal Nutrition Mikayla Blackson	Chancellor
#47	Holding Us Through It: Black Maternal Mental Health Community Care and Birth Equity (HC/CI) Dominique Phinn	Gallera

BREAKOUT SESSION DAY 1

BLOCK B: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

#3

Ten years of Black Midwifery Postpartum Programming Innovation (HC/IC)
Ebony Marcelle

Highlands

Grounding Our Feet At Home: Reclaiming Our Ancestral Birth Right through Midwifery Care and Health Education (CS)
Leah Aniefuna

#48

Weathering of Black Doulas in Hospitals; Challenges & Opportunities (R/E)
Denise Bolds



Habersham

#60

Rebuilding Perinatal Care Through Community and Power (C/S)
Ryenne Smith

Lenox

#25

Addressing Cardiometabolic Risk Pre-Pregnancy: Assessing the Acceptability and Feasibility of a Culturally-Tailored Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Intervention (HARMONY) for Reproductive Age African American Women (R/E)
Taleah Frazier

Postpartum Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring for Patients with a Hypertensive Disorder of Pregnancy: Readmission Rates and Outpatient Follow-up at a Community Teaching Hospital (HC/CI)
Adena Brewington-Brown

Caring for the Heart of a Mother: Implementation Insights and Recommendations for Postpartum Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring
Jasmine Abrams

Systemic Racism Clinical Interventions and Maternal Morbidity: A 10-Year Retrospective Analysis of High-Risk Obstetric Conditions in the United States
Victoria Towns

Kennesaw

BREAKOUT SESSION DAY 1

BLOCK B: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

#70	We Never Go Alone: Lessons on Solidarity and Liberation from Black Women's Leadership Legacies in Cross-Cultural Coalitions in New Mexico (C/S) Isabel Morgan; Donyelle Miller; Nicole Morris; Anita Pushan	Waverly
-----	---	---------

BLOCK C: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

#9	Justice & Joy: Impactful Collaboration Doula Integration in Hospital Based Maternity Care (HC/CI) Averjill Lacey; Michelande RidorÉ; Adetola Louis-Jacques DoulaREADI: Designing Hospital Systems for Equitable Integration of Community-Based Doulas (HC/CI) Breana Turner	Ascot
----	--	-------

#13	How Practitioners Can Support Black Maternal Mental Health After Perinatal Loss: Culturally Grounded Approaches for Healing, Advocacy, and Clinical Care (C/S) Erica Freeman Grief in the Room: Transforming Provider Loss into Liberation-Centered Care for Black Birthing Families (HC/CI) Pamela Atueyi	Brayton
-----	---	---------

#40	Training for Transformation: Lessons from Mamatoto Village's Perinatal Community Health Worker Model (R/E) Aza Nedhari	Chancellor
-----	--	------------

#56	RAHIM: A Faith-Based Framework to Advance Black Maternal Health in Muslim Communities (CS) Sabreen Mohammed; Amatallah Saulawa	Fulton
-----	--	--------

#1	From Survival to Thriving: Perspectives on Advancing Equitable Comprehensive and Family-Centered Care for NICU Families (HC/CI) Andrea Serano; Celestine Ofori-Parku	Galleria
----	--	----------

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 1

BLOCK C: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

#19	Beyond Evidence-Based: Building Community-Grounded, Fundable Evidence in Black Maternal Health (R/E) Nicole Clark	Highlands
#53	Getting to the heart of Black Maternal Health (HC/CI)  Nastassia Harris	Habersham
#68	From Movement to Infrastructure: A Decade of Birth Justice Policy, Community Power, and Systems Change (P/A) Chanel Porchia-Albert; Kennedy Austin	Lenox
#31 (mixed tracks)	"Beyond Quiet as it's Kept": Centering Black Maternal Storytelling as a Survival Strategy for the Black Maternal Health Emergency Lamaya Williams Story as Strategy: How Listening Sessions, Summits, and Digital Spaces Shift Black Maternal Health Culture Chyna Hill From statistics to sacred stories: Leveraging storytelling to transform medical education on Black Maternal Health care Simone Seward; Rachel Johnson; Zuri Williams; Keturah Cochren-Albright Listening as Care: Story Sovereignty Justice and Joy in Black Maternal Mental Health Drisana McDaniel	Kennesaw
#61	Pleasure as Birth Justice: Reclaiming Joy Agency and Embodied Power in Black Maternal Health (CS) Clarissa Francis	Waverly

DAY 2: SPEAKERS

Morning Plenary

BEYOND THE BINARY:

Queer Black Family, Reproductive Justice, and the Right to Parent



Ericka Hart
Sex Educator and Author,
Nasty Work



Ebony P. Donnley
Co-Host, "Hoodrat to
Headwrap" Podcast

Afternoon Plenary

THE FULL SPECTRUM:

Why Black Maternal Health Requires Care Across the Life Course



Omisade Burney-Scott
Founder, *The Black Girls'*
Guide to Surviving
Menopause



Dr. Charis Chambers,
"The Period Doctor"
OB/GYN and Author,
The Period and Puberty
Parenting Revolution



Dr. Kemi Doll
Gynecologic Oncologist and
OB/GYN, Founding Director
of The GRACE Center,
Author, *A Terrible Strength*

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 2

BLOCK D: 10:00am - 11:30am

#49	Beyond the Binary: Integrating the Lactation and Contraceptive tool across Interdisciplinary Postpartum Care Teams (HC/CI) Jamilla Webb		Andover
#55	Wombs of the World (CS) Charlotte Brielle Hough	((()))	On-Demand
#8	Building Black Maternal Health Leadership: Early Outcomes from the Birth & Breastfeeding Leadership Institute (C/S) Rachael Wigley, Kiddada Green Building Our Own Tables: On Shaping the Next Generation of Lactation Professionals (C/S) Kiana Ayers		Ascot
#39	Creating a Welcoming Space for Fathers in Maternal and Child Health (HC/CI) Mitzi Fears; Juan Irby; Rosalind Hill; Twanna Nelson		Brayton
#35	Equity-First State Momnibus Packages: Where We Are - and What's Next (P/A) Amani Echols; Kenda Denia; Elon Geffrard; Lorena Bonet Velazquez		Chancellor
#22	Integrating Legal Advocacy Into Perinatal Care to Advance Black Maternal Health Equity (P/A) Roxana Richardson Community Policy Impact Assessment by the GA Black Maternal Health Taskforce (P/A) Tonni Oberly; Stephanie Aristide		Fulton

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 2

BLOCK D: 10:00am - 11:30am

#21	Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Women During the Menopausal Transition (R/E) DeBran Tarver	Galleria
	Overcoming Infertility: Black Women's Experiences with Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Insights from Expert Clinicians (R/E) Ibipo Bukky Babalola	
#44	The Making of the Medi-Cal (P/A) Sayida Peprah-Wilson	Highlands
#52	From Survival to Sovereignty: Designing a Black Perinatal Workforce That Grows With Its People (HC/IC) Aya Iwai-Folk	Habersham
#66	Said Out Loud: Our Abortion Stories Movie Screening and Sister Circle (EA) Maiyah Mayhan-Calif Black Women's Health Project	Lenox
#27 (mixed tracks)	The MENTOR Framework: Designing Culturally Grounded Doula Training to Advance Black Maternal Health Breana Turner	Kennesaw
	Doulas Are for Every Body: Shifting Culture, Changing Behavior, and Reframing Community-Based Care Tiwani Oseni	
	The New Doula: Elevating the Profession Lisa Brown	
	From Community Wisdom to Collective Action: How Community Collaboration Builds Sustainable Doula Training Pathways Ashlee Wilson	
	An Innovative Strategy: Implementing the Hospital Doula-Friendliness Model to Improve Black Maternal Health Outcomes (HC/IC) Amaya Langaigne; Kimberly Comfort	
	Shifting Birth Culture Through Medicaid-Funded Doula Care for Black Families in Western New York and Beyond Danise Wilson	

BREAKOUT SESSION DAY 2

BLOCK D: 10:00am - 11:30am

#62

Towards a Sanctuary in the Village: Collectively Advancing Black Mamas Behavioral Wellness (R/E)

Amittia Parker; Markita Barideaux; Maya Rodgers

Waverly

BLOCK E: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

#15

Liberation Birthways in Liberia: Labor Without Privacy, Delivery Without Dignity—Reimagining Trauma-Informed Obstetric Care for Black Mothers (HC/CI)

Tanesha Mondestin Chanel Stryker

Andover

Compassionate OB Care in Practice: Interprofessional Strategies to Improve Safety Trust and Outcomes for Black Mothers (C/S)

Lorraine Wilson Batts

#38

Building Infrastructures of Care: Advancing Birth Equity Through Community—Clinical Partnerships in Alabama (CS)

Yaschica Robinson; Jenice Fountain; Rauslyn Adams; Melissa Kearse

Ansley

#12

Safety-Centered Maternal Mental Health Practices (HC/CI)

Khamara Harris

Ascot

Birth Trauma & Mental Health (HC/CI)

Keisha Reaves

#4

Identifying Needs of the Haitian Immigrant Community Through Fetal Infant Mortality Review Data and Collaboration (HC/CI)

Maire Stocking

Brayton

The Social Determinants of Health Among Pregnant Haitian Immigrant Women in New York City: A 2021-2024 Trend Analysis (R/E)

Tanesha Mondestin

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 2

BLOCK E: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

#45	Rooted in Black Midwifery (HC/CI) Asmara Gebre; Nikia Grayson; Akaninyene Ruffin; Fiyinfoluwa Morenikeji	Chancellor
#5	Doulas on the Frontline: Evaluating the Intersection of Climate Justice and Perinatal Preparedness in Louisiana and Beyond (R/E) Tyra Gross Justice for Our First Environment (C/S) Jamoni Overby	Fulton
#6	Using Principles of Reproductive Justice to Guide a Community-Engaged Research Project that Addresses Maternal Health Disparities in the Gulf South (R/E) Melissa Goldin Evans; Zainab Jah The Social Determinants of Health Among Pregnant Haitian Immigrant Women in New York City: A 2021-2024 Trend Analysis (R/E) Tanesha Mondestin	Galleria
#37	Rooted in Care: Advancing Community-Based Solutions for Gestational Hypertension to Reduce Black Maternal Morbidity (R/E) Francoise Knox-Kazimierczuk; Angelica Hardee; Kimberly Harper; Quintana Stewart	Highlands
#43	Powerbuilding in Motion: A Cross-State Community-Led Model for Culture Shift Wellness and Policy Transformation in PN-3 Ecosystems (CS) Dr. Waffiyah Saleem Iddriss; Gloria Blevins; Danielle Curry-Bentley; Qianna Tidmore	((())) Habersham

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 2

BLOCK E: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

#67	We Cry Freedom (EA) Tierra Stewart	Lenox
#29 (mixed tracks)	Joy, Struggle, and Resilience: Examining How Black Mothers Navigate Work and Family During the Transition to Parenthood (R/E) Ciara Venter	Kennesaw
	What We Carry Into Motherhood: The Stories Second-Shift Daughters Tell Courtney McMillian	
	Exploring Afrocentric Qualitative Inquiry: Getrouw's Mkeka Theoretical Framework Jasmine Getrouw	
	Rooted in Justice Led by Black Mothers: Culturally Responsive Evaluation as Care (R/E) Christina Davis	
#63	Reclaiming Motherwork as Holistic Care: A National Convening to Advance Black Maternal Health Equity (HC/CI) Jaye Wilson; Nancy Grayson; Kenya Grayson; Yordanos Tesfai	Waverly

BLOCK F: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

#2	Rooting Resilience: A Dual-Generation Gut-Centered Model for Black Maternal and Infant Health Through Microbiome Science Cultural Wisdom and Preventive Care. (HC/CI) Olivia Watkins	Brayton
#42	SisterWell: Promoting Health, Well-being, and Joy for Black Doulas and Black Birthing People They Care For (R/E) Oluwatosin Adeniyi-Miller; Elizabeth Rhodes; Chanel Stryker; Thomecia Busby	Chancellor
#10	"It Was a Roller Coaster, But I Wasn't Alone": Centering Connections and Community in Maternal and Infant Care (HC/CI) Amittia Parker Beyond the Six Week Check Up: PP Care as a Systems Gap for Black Mothers Whitney Batteast	Fulton

BREAKOUT SESSION

DAY 2

BLOCK F: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

#7	An Abundance of Justice: Navigating the political financial and legal hurdles to launch the California Abundant Birth Project (P/A) Zea Malawa; La Roux Pendleton; Brittany Chambers; ReNika Moore Atlanta Abundant Birth Project: A Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot Program (C/S) Tamara Mason	Highlands
#36	From Data to Action: Integrating Community-Led Research and Community Hospital Advisory Boards to Advance Black Maternal Health (R/E) Lucia Palmarini; Lauren Everett; Dorian Odems; Josselyn Taylor Okoroduru	Habersham
#64	Redefining Family: Family Abolition for the Current Times (CS) Khye Blue	Lenox
#28 (mixed tracks)	Reimagining Care Ecosystems - Integrated Clinical & Holistic Health and Wellness Centers for Black Mothers Cimone Holt Community Partnerships for Maternal Health: Outreach and Support Initiatives of the Babies Born Healthy Home Visiting Program in Montgomery County Maryland Angeline Bell; Crystal Trent Paultre; Whitney Dula From Hospitals to Homes: Building Technology Infrastructure to Support Community-Based Maternal Health Care Aneesha Smith From Extraction to Stewardship: What We Learned Building a Community-Rooted Organization in Black Maternal Health Zainab Jah; Kiara Cruz; Susan Perez "They Study Us But Who Protects Us?": Building Community-Governed Knowledge Sovereignty in Black Maternal Health Lisa Brown	Kennesaw
#65	Midwifery and The Black Birthing Family (EA) Stefanie Belnavis	Waverly

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1

The Preventative Gap
Alicia Simpson

2

Racial Trauma and Radical Healing: A Mixed-Methods Typology Framework for Understanding Black Women's Maternal Health
Keianna Moyer

3

Critical Race spirituality Theory (CRsT): A Framework for Healing Justice and the Reclamation of the Spirit Through Story, Connection, and Critical Consciousness (CS)
Monica Lagunas

4

Housing instability as a structural driver of Black maternal health inequities in Georgia: Evidence from PRAMS (R/E)
Miranda Weaver

5

Protecting Black Families One Doula at a Time: A Community-Based Education Program for Holistic Perinatal Care (HC/IC)
Rayonna Booth

6

Building Black Maternal Health Leadership: Early Outcomes from the Birth & Breastfeeding Leadership Institute (CS)
Rachael Wigley

7

Reframing Maternal Vulnerability: A Multilevel Framework of Risk and Resilience in Maternal Health (R/E)
Crystal Trent Paultre

8

Assessment of Patient Satisfaction Scores after Implementing Birth Equity "Best for All"- Quality Improvement Project (R/E)
Sophia Akatue

9

Measuring Beyond the Vitals: Is it Safer to be a Black Birthing Parent in the US in 2026 than 2016?
Ellyn Russo

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

10

EleVATE Voices: Patient Perspectives on Engagement and Satisfaction in Group Prenatal Care (R/E)

Nia Plump

11

Race-Related Stress and PTSD in Black Perinatal Women: Collectivism as a Cultural Strength (R/E)

Sarah Kuhil

12

The Necessity of Self-Advocacy during Pregnancy: Listening to Black Mothers in Rural Georgia (HC/IC)

Deborah Shomuyiwa; Jada Moss

13

HEAL: Exploring Healthy Eating Approaches among Black Pregnant Women (R/E)

Iroque Igbinosa

14

Is there strength in unity? Perspectives from Multi-Sector Stakeholders of Collaborations addressing Birth Outcomes using a Novel Assessment Index

Aver Yakubu

15

Mama Stories: Advancing Black Maternal Health with Art and Advocacy (RE)

Leah Alexander

16

The Color of Care: Listening to the Voices of Black Mothers in Healthcare Settings (R/E)

Shunale Oliver

17

Does it Take a Village?: Exploring the impact of community-based organizations on Black maternal health outcomes

Doussou Toure

18

Bridging Systems and Communities: A Doula-Centered Framework for Improving Black Maternal Outcomes (R/E)

Taneisha Gillyard Cheairs

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

19

Sepsis Due to Nonlactational Mastitis at 36 Weeks' Gestation: Pitfalls of Recognizing Antepartum Sepsis

Shant Ohanian

20

Exploring the Scope of Community-Based Doulas and Healthcare System Partnerships to promote Maternal Health Equity for Black Women and Birthing People

Omotara Tiamiyu

21

Maternal Health A-Z Alphabet™: An Innovative Educational Framework to Advance Maternal Health Literacy, Advocacy, and Health Equity (HC/CI)

Orita Semple

22

"I have a love-hate relationship with resiliency": Black women's experiences and coping with racism in maternal healthcare in Georgia

Jasmin Darville

23

Black Birthing Initiative: Evaluating a Community-Driven Program Rooted in Justice and Belonging to Reduce Preterm Birth and Strengthen Autonomy Across Three Metropolitan Cities

Demetrius Geiger

DOWNLOAD THE BMHC26 MOBILE APP!

FOR IOS DEVICES



FOR ANDROID DEVICES



Use the mobile app to access our conference agenda, presenter bios, and connect with our virtual BMHC26 attendees!

ONCE DOWNLOADED USE YOUR REGISTRATION CREDENTIALS TO LOGIN

WWW.BLACKMATERNALHEALTHCONFERENCE.COM

BMHC26 AWARDS

**2026 JACKSON, ROWLEY, HOGAN
EXCELLENCE IN BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT**

DR. MONICA R. MCLEMORE

A tenured Professor at NYU's Rory Meyers College of Nursing, Editor in Chief of Health Equity Journal, and author of 152 peer-reviewed articles, Dr. McLemore's research on reproductive health and justice has been cited in eight Supreme Court amicus briefs and four National Academies of Science reports.



**2026 UMM SALAAMAH "SONDRA"
ABDULLAH-ZAIMAH
BIRTHWORKER AWARD RECIPIENT**

MAMA LINDA JONES

A Birth and Postpartum Doula, reproductive justice community elder, co-founder and Executive Director of Black Women Birthing Justice, and co-author of *Battling Over Birth: Black Women and the Maternal Health Care Crisis in California*, Mama Linda has spent over three decades advocating for Black birthing people in the Bay Area and beyond.





2026 BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH[®]
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE[®]
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor



Culture Shift Sponsor



California
Health Care
Foundation

Community Builder Sponsors



IRVING HARRIS
FOUNDATION



In-Solidarity Sponsors



Evelyn & William Blythe
Advocates For Health Equity



Georgia
Health
Initiative



Healthy
Futures
Foundation
Advancing Maternal and Child Health



Planned
Parenthood[®]
Care. No matter what.

NYU - Midwifery Program



THE CENTER FOR
BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY

Media Partner



CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND LEGACY



As we gather to advance the work of Black maternal health, we carry with us the names, the wisdom, and the spirits of those who built the foundation beneath our feet. BMMA exists because of and in service of the midwives, the Black women's organizations, scholars, healers, and caregivers who ushered new life into our homes, our communities, and our world. Their hands held us before we knew how to hold ourselves.

This year, as we mark 10 years of this movement, we pause to honor those who have transitioned and now walk with us as ancestors. To the elders, the midwives, the advocates, and the community builders who gave everything to this work, we call your names with love and with gratitude. You poured into this movement without always knowing what it would become. We carry it forward in your honor. We recognize and call forward the work of those who have gone before us, and we boldly carry forward their rich legacy. We honor you.



SUNSHINE MUSE



DR. JANELL G. SMITH



MIDWIFE CLAUDIA BOOKER



MIDWIFE NASRAH SMITH



10 YEARS OF ESTABLISHING THE GLOBAL BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH MOVEMENT!



WWW.BLACKMAMASMATTER.ORG

THANK YOU!



@blkmamasmatter



@BMHConference



@bmhonference

BMHC26 is the official, global assembly on Black Maternal Health. The conference centers Black people, clinicians, professionals, practitioners, and advocates; and welcomes ALL maternal, perinatal, and reproductive health equity stakeholders who are seeking to develop professionally, learn, and network.



WWW.BLACKMATERNALHEALTHCONFERENCE.COM

