



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 16 - 17, 2021

BMMA
BLACK MAMAS MATTER ALLIANCE

**CLAIMING OUR
POWER, RESILIENCE,
AND LIBERATION**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CHANGE MAKERS



MOVEMENT MAKERS



CHAMPIONS





*The moment we choose to love,
we begin to move against
domination, against oppression.
The moment we choose to love,
we begin to move toward freedom,
to act in ways that liberate
ourselves and others.*

-bell hooks

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BLACK MAMAS MATTER ALLIANCE

Beloved Community,

We are excited to have you join us to celebrate the 2021 Black Maternal Health Conference (#BMHC21). This year, our conference is completely virtual and wraps up a dynamic Black Maternal Health Week. In 2020, we centered Black Mamas and their right to live and thrive despite the novel COVID-19 global pandemic and the social injustices that impact Black communities. On the heels of freedom summer 2020 and the renewed spirit of social justice we are proud to embrace our 2021 theme: Black Mamas Matter: Claiming Our Power, Resilience & Liberation.

When we made the decision to plan and implement our first Black Maternal Health Conference and Training Institute in 2018, we hoped to fill an important gap in the public health and maternal health fields. We sought to provide a space for honest conversations, rich dialogue, deep learning, strong connections, and meaningful collaboration that would propel the burgeoning movement for Black Maternal Health Equity forward. Thanks to your participation and contributions, we did just that and have continued to build upon that momentum and ongoing work throughout the past three years to this weekend's #BMHC21.

For BMMA, we recognize maternal mortality as a global crisis affecting Black women and birthing folks across the world, not just in the U.S., and we join other Black and African women leaders across the diaspora in the fight to END maternal mortality. Black Maternal Health Week and Conference serve as an opportunity to, first, bring visibility to Black women leaders and scholars in the maternal and reproductive health; raise awareness, inspire activism, and strengthen organizing for the Black Maternal Health movement.

Together, we will grow our knowledge about issues affecting Black Maternal Health in the United States; build skills to transform care, research, policy, programs, and the public discourse; and establish and strengthen connections to those who share our passion, values, and dedication. And together, we will empower the movement for Black Maternal Health, Rights, and Justice.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this work and encouraged us as we pursued our labor of love. A very special thank you to the Black Mamas Matter Alliance Board of Directors, Kindred Partners and Collaborators, Staff, and Donors for all that you do for this movement and for Black Mamas and our families.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Angela Doyinsola Aina, MPH
Co-Founding Executive Director
Black Mamas Matter Alliance

ANGELA DOYINSOLA AINA, MPH
CO-FOUNDING EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



WHO WE ARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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WHO WE ARE PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

KINDRED PARTNERS

Ancient Song Doula Services – NY
Baobab Birth Collective – AL
Black Girls' Breastfeeding Club – GA
Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association – MI
Black Women Birthing Justice – CA
Black Women For Wellness – CA
Black Women's Health Imperative – DC
Center for Black Women's Wellness – GA
Chocolate Milk Cafe National Inc. – NJ
CinnaMoms – CA
CommonSense Childbirth/ National Perinatal Task Force – FL
Dem Black Mamas Podcast – CA
Feminist Women's Health Center – GA
Jamaa Birth Village – MO
Mamatoto Village – DC
MommyUp – MD
Mothering Justice – MI
National Birth Equity Collaborative – LA
National Black Midwives Alliance – GA
Perinatal Health Equity Foundation – NJ
Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT) – OH
Shades of Blue Project – TX
Shafia Monroe Birthing Change – OR
SisterLove, Inc. – GA
SisterReach – TN
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective – GA
Southern Birth Justice Network – FL
The Afiya Center – TX
Village Birth International/Co-Mothering, Syracuse – NY

COLLABORATORS

Andrea N. Williams- Muhammad, CBD, CPD, CBE
Avery Desrosiers, MPH
Caitlin Williams, PhD
Courtney Drayton, MPH
Ebony Marcelle, CNM
Erin Cloud, Esq.
Fleda Mask Jackson, PhD
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Lynn Roberts, PhD
Makina L. Table, MPH
Nia Mitchell, MPH
Nicole Clark, LMSW
Philicia Castillo, MPH
Sunshine Muse

SCHEDULE DAY 1

TIME EASTERN TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Welcoming Address	BMMA Executive Director, Angela Aina, MPH
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Townhall Claiming Our Power in Black Maternal Health	Jessica Roach, MPH Jennie Joseph, LM Joia Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN Angela Aina, MPH
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	EXHIBITOR HALL , ON DEMAND AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
1:30 PM - 2:35 PM	Roundtable Presentations and Q&A Centering Our Ingenuity to Advance Maternal Mental Health	Deborah Small, JD, MPP Natalie Hernandez, PhD, MPH Catrina Williams Kay Matthews, LCHW Breana Lipscomb, MPH
2:35 PM - 3:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS	EXHIBITOR HALL , ON DEMAND AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
	Amplifying the Voices of Black Mamas in Loss & Infertility	Erica McAfee, CD, CLC
	Trill Moms: Shifting The Way Society Listens To And Cares For Black Moms	Brittany Wright Kashimana Ahua
	Voices of Black Mothers: The Baby-Friendly Experience	Hakima L. Payne, MSN, RN Tru B. Kellman, CNM
	Black Midwifery as Resistance	Hanifah Shoatz-Bey, DEM
	Extending Postpartum Medicaid Coverage: A Human Rights-based Approach to State Policy Advocacy	Amber Mack, MSW Breana Lipscomb, MPH
	Reclaiming Black Care in Pregnancy: Development and Implementation of Hospital-based Black Racially Concordant Group Perinatal Care Models in the Bay Area	Andrea Jackson, MD, MAS Iyesha Wren, CNM



TIME EASTERN TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
3:30 PM - 4:35 PM	Keynote Address	Dorothy Roberts, JD
4:35 PM - 5:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS	Foundations of Cultural Humility and Implicit Bias	Sayida Peprah, PsyD, Doula
	Advancing Maternal Health Care Without Legislation	Jamille Allbrooks, JD, MPH Osub Ahmed, MPH
	Auntie Taught Me	Khye Tyson
	Improving Resilience and Maternal Care Provision for Black Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse	Inas Mahdi, MPH
	Advancing Black Maternal Health within a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Wellbeing Framework: A Visionary Agenda for the Federal Government	Jamie Hart, PhD, MPH
	Problematizing and Reframing Self-Care From a Critical Foundations Framework	Jasmine Getrouw-Moore, MPA Rebecca Severin, MPH, CPH
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Transforming Maternal Health through Birth Justice	Jamarah Amani, LM Carmen Antonetty
	Groove Thang BMHC21 Official Afterparty <i>**Ticket purchase was required at time of conference registration</i>	

SCHEDULE DAY 2

TIME EASTERN TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Welcoming & Acknowledgements	BMMA Executive Director, Angela Aina, MPH
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	EXHIBITOR HALL , ON DEMAND AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Townhall Centering Joy, Liberation, and Creativity in Black Maternal Health	Monica Simpson Kimberly Seals-Allers, MS Crystal Irby Thea Monyee Angela Aina, MPH
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	EXHIBITOR HALL , ON DEMAND AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
	BMBFA B'Right Hub: Moving from Ideation to Impact	Kiddada Green, MAT Anjanette Davenport-Hatter, LMSW
	Leveraging Digital Platforms to Advance Equity for Black Bodies	Kimberly Seals-Allers, MS Ashely Wisdom
	No More Trauma Porn	Kiara M. Cruz, MPH Carmen Green, MPH
	Organizing Black Mamas for Reproductive Justice and Policy Change in Pennsylvania	La'Tasha D. Mayes, MSPPM PA State Representative, Morgan B. Cephas
	Sage That Policy	Nkenge Browner
	The Art of Birthing - Shifting the Paradigm Using Art As Advocacy to Uplift and Educate Communities	Nicole Deggins, CNM, MSN, MPH Heather Gonzales, MBA
	The Black Birthing Bill of Rights: Communicating a Human Rights-based Approach to Black Maternal Health Care through Art and Social Media	Noelene K. Jeffers, PhD, CNM, IBCLC Ebony R. Marcelle, CNM, MS, FACNM
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Keynote Address	Kelis
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	EXHIBITOR HALL , ON DEMAND AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
3:00 PM - 4:35 PM	Roundtable COVID-19, Black Birthing Persons and the Need for Structural Change!	Brittany Chambers, PhD, MPH Jazmin Fontenot, MPH Ayanna Robinson, PhD, MPH Nia Mitchell, MPH Ebony Marcelle, CNM, MS, FACNM Kwajelyn Jackson, MS

TIME EASTERN TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
4:35 PM - 5 :00PM	Black Mamas Progressive Relaxation Meditation	Sayida Peprah, PsyD, Doula
	Colonialism & The Black Birthing Experience	Rose L. Horton, MSM, RN, NEA-BC
	Building power in the U.S. Southeast Using Findings from a Black-led Abortion Access Research Partnership	Whitney S. Rice, DrPH, MPH Oriaku Njoku, BA, CCC
	Black and Indigenous Solidarity: How We Impacted the Statute Governing Our State's Maternal Mortality Review Committee	Sunshine Muse
	Cultivating a Liberatory Community for Black Mamas	Tanay Lynn Harris, CBS Shawna Murray Browne, LCSW-C
	Pathways to Equitable and Anti-Racists Maternal and Infant Mental Health Care: Centering Black Birthing Populations	Kay Matthews, LCHW Isabel Morgan, MSPH
	Unpacking the Health and Ethical Implications of the Family Planning Framework	Zainab Jah, MPH Kelly Davis, MPA
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Closing Address and Remarks	BMMA Executive Director, Angela Aina, MPH



ON-DEMAND SESSIONS & VIDEOS

Birthing Women and Birthing People's Experiences of Racism during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Brittany D. Chambers, PhD, MPH; Jazmin Fontenot, MPH

Believe Her: Using Innovative Technology to Meet Black Mother and Birthing People Where They Are

Bianca R. Pryor, MS; Patricia D. Liggins, CNA, CPD

Birthright: Black Joy as a Tool for Birth Equity

Kimberly Seals-Allers, MS

Black Mamas and the Drug War: How Drug Prohibition Leads to the Surveillance and Criminalization of Black Birthing Bodies

Deborah Small, JD, MPP

Black Maternal Health in Puerto Rico During COVID-19

Twylla Dillion, PhD, MBA; Gloriaann Sancha-Antonetty Lebron

Community Based Perinatal Support Interventions: A Merck for Mother Safer Childbirth Cities Initiative

Jessica M. Roach, MPH

Culturally Aware Perinatal Care with a Reproductive Justice Framework in a Community Health Setting

Ebony R. Marcelle, CNM, MS, FACNM

Disconnects and Digital Divides: Black Women and Birth People's Maternal Telehealth Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ayanna Robinson, PhD, MPH; Nia Mitchell, MPH

Innovation in Quality Improvement to Advance Birth Equity: Merck for Mothers Baltimore Safer Cities Initiative

Tenelee Bailey, MBS

INSPIRE Journal Method: Improving Maternal Mental Health Outcomes for Women of Color

Kay Matthews, LCHW

Mental Health, Resilience, and Inequities: A Multi-Level Exploration of Black Maternal Health in Atlanta, GA

Natalie D. Hernandez, PhD, MPH; Catrina Williams

Respectful Maternity care: Addressing Racism and Bias in Maternity Care Settings through State Advocacy

Breanan Lipscomb, MPH; Nourbese Flint, MA

ON-DEMAND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Biased and Problematic Narratives Against Black Queer and Trans Bodies

Mystique Hargrove, MS, CFSD, CLE, CBE, PhD(c)

A zine composed of beautiful images and poems that convey the message of reclaiming birth, honoring ancestors and rituals, and reviving the power of breastfeeding.

Brandi Miller, MS

Baltimore Black Mamas Peoples Assembly Creative Poster Design & Social Movement

Jennifer White-Johnson, MFA

Black Mamas ATX (BMATX) Redefine Body Empowerment for Postpartum Black Mothers

Dominique McGaha

BLACK-LED MODELS OF BIRTH AND MATERNITY CARE: Belly Buddies™ Prenatal and Birthing Support Program

Maxine Reed-Vance, PhD, MS, RN; Teneele Bailey, MBS

BMATX Achieving Health Equity Expanding Mental Health Supports During COVID -19 Pandemic

Alicia Beatrice, LCSWS-S, LCDC

Body Sovereignty and Ending the Sexual Abuse to Maternal Mortality Pipeline

Sevonna Brown; Farah Tanis, LCSW

Consensus Definition of Maternal Health Equity in Georgia: A Delphi study of local experts

Natalie Hernandez, PhD, MPH; Shirley Sylvester, MD, MPH

Cultural competency and cultural humility in maternal healthcare

Roslyn Holliday Moore, MS

DBM Episode 24 Birthing Freedom Featuring Chauntel Norris Founder of Baobab Birth Collective & Co-Director of Alabama Prison Birth Project

Dem Black Mamas Podcast

What on Irth? Product Demonstration of the Irth App

Kimberly Seals-Allers, MS

Young Mamas Panel

Lanieyah Setticase; Jamarah Amani, LM

ON-DEMAND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Engaging with Black Mothers and Doulas about Maternal Mortality: A PCORI Funded Project

Deneen Robinson; Becky Spencer, PhD, RN, IBCLC

How the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act Fosters Birth Equity & Advances Reproductive Justice

Dawn Godbolt, PhD; Denys Symonette Mitchell, MSW

In the tradition: Alabama birth keepers of color

Danica Davis, M.Ed, CD (DONA), CLC; Chauntel Norris, CLC, LCCE

Poetry and Pictures: Black Women and Birth

Lisa Diamond, CMT, CLS, CLC

Racial Differences in Attitudes Towards a COVID-19 Vaccine in Pregnant and Postpartum Women: US data from a Global Cross-Sectional Study

Natalie Hernandez, PhD, MPH; Shirley Sylvester, MD, MPH

Respectful Maternity Care: The Cycle to Respectful Care Framework

Carmen Green, MPH; Susan Perez, PhD, MPH

Safer Childbirth Cities to Improve Black Maternal Health

Jacque Caglia, MPH; Mary-Ann Etiebet, MD, MBA

SisterWeb Community Doula Network: Approaching Birth Justice Through An Innovative, Grassroots, Doula Program

Marlee-I Mystic

The Color of Healthcare


Deborah J. Evans, MBA; Patricia A. Ferguson, MD

Abolitionist Medicine and Reproductive Futurism

Efe Osaren, CLC, CD (ASDS); Emily Varnam

Voices of Black Mothers: The Baby-Friendly Experience

Hakima L. Payne, MSN, RN; Tru B. Kellman, CPM



BMMA is a national network of black women-led organizations and multi-disciplinary professionals who work to ensure that all Black Mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy. BMMA honors the work and historical contributions of Black women's leadership within their communities and values the need to amplify this work on a national scale. For this reason, BMMA does not have chapters. The alliance is composed of existing organizations and individuals (Midwives, OB/GYNs, Nurses, Doulas, Researchers, Public Health Professionals, Perinatal Support Workers, Attorneys, Lactation Consultants, and Artists) whose work is deeply rooted in reproductive justice, birth justice, and the human rights framework..



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