



# HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

*Using Our Collective Strength to Improve Maternal and Infant Health*

DAY ONE: Monday, October 18, 2021

12:00 PM

**WELCOME**

12:15 PM

**SESSION A**

### Individual State Policy Approaches to Donor Breast Milk Medicaid Coverage

Claire Eden, BA, IBCLC & Allison Rose, MD, FAAP

*Donor human milk is the appropriate nutrition for high-risk infants when the supply of the parent's own milk is insufficient. Financial burden, policy differences, and limited education all contribute to inequitable access to this life-saving therapy. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the United States Surgeon General have called for an investigation into the barriers that prevent the use of donor human milk and for changes to public policy to improve availability and affordability of donor human milk.*

### Safer Childbirth Cities: How Community-Rooted Organizations Interface with Institutions to Produce Systems Change

Giannina Ong, MA, Shannon Pursell, MPH & Stephanie Spencer, BSN, RN, LCCE, CLC, Aasta Mehta, Marlee-I Mystic

*The Safer Childbirth Cities Initiative supports 20 community-rooted organizations as they implement local solutions to help their cities become safer places to give birth. Efforts of the SCC grantees are centered on a range of focus areas including maternal mental health, doula support, trauma-informed care, data informatics, and health information systems. In this presentation, participants from both cohorts will share how they approach collaborating with local and state-level institutions to ensure equitable processes and outcomes.*

1:15 PM

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

1:30 PM

**PLENARY A: Lunch & Learn**

### Our Shared "Why": An Interactive Discussion of Maternal and Infant Health in Georgia

Ky Lindberg

2:00 PM

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**2:15 PM**

**SESSION B**

**Can I Speak?**

Latosha Elbert, B.S., CLC

*Pregnant and parenting families in South Central Georgia face a multitude of issues today including a pandemic, racial tension, community violence, and risks of maternal and infant mortality. A number of these families have experienced recent losses and struggles such as social isolation, toxic stress, mental illness, and the death of loved ones. Yet even in the wake of loss and struggle, their voices remain strong. Heart of Georgia Healthy Start (HGHS) is committed to Stop, Look & Listen, a charge to dedicate time, effort, and understanding to the words and accounts that families share about their experiences in healthcare and motherhood.*

**Cross-Sectional Collaboration within the Georgia Strong Families Healthy Start Programs**

Natasha Worthy, MSW & Mitzi Fears, MPH

*This session will focus on the importance of cross-sectional collaboration to strengthen maternal and child health services. The presenters will provide examples from their work with the Healthy Start Community Action Networks (CAN) and Fatherhood Involvement to explain how traditional and non-traditional community partnerships can be leveraged for greater impact.*

**An Emerging Intervention for Maternal Mental Health: CPS & MMH**

Kim Roberts, MSW, Joy Burkhard, MBA & Keisha Reaves, LPC, MS, PMH-C, CPCS

*This session will include an overview of HMHBGA, PSI-GA, and 2020 MOMS collaboration on the creation of a new Maternal Mental Health and Certified Peer Specialist pilot track. This track will be utilized to provide individuals with a concentration in Maternal Mental Health, a focus area that is not offered with typical Certified Peer Specialist programs.*

**3:15 PM**

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**3:30 PM**

**SESSION C**

**Georgia's Model for Period Progress**

Claire R. Cox and Adele C. Stewart

*Period poverty is an unspoken barrier to education and work advancement, and is a drag on Georgia's economy. Period poverty is often considered a low-income country problem, but the stigma surrounding menstruation, and a general lack of conversation about menstruation, have meant many Georgians experience period poverty and lack of access to a basic medical necessity. Georgia STOMP, a grassroots coalition working to achieve menstrual equity and alleviate period poverty in the state, will give an overview of its work and celebrate successes achieved over the last three years. Participants will learn that Georgia is a recognized leader in the US on equity issues surrounding menstruation.*

## Using Digital Tools to Improve Perinatal Connectivity & Care Coordination

Melissa Hanna, JD, MBA

*While new technologies present opportunities to increase accessibility and expand options for underserved patient populations, adopting digital tools can be challenging. In this session, we will share best practices for organizations and individuals interested in implementing telehealth and care coordination tools that foster health equity and increase opportunities for team-based care coordination. We will learn about the importance of creating continuity and accessibility for underserved patients and how addressing those components can positively impact patient engagement and health outcomes.*

**4:30 PM**

**VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**5:00 PM**

**WETZEL RECEPTION**

Keynote Speaker: Rose L. Horton, MSM, RN-OB, NEA-BC, Founder & CEO of NotOnMyWatch Consulting Partners

*The Carolyn Wetzel Continuum Award recognizes a volunteer or health professional who contributes to the health and well-being of Georgia's families by being a positive change agent in the public arena of advocacy and policy. This award is in memory of Carolyn Wetzel, a long-time member, friend, and dedicated public health advocate for mothers and babies.*

## DAY TWO: Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**9:00 AM**

**BREAKFAST MEET-UPS**

**10:00 AM**

**WELCOME**

**10:15 AM**

**KEYNOTE**

Sanya Richards-Ross

*Sanya Richards-Ross is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and the fastest American woman to ever run the 400m. Named "Athlete of the Decade" from 2000 to 2009 and two-time World Athlete of the Year, Sanya has retired from the track but is still sprinting towards greatness. As a mom, brand ambassador, TV personality, author, and entrepreneur, Sanya now invests her time in her family and several entrepreneurial endeavors including a multi-media lifestyle & advocacy platform curated specifically for Black moms.*

**10:45 AM**

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**11:00 AM**

**SESSION D**

**"Everyone Deserves a Doula": A Mixed Methods Study in Georgia**

Alyssa Lindsey, MPH

*Evidence shows doulas can improve maternal and child health outcomes, but doulas are not reimbursed by Medicaid in Georgia. This session will go over findings from a study created in partnership with HMHBGA, Georgia State University, and Emory University that examines the doula services available in Georgia, identifies barriers and facilitators to doula services in Georgia, identifies positive outcomes from doula support, and explores how COVID-19 has affected doula work in Georgia. Through discussion of these findings, we invite you to help us envision what doula care can look like in our state.*

**Tackling Maternal Mortality: Translating Recommendations to Actions**

Samantha Griner, MBA, MHA, DHA

*Maternal health leaders have developed recommendations, including safety bundles, to address the country's maternal mortality crisis. These recommendations often focus on the end goal instead of how to get there. In this session, we will discuss using organizational leadership and quality improvement strategies to translate these recommendations into actions.*

**A Mobile Intervention Targeting Maternal Depression and Increasing the Socioemotional Health of Infants**

Alexandria Patterson, MPH, Elizabeth Mosley, Ph.D. MPH & Kathleen Baggett, Ph.D.

*Depression is the leading cause of disability globally. Mom and Baby Net is a mobile-based intervention focused on engaging African-American mothers who experience higher rates of depression due to systemic and structural inequities – and yet have far less access to intervention – especially in ways that fit into their lives.*

**12:00 PM**

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**12:15 PM**

**Plenary B: Lunch & Learn**

**A Multisector Conversation: Using Our Collective Strength to Improve Maternal and Infant Health**

- Senator Tonya Anderson, GA Senate District 43 (Legislator)
- Andrea Kellum, Senior Program Officer - Healthcare Georgia Foundation (Funder)
- Virginia Tester, Director - Embrace Refugee Birth Support (Community Organization)
- Raina Ferenchick, CEO at Cairo Medical Care and Chief of Staff at Grady General Hospital (Clinician)
- Teresa Wright Johnson, Experienced Infant Loss and Community Activist (Parent)
- Moderator: Ky Lindberg, Executive Director, HMHBGA

**1:30 PM**

**SESSION E**

**Home Visiting in Georgia During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Adaptations and Implications**

Margaret Masters, MBA, MPH & Katrina Brantley, DrPH, MPH

*Home visiting programs truly tap into the collective strengths of a community by providing family-centric support services to at-risk pregnant women and families with children up to five. This session will present findings from a mixed methods study assessing home visiting programs in Georgia adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges and benefits of virtual home visiting, and the implications for the future of home visiting services.*

**Race and Doula Care**

Ayeesha Sayyad, B.A.

*Poor birth outcomes are more prevalent for Black birthing people and their babies. Strong evidence shows that doula care, during labor and delivery, improves maternal and child health outcomes. Yet, little is documented about racial differences, discrimination, and equity in doula care. The session will explore the ways that race can impact the need for and access to doula care. Findings from the Georgia Doula Study will be presented to highlight populations that have limited access to doula care – specifically, Black, Asian, and Latinx birthing people may have limited access to doulas but stand to benefit greatly from doula care.*

**Advocacy 101: Using Your Power to Prioritize Maternal Health Policies at the Capitol**

Andy Lord

*In this session, you will learn how to use your power to prioritize maternal health policies at the Capitol. Participants will walk away with the knowledge of who their legislator is, how to reach out to them, and how to leverage the HMHBGA's policy agenda to prioritize maternal health policies in their next session. We will also share our respective experiences in talking with state legislators, exploring how Georgia politics works and how it intersects with infant and maternal mortality, health insurance coverage, maternal mental health and racial and geographic disparities that confront families across Georgia.*

**2:30 PM**

**15 Minute Break – VISIT VIRTUAL EXPO ROOM**

**2:45 PM**

**SESSION F**

**Georgia Covid Perinatal Experiences (COPE) Study Panel**

Ansley Kasha, MPH, MSW, Sarah Blake, MA, Ph.D., Amber Mack, MSW, Dianne Maglaque, MPH & Myadah Kaila, MPH

This session will explore the following findings:

- Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Maternal Mental Health
- COVID-19 Vaccine Intention Among Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals
- Changes in Maternal Health Care Service Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Georgia

**4:05 PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS**