



ACHIEVING BIRTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

Meet the Presenters

9:00am–10:50am **Morning Plenary Session in the Discovery Ballroom**



Sally Dixon, RN, BA

has spent her nursing career caring and advocating for women and infants. In her current role as coordinator of Maternal Health Initiatives at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, in South Bend, Indiana, Sally leads the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Case Review Team and facilitates community action to address system, clinical, and policy factors that contribute to infant and maternal mortality and pregnancy loss and to eliminate racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic inequities in birth outcomes. Prior to her position in public health, Sally worked in labor and delivery, high risk antepartum, postpartum, newborn nursery, as a grant writer, a home care nurse, and as a stay at home mom. Sally serves on the Indiana Department of Health Maternal Mortality Review Committee, the Nurse Family Partnership Community Advisory Board, and the Family and Children's Center Advisory Committee in St. Joseph County. She is a co-founder of Birth Equity & Justice, SJC. Sally is a graduate of the Presbyterian University-of Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia and earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and Healthcare Psychology from Graceland University.



Olubunmi A. Okanlami, she/her/hers

Preferred name: Bunmi Okanlami

Dr. Okanlami joined the Vera Z Dwyer College of Health Sciences in August 2019 as the Endowed Bicentennial Chair of Palliative Care and Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Sciences. Dr. Okanlami came to IU South Bend after a medical career in Pediatric Critical Care, serving as Medical Director for Pediatric Critical Care and Pediatric Emergency Transport Services at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (1994-1999) and Beacon Children's Hospital, South Bend (1994-2016). She is a co-founder of O'Hana Heritage Foundation dba A Rosie Place for Children; an Indiana non-profit organization that provides Respite and Palliative care services for children with complex, life-limiting medical conditions located in South Bend, Indiana. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences as well as her Medical degree from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), in Nigeria. Dr. Okanlami trained in Pediatrics at Howard University Hospital, Washington DC and specialized in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, MD. She also obtained an executive MBA from the University of Notre Dame in 2008.



Kelli Brien, CD (DONA) LCCE, CLS, SPBCPE

is a certified doula, childbirth educator, and lactation specialist. She created Speak Life Doula program and co-authored the Safety PIN grant submission that garnered multiple awards from the Indiana State Department of Health. Kelli founded Full Bloom Maternity Service and Mahogany Maternity, a 501(c)(3), has served in hospitals, home births, and birth centers for over 14 years, and established the 32nd Milk Bank Depot in Indiana. She serves on the St. Joseph County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team, the Indiana Department of Health Maternal Mortality Review Committee, the board of Mental Health Awareness of Michiana, and chairs the Birth Equity Subcommittee for DONA International where she also serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She is a co-founder of Birth Equity and Justice SJC and testified at the Indiana Statehouse in House and Senate chambers in support of Senate Bill 416 to create Medicaid reimbursement for doula care which became law.



Joia A. Crear-Perry, MD FACOG - Keynote

is a physician, policy expert, thought leader, and advocate for transformational justice. As the founder and president of the National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC), she identifies and challenges racism as a root cause of health inequities. She is a highly sought-after trainer and speaker who has been featured in national and international publications including Essence and Ms. Magazine. In 2020, Dr. Crear-Perry was honored by USA Today in its "Women of the Century" series and featured on ABC Nightline's Hear Her Voice. Dr. Crear-Perry has twice addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to elevate the cause of gender diversity and urge a human rights framework toward addressing maternal mortality. A proud recipient of both the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Heroes award and the Maternal Health Task-Force at Harvard University Global Visionary Award for Commitment to Advancing Women's Health, Dr. Crear-Perry's most notable efforts include the removal of race as a risk factor for illnesses, including premature birth.



Breakout Session Presenters

Grassroots Maternal & Child Health Leaders Lead Systems Change Efforts to Improve Indiana Birth Outcomes.



Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D

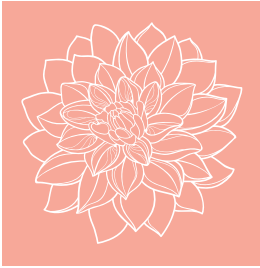
is dedicated to growing education, research, and outreach programs that optimize maternal and child health outcomes. He is a Professor in the Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, Indiana University, Indianapolis, and in the Dept. of Pediatrics at the IU School of Medicine. He works across Indiana, the USA, and North Africa to develop maternal and child health programs focused on community development and systems change, and actively advocates for policy changes to remove inequitable social systems that underlie poor birth outcomes. His efforts focus on directing the Grassroots Maternal and Child Initiatives (see links below). This initiative works to build the capacity of individuals and organizations in marginalized communities to bring about systems change that improve pregnancy and infant health. In addition, he facilitates the Community Action Team for the Marion County Public Health Department's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team. Grassroots MCH#AskThe Women. [Grassroots MCH Website](#). @GrassrootsMCH on Social Media. Learn more on [Youtube](#). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

Indiana Maternal Mortality Review



Mary Pell Abernathy, MD, MS, MBA, FACOG

Dr. Mary Pell Abernathy serves as the Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee Chairperson. She has worked with policymakers and legislators to reduce preventable maternal and infant mortality in Indiana. She also serves as the co-leader of the Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC) Women's Health Task Force which is tasked with improving women's care throughout the lifecycle. She recently completed a term as the Indiana ACOG chair and continues to work to improve the lives of women in Indiana. She completed her OBGYN residency and Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship training at IU School of Medicine. She completed her MBA at the IU Kelley School of Business in 2018. Her interests include using innovation to decrease maternal and infant mortality, prevention and treatment of preeclampsia, and preterm birth prevention. She received grants from local, state, and federal sources including the Indiana Department of Health and March of Dimes to study intervention trials regarding Centering Pregnancy and pregnancies complicated by obesity and gestational diabetes.



Caitlin Gandarilla, BSN RNC

Caitlin graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Immediately after, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana University. She has served as a staff nurse on labor and delivery at Community Hospital Munster, a level III obstetrical service for seven years. She has experience in inpatient antepartum, postpartum, perinatal nurse navigation, and obstetrical emergency nursing. She is NRP, BLS, and ACLS certified, and NCC certified in inpatient obstetrics. She is a nurse consultant for Indiana's Maternal Mortality Review Committee and participates in IDOH's maternal mortality interview process.

Maternal Mental Health



Lisa B Kelly, LCSW, MPH

Psychotherapist in Private Practice. MSW, MPH, Columbia University

Lisa has balanced clinical practice and program development for almost 30 years. She has worked in a variety of settings in her career as a community-based home visitor in New York City, hospital-based social worker in Baltimore, Maryland, and most recently as a private practice clinician in South Bend. Working with pregnant and postpartum women is Lisa's passion. Since 1993 she has focused her practice on perinatal mood disorders. Lisa received training for her specialty through Postpartum Support International and Marce of North America. Lisa co-founded and coordinated Sinai Hospital Perinatal Depression Outreach Program, a hospital-based screening and outreach program in Baltimore. Since moving to South Bend in 2011, Lisa has been private practice. She specializes in pregnancy, postpartum anxiety and depression, as well as grief and loss. Lisa is co-founder and President of Mental Health Awareness Michiana (MHAM) which focuses on eliminating the stigma of mental illness and improving access to mental health care in the Michiana community.

Medicaid 101: Before, During, and After Pregnancy

11:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, & 3:00pm



Ann McCafferty, CHW, CAC, Program Coordinator, Licensed Insurance Navigator, SHIP Counselor

Ann, a lifetime Hoosier, has worked in healthcare for over twenty years as a self-employed independent medical transcriptionist, proofreading specialist, and owner-operator of Quality Transcription Services. Ann's experience led her to a federally qualified healthcare center where she served as a community outreach and enrollment specialist for over six years. Ann is certified through the State Department of Insurance as an Indiana Navigator. Ann is also an Indiana Federally Facilitated Marketplace Certified Application Counselor, State Senior Health Insurance Specialist, and Certified Community Health Worker. Ann serves the Indiana Rural Health Association as the Connecting Kids to Coverage-Indiana Program Director.



Collette Rhoads, CAC, Licensed Insurance Navigator

Collette has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and an associate's degree in Sociology from the University of Southern Indiana where she was also a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. Collette spent four years working for the Department of Children's Services and Debra Corn Foster Care before coming to the Indiana Rural Health Association as a Program Coordinator. Collette is certified through the State Department of Insurance as an Indiana Navigator and an Indiana Federally Facilitated Marketplace Certified Application Counselor.



Kathy Walker, Program Coordinator, Licensed Insurance Navigator.

Kathy joined IRHA in April 2019 after 15 years with Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI). Her past work experience was primarily in tobacco control. She also directed a school-based youth leadership/mentoring program and served as the Communications Director for CAPWI. Kathy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University in Health Promotion. Kathy is certified through the State Department of Insurance as an Indiana Navigator. She is currently vice president of the Fountain/Warren Health Board and a member of the West Central Indiana - Area Health Education Center advisory board.



Lori Riester, RN, BSN, Indiana OB Practice Consultant

Lori is an OB Practice Consultant. She has been an RN for approximately 26 years. She graduated from IU School of Nursing and her career focus is in maternal child health. She started working for Anthem in 2008 was a creation of the high-risk obstetrics case management team and has worked with Anthem ever since in various Medicaid Maternity health initiatives. It is her belief that through community partnerships, collaboration, and never-ending education, we can improve health outcomes for all communities throughout the state.



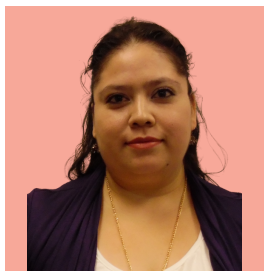
Christiane Soultz, RN, BSN

Christiane has worked as a Women and Children's Health Specialist for CareSource for over 4 years and loves providing education to trusted healthcare partners on CareSource programs and benefits to increase engagement and improve overall health outcomes. Prior to coming to CareSource she worked with the maternal child health population in Indiana for 13 years, first as an inpatient obstetrical nurse, and later as an OBGYN office triage nurse. These past experiences and her passion for equitable mental and physical health left her feeling like she wanted to do more for families in crisis but didn't know at the time that Medicaid could help with these barriers and hardships. She is constantly in awe of the resiliency of mothers and children when facing adversity!



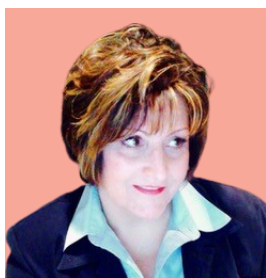
Rachel Maxey, Community Outreach Supervisor, CCHW

Rachel is the Community Outreach Specialist with MDwise, a McLaren Company. She has been with MDwise for 10 years, starting out as a customer service rep. She quickly moved up to customer service team lead. Since 2015, Rachel has obtained and maintained a license as an Insurance Agent in Accident and Health, shortly after she joined the marketing team as an Outreach Coordinator. She is also a Certified Community Health Worker since 2018. She is working on finishing her degree, a BS in Business Administration at Martin University. Rachel enjoys working in the community to help underserved populations get connected to resources that are available to them to help better their lives and overall health.



Juana Ramirez Rocio, Member Connections Representative, Certified Medical Interpreter, CCHW

Juana Ramirez Rocio joined the MHS family in November 2016. Juana is a Member Connections representative and through this role she can see and understand what the community needs are for individuals, along with the mHS services and programs they can use to encourage and lead to better health quality. She is a connector for MHS members and the company. When she started interpreting for MHS members, Juana noticed that on some days when she would come into work feeling down about problems in her own life, she would feel better soon after her first interpretation of the day. It fills her heart knowing that she can help break the language barriers between MHS members and their healthcare providers. Those individuals can leave their medical visits safe and satisfied, knowing that they have been listened to and that their provider understood their concerns.



Kim Eldridge, State Event Manager, United HealthCare Community Plan, Hoosier Care Connect

Kim has worked in the healthcare field for over 17 years in community outreach, marketing, health event planning, and consulting. Kim has vast experience working with Federally Qualified Health Centers, agencies that serve people with disabilities as well as Managed Care Entities in Indiana. Kim's experience includes working with a Chicago advertising agency, employment consulting for those with disabilities directing a family care program with an FQHC, and healthcare event planning for both FQHC's and Managed Care Entities. Kim has served on the Board of the Porter County Tobacco Education and Prevention Coalition as well as the Purdue Extension-Porter County Executive Committee and as a Chairwoman of the Wellness Coalition of Porter County.

Partnering with Purpose



Bev Horton, Doula (Pre & Postpartum), CHW

Bev is a mom of 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Born and raised in the city of South Bend, Indiana she has served moms and babies for over 20 years. Awarded "Counselor of the Year" in 2016, she is a Certified Community Health Worker, Parent Educator, and in her current role she serves as the Director of the IMHC Community Doula Program serving St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaPorte, and Cass Counties. She is a pre and postpartum doula and received certificate of completion from the 100 Black Men Step Up Leadership Program. She is a member of the SJC Fetal Infant Mortality Review Case Review Team and Birth Equity and Justice, SJC.



Taylor Martin, LCSW, BSW, MSW, CD (Certified Doula in Training)

Taylor Martin is a licensed clinical social worker, certified doula in training, DEI trainer, and community advocate. She has over a decade of community advocacy work, specialization in community mobilization and working with vulnerable populations. Taylor's passion for working in reproductive health began in 2012 when she first worked with individuals who had little to no understanding of their reproductive health. Since then, Taylor has become an advocate of comprehensive reproductive health and the health and well being of birthing individuals. Taylor specializes in postpartum work with women and families. Taylor received her Master of Social Work in 2017 from the University of Denver. She became a licensed clinical social worker in 2020 and owns a private practice where she works with individuals on religious and racial trauma and helps individuals with expression of sexual selves. In her current role as Assistant Director of Health Equity, for the St. Joseph County Department of Health, she oversees diversity, equity, and inclusion of efforts both internally and externally. Her responsibilities also include overseeing the program development, implementation, and evaluation of a team of community health workers who serve all of St. Joseph County. These community health workers provide resource referrals, insurance navigation, and community connections for individuals in the community. She is a member of Birth Equity & Justice, SJC. Taylor lives in South Bend, IN with her husband, cat, and three dogs.



Marchelle Pettit, Doula Services Coordinator, AA, BA, Human Services & Interdisciplinary Studies, CD-L (ProDoula), CLS, CCHW

Marchelle Pettit is a certified doula, community health worker, lactation specialist, and new parent educator. She has over seven years of experience working with mothers, babies, and families from vulnerable communities. In 2017, her passion for maternal health was birthed while working with a local

maternity home for pregnant mothers facing homelessness. During this time, she became aware of the maternal and infant mortality crisis and answered her call to advocate and support communities facing the highest disparities. She is the Doula Services Coordinator at Nurse Family Partnership of Goodwill Michiana. Marchelle Received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services and Interdisciplinary Studies from Bethel University in Mishawaka, IN, and is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health at the University of Indianapolis. Marchelle is a Michigan Native but currently lives in South Bend, IN with her husband, Demond, Pettit. Together they have a blended family of four adult children. Marchelle is a member of the SJC Fetal Infant Mortality Review Case Review Team and Birth Equity & Justice, SJC

Path4You -Pregnancy at a Time That is Happy & Healthy For You



Tracey A. Wilkinson, MD, MPH

Dr. Tracey Wilkinson is an assistant professor of pediatrics. She graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 2006 and completed her pediatric residency at Brown University/Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI.

After residency, she pursued additional training through the general pediatrics fellowship at Boston Medical Center/Boston University. As a fellow, she

obtained her Masters in Public Health and began conducting research on availability and access to over-the-counter emergency contraception for adolescents. Her research was cited in the federal court case that ultimately removed age restrictions for emergency contraception nationally. After fellowship, she was faculty at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles/University of Southern California where she was a primary care pediatrician for 3 years. In 2015 she accepted a position at Indiana University to return to a research career. Her research focuses on examining and developing interventions to improve young people's access to reproductive health services from the perspective of a general pediatrician.

Strategies for Birthing Professionals



Kelli Brien, CD (DONA) LCCE, CLS, SPBCPE

is a certified doula, childbirth educator, and lactation specialist. She created Speak Life Doula program and co-authored the Safety PIN grant submission that garnered multiple awards from the Indiana State Department of Health. Kelli founded Full Bloom Maternity Service and Mahogany Maternity, a 501(c)(3), has served in hospitals, home births, and birth centers for over 14 years, and established the 32nd Milk Bank Depot in Indiana. See full bio in morning plenary section.

Toxic - A Black Woman's Story, Film Screening & Discussion



Yolanda Washington, RN, BS, BSN

is a Registered Nurse w/ Bachelor's Degree in Nursing who has worked for Beacon Health System and Memorial Hospital for more than 30 + years, including but limited to Float Nursing, Call Nurse Triage, Rotation Charge Nurse for Pediatric/Pediatric Intensive Care, Prenatal Care Coordinator and Facilitator for Mentoring Moms program all for Memorial Hospital and Beacon Health System. Yolanda currently serves as the Health Manager Consultant for St. Joseph and Elkhart County Head Start/Early Head Start Consortium and School age Mothers Program; and the Lactation Specialist for Indiana Minority Health Coalition. Certified Prenatal Care Coordinator, Certified Lactation Specialist, Certified CPR Instructor. Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management (graduated Magnum Cum Laude), Member of the SJC Fetal Infant Mortality Review Case Review Team and Birth Equity & Justice, SJC, NAACP, Lead Affinity Group, and Healthy Babies.
