



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,  
HEALTHY BABIES**

*Coalition of Georgia*

*2021 Annual Meeting & Conference*

# **USING OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH**

*VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2021*



# AGENDA

## Carolyn Wetzel Continuum Award

### DAY ONE: Monday, October 18, 2021

12:00 PM	Welcome
12:15 PM	Session A
1:15 PM	15 Minute Break
1:30 PM	Plenary A
2:00 PM	15 Minute Break
2:15 PM	Session B
3:15 PM	15 Minute Break
3:30 PM	Session C
4:30 PM	30 Minute Break
5:00 PM	Wetzel Reception

### DAY TWO: Tuesday, October 19, 2021

9:00 AM	Breakfast Meetups
10:00 AM	Welcome
10:15 AM	Keynote
10:45 AM	15 Minute Break
11:00 AM	Session D
12:00 PM	15 Minute Break
12:15 PM	Plenary B
1:30 PM	Session E
2:30 PM	15 Minute Break
2:45 PM	Session F
4:05 PM	Closing Remarks

*We highly encourage all participants to visit our virtual exhibition hall during breaks!*

### CONNECT WITH US



@HMHBGA



@HMHBGeorgia



@HMHBGeorgia

Presented To:

**Dr. Natalie Hernandez**



*"Dr. Hernandez's work lifting up the urgency to find policy, research and community solutions to increase health equity and improve maternal health for black women coupled with her fierce commitment to expand access to services for rural birth givers has sparked collective action from all sectors of the community."*

In the spirit of amplifying our collective power, each year we honor a dynamic change maker who embodies the tenets of selflessness, ingenuity, and dynamism while serving as an advocate and problem solver alongside moms, birth givers, and babies.

Dr. Natalie Hernandez advocates for women and birth givers through her research in maternal health. Her work is dedicated to advancing science towards the elimination of women's health inequities by evaluating healthy policy and social determinants of health, specifically with Black and Latina populations. She has more than 17 years of experience in developing community partnerships and implementing community-based participatory research (CBPR) that engages diverse stakeholder groups including health care providers, patient populations, organizational leaders, and policymakers.

Dr. Hernandez is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and the Interim Director of the Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine.

# Featured Speakers



## Rose L. Horton

*Specialty Director, Emory Decatur Hospital  
Wetzel Reception Keynote Speaker*

Rose L. Horton, MSM, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, is a Women & Infant healthcare executive leader working as a Specialty Director at Emory Decatur Hospital. She is passionate about safe and equitable care for all women. Rose speaks on the topic of maternal mortality, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) locally, regionally, and nationally. She is leading a DEI Health & Wellness committee at her hospital.

Rose was recently tapped for the national Black Maternal Task Force for the Biden Administration. As one of the 36 members, she will contribute to actionable solutions aimed at mitigating the rising rates of maternal morbidity and mortality.



## Sanya Richards-Ross

*Four-Time Olympic Gold Medalist  
Day 2 Keynote Speaker*

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 now 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.

# Panels & Plenaries

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



### Ky Lindberg

*Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia*

Ky has been a strong advocate for young children and families for more than 15 years. Her commitment to creating equitable access to vital resources for children and families has been present throughout her career spanning from her time supporting Congressman Sander Levin to elevating to leadership roles for Lighthouse Academy, Read to a Child, 313Reads – Detroit's Campaign for Grade Level Reading and LENA Research Foundation. As a person who has experienced generational poverty, inequities in healthcare and ACE's, Ky's "why" is grounded in her life's journey. With the support of her 3 sons, husband and vast HMHBGA "village," she is committed to reducing maternal and infant health disparities because she believes the prioritization of the health of moms and babies is simply the right thing to do.

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



### Senator Tonya Anderson

*GA Senate District 43*

Enthusiastic, strong, motivated, visionary are just a few powerful words to describe Senator Tonya P. Anderson. Sen. Anderson was first elected to the Georgia State Senate to represent Georgia's 43rd Senate District in 2016. Her district includes parts of DeKalb, Rockdale, and Newton counties. She began her elected public service as a City Councilmember for the city of Lithonia from 2006 to 2008, then as Mayor from 2008 to 2011. Sen. Anderson then went on to serve as a State Representative for House District 92. Sen. Anderson currently serves as the Chair of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus (GLBC) and as Secretary of the Senate Special Judiciary Committee. She is also a member of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism, Regulated Industries and Utilities, Reapportionment and Redistricting, MARTOC, and Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committees.

# Panels & Plenaries



## Andrea Kellum

*Healthcare Georgia Foundation*

Andrea Young Kellum is the Senior Program Officer at Healthcare Georgia Foundation, serving as a liaison between the Foundation and its applicants, grantees, as well as other foundations and nonprofit organizations. Andrea received her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A&M University and her Master of Public Health from Saint Louis University.

## Virginia Tester

*Embrace Refugee Birth Support*

Virginia Tester is an Atlanta native with more than fifteen years of academic and clinical experience in women's health. With her background as a Certified Nurse Midwife, Virginia's work is grounded in the approach that culturally-sensitive, evidence-based care fosters mutual learning opportunities between patient and provider, leading to empowered health decision making and improved health outcomes for women. Virginia maintains her certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner and her interests in holistic health, social justice, and patient-centered care, as she leads Embrace Refugee Birth Support towards improved health and well-being for women and their families in the refugee community.



## Rain Ferenchick

*Cairo Medical Care, Grady General Hospital*

Raina Ferenchick is a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist practicing in Cairo, Georgia. She is a partner and Chief Executive Officer at Cairo Medical Care, a multiple-specialty practice consisting of six physicians. She serves as Chief of Staff at Grady General Hospital. She attended medical school at Mercer University School of Medicine, and completed residency through Florida State University at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. She is married to her husband, Charlie and they have two children.



## Teresa Wright Johnson

*Experienced Infant Loss and Community Activist*

Teresa educates others as a Certified Parent Support Specialist through her local Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Chapter, the Younger Years and Beyond, for which she serves as the Founder and the Executive Director. More recently, Teresa has begun working as the Certified Parent Peer Specialist for the Dekalb Community Service Board. Teresa has a passion for helping the developmentally disabled, as well as individuals and their families affected or experiencing mental health challenges.



# Panels & Plenaries

## Georgia Covid Perinatal Experiences (COPE) Study Panel



### Ansley Kasha

*Georgia COPE Study, Emory University, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia*

Ansley Kasha, MPH, MSW is an assistant data research analyst for the Georgia Covid Perinatal Experiences (COPE) Study and former intern at the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia. She assists in data collection and analysis and dissemination of the findings. She is passionate about maternal and infant health, access to higher education, and she takes a human rights approach to her work in the field of social work.



### Sarah Blake

*Emory University Rollins School of Public Health*

Sarah C. Blake, MA, PhD is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH). Dr. Blake is the Principal Investigator of the Georgia COVID-19 Perinatal Experiences (COPE) study. She has over 25 years of experience as a health services researcher with particular expertise and training in maternal and child health (MCH) and reproductive health policy.



### Amber Mack

*Georgia House Budget & Research Office*

Amber is a Budget & Policy Analyst at the Georgia House Budget & Research Office. Prior to joining the House of Representatives, Amber managed research projects, including the State of the State Report and Georgia COVID Perinatal Experiences (COPE) Study, while at Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia. Amber graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with her M.S.W., where she concentrated in health and specialized in research.



### Dianne Maglaque

*Georgia COPE Study, Emory University, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia*

Dianne Maglaque, MPH was a graduate research assistant for the Georgia COVID Perinatal Experiences (COPE) Study and former intern at the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia. She supported the development of data collection tools, data collection, analyses, and dissemination of the findings. After graduation, Dianne started as a public health consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton.

# Breakout Sessions

Monday, October 18

Session A Options - 12:15 PM

## Individual State Policy Approaches to Donor Human 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.*

Session B Options- 2:15 PM

## 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, including 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.*

# Breakout Sessions

Session C Options - 3:30 PM

## 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 this 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.*

Tuesday, October 19

Session D Options- 11:00 AM

## "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 Socio-emotional 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.*



# Breakout Sessions

Session E Options - 1:30 PM

## 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 years old. 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 who 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.*



Thank You To Our Diamond Sponsors!



*Covered* with  
**KINDNESS**

  
*CareSource*<sup>®</sup>



**Thank You To Our Diamond Sponsors!**



# **NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL**



Healthcare Georgia Foundation  
grantmaking for health



Together, we can create a  
better future for mothers  
and their babies.

Healthcare Georgia Foundation is  
committed to achieving equitable maternal  
and birth outcomes for Black women  
throughout Georgia.

[www.healthcaregeorgia.org](http://www.healthcaregeorgia.org)

# Thank You To Our Gold Sponsors!

it's not special  
treatment, if you treat  
everyone special.  
simple human sense.

Built on integrity with personal service  
and sound advice you can trust.

**Siegel**  
INSURANCE

siegelinsurance.com

**Auto-Owners.**  
INSURANCE  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

EMORY  
JOHNS CREEK  
HOSPITAL



HEART OF GEORGIA  
HEALTHY START



Better health for babies  
and their families.



Amerigroup  
**RealSolutions**<sup>®</sup>  
in healthcare

# Thank You To Our Silver Sponsors!



EMORY

NELL HODGSON  
WOODRUFF  
SCHOOL OF  
NURSING



**MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Center for  
Maternal Health Equity



HEALTHY MOTHERS,  
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

***Thank you for joining our  
Annual Meeting and Conference!***