20th Annual Conference
2000 - 2019

Standing in the Gap
Addressing Equity & the Impact of Racism on Health Outcomes for Women, Children, Fathers, Families & Communities

Preconference Workshop
October 19 & 20, 2019

Conference
October 21-23, 2019

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Regency Foyer Wall - Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>All meals will be in the same room as the Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Strategies for Success Session</td>
<td>Columbia A – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belinda Pettiford, Branch Head, Women’s Health Branch, Division of Public Health, NC, Department of Health and Human Services</td>
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<td>Yvonne Beasley, Director, Maternal and Child Health, Marion County (IN) Health Department</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Target Audience: New Healthy Start Grantees; limited to 30 participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Strategies for Success Session Continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>All meals will be in the same room as the Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Strategies for Success Session Continued</td>
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# REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Regency Foyer Wall - Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>First-Time Attendees &amp; Consumer Orientation</td>
<td>Regency AB – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 - 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga Class</td>
<td>Capital B - Lobby Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Regency Foyer Wall - Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast with Exhibitors</td>
<td>Regency Foyer - Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Family Room Open</td>
<td>Regency D – Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Remarks and Updates from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Remarks and Updates from the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS)</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 - 9:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Remarks and Updates from the National Institute for Children’s Health Quality (NICHQ)</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:25 - 9:35 a.m.</td>
<td>Remarks and Updates from the Healthy Start Technical Assistance Center</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 - 10:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Session</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 - 10:35 a.m.</td>
<td>Healthy Start Choir</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35 - 10:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Plenary Session</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break &amp; Poster Presentations</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Networking Luncheon</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
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### DAY 1

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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</table>
| 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.| Concurrent Workshops – Session A |                | **A1: Maternal Health** | Capitol A – Lobby Level  
*Sparking Innovation in Maternal Health & Wellness: An Overview of HRSA’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Women’s Health Portfolio – Addressing Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity*  
Sandra Lloyd, RN, BSN, MEd, Public Health Analyst, HRSA • Kimberly C. Sherman, MPH, MPP, Women’s Health Specialist, HRSA • Kacie McLaughlin, MPH, Public Health Analyst, HRSA • Ada Determan, PhD, MPH, Public Health Analyst, HRSA |

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.| Concurrent Workshops – Session B |                | **B1: Best Practices in Healthy Start Programs and Partnerships** | Columbia A – Ballroom Level  
*Moms of Empowerment: Improving Outcomes through Group Support and Care*  
Teneshia Lambey, MS, Magnolia Project Director, Northeast Florida Healthy Start  
*Promoting Resilient Families*  
Mary Alexander, MSW, Project Director, Healthy Start New Orleans  
*The N.I.C.E. (Necessary, Intentional, Collaborative and Engaging Strategies to Establish a Viable and Relevant CAN)*  
Danette McLaurin Glass, ConsultantFacilitator, First TEAM America / Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative’s Community Action Network • Janina Daniels, MHA, Program Manager, The Center for Black Women’s Wellness, Inc. |
B2: Evaluation of Healthy Start Programs | Capitol B – Lobby Level
The Family Tree & PRAMS: Proof that Healthy Start is Making a Difference in Louisiana
Kristen Copenhaver, M.Ed., The Family Tree Information, Education & Counseling Center • Jerry Roberson, PhD, The Family Tree Information, Education & Counseling Center
Baby’s 1st Project: How PPOR Data Set the Stage for Shared Community Action
Katie Kenyon, BA, Community Engagement Director, The Foundation for Delaware County’s Healthy Start Program (FDCHS) • Denise Martin, Education Specialist, FDCHS
Preventing Lead Exposure During Pregnancy
Gwendolyn A. Daniels, DNP, MSN, RN, Healthy Start Project Director, Institute for Population Health, Inc.

B3: Infant Mortality CoIIN | Columbia B – Ballroom Level
Infant Mortality CoIIN: Update and Early Lessons Learned
Moderator: Vanessa Lee, Senior Public Health Analyst, HRSA • Panelists: Katherine Bryant, Project Director, UNC Chapel Hill • Lisa Bain, Healthy Start Project Director, Project Concern International (PCI) • Scott Berns, CEO & Principal Investigator, NICHD • Kristina Wint, MPH, Program Manager, Women's and Infant Health, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

B4: Male Involvement | Capitol A – Lobby Level
Emerging Best Practices for Promoting Family Wellbeing: Data from a Multisite Evaluation of Fatherhood Programs in Michigan
Shawna J. Lee, PhD, MSW, Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work • Derek S. Miller, 4Dad Fatherhood Initiative – Care Coordinator, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department

5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
NHSA Annual Membership Meeting | Regency AB – Ballroom Level
Open to all members in good standing with the National Healthy Start Association

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.
Yoga Class | Capital B - Lobby Level
See Monday for description.

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Registration | Regency Foyer Wall - Ballroom Level

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast with Exhibitors | Regency Foyer - Ballroom Level
Fatherhood Breakfast | Congressional A – Lobby Level
For Healthy Start Dads/Healthy Start Fatherhood Program Leaders/Coordinators only

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibit Room Open | Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level
Family Room Open | Regency D – Ballroom Level

8:30 - 8:40 a.m.
Opening Remarks | Regency ABC – Ballroom Level
Deborah L. Frazier, NHSA CEO

8:40 – 9:30 a.m.
Opening Plenary: 2019
Arthur James, MD, CoChair, Center for Disease Control and March of Dimes Health Equity Workgroup; Senior Consultant, Firstyear Cleveland; Obstetrician, Gynecologist and Pediatrician; Co-PI, AIM Community Care Initiative Project, NHSA
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Panelists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Strengthening Maternal Mortality Review Committees to Inform Community Prevention Activities</td>
<td>Julie Zaharatos, MPH, Partnerships and Resources Lead, Maternal Mortality Prevention Team, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>National Partnership to Address Disparities in Infant and Maternal Health</td>
<td>U. Michael Currie, MPH, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Health Officer, UnitedHealth Group • David Williams, MD, Regional Vice President and Senior Medical Director, United Clinical Services, UnitedHealthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Healthy Start Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Break &amp; Poster Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Plenary Panel: Addressing Maternal Health Disparities at the National, State and Community Levels</td>
<td>Kimberly Sherman, MPH, MPP, Women’s Health Specialist, DHSPS • Candace Webb, Program Director, Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) • Andria Cornell, Associate Director, Women’s and Infant Health, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs • Rose Aka-James, MPH, National Membership Manager, Black Mamas Matter Alliance • Joia Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG, President and Founder, National Birth Equity Collaborative</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Luncheon: We Fight for All Children: 400 Years of Inequality and Our Family Stories</td>
<td>Molly Rose Kaufman, Director, University of Orange, a free people’s urbanism school dedicated to education for equitable cities</td>
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<td>1:30 – 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops – Session C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1: Maternal Health</td>
<td>Capitol A – Lobby Level</td>
<td>Susan Kendig, JD, WHNPC, FAANP, Women’s Health Integration Specialist, SSM Health – St. Mary’s Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2: Mental &amp; Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Columbia A – Ballroom Level</td>
<td>Dawn Levinson, MSW, Behavioral Health Lead, DHSPS • Fernanda Ruiz, MSW, Mary’s Center • Edwina Davis, MS, MCHES, LMT, Mary’s Center • Danette McLaurin Glass, Consultant Facilitator, Atlanta Healthy Start’s Initiative CAN, The Center for Black Women’s Wellness • Natalie Hernandez, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Morehouse School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>C3: Male Involvement</td>
<td>Columbia B – Ballroom Level</td>
<td>Ronéé E. Wilson, PhD, MPH, CPH, REACH UP • Shanda Vereen, MSPH, Doctoral Student, University of South Florida, REACH UP Incorporated • Rashida Jones, PharmD, Doctoral Student, University of South Florida, REACH UP Incorporated • Hamisu M. Sallu, MD, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair of Research, Baylor College of Medicine, REACH UP Incorporated • Estrellita “Lo” Berry, MA, President and CEO, REACH UP, Incorporated • Deborah A. Austin, PhD, Director of Community Engagement, REACH UP Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4: The Making of the Film Toxic: A Black Woman’s Story</td>
<td>Regency ABC – Ballroom Level</td>
<td>Megan Walsh, LISWS, Cleveland Department of Health</td>
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C5: Family Engagement  | Concord/Lexington – Ballroom Level
Shaping Generations through Today’s Parents: An Evaluation of the “Stronger Parents Brighter Futures” Program for Adolescent Mothers and Fathers in Virginia
Richelle Burney, LCSW, CSAC, Statewide Coordinator for High Schools and Higher Education, Stronger Parents Brighter Future, Virginia Department of Health • Anthony J. Mingo, Sr., Project Director, Stronger Parents Brighter Future, Virginia Department of Health • Leroy Thompson, Jr., PhD, Data Manager and Project Evaluator, Stronger Parents Brighter Future, Virginia Department of Health

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
NICHQ Concurrent Focus Groups
1. Healthy Start Consumers | Regency A – Ballroom Level
2. Health Start Fatherhood | Regency B – Ballroom Level
3. Healthy Start Staff | Regency C – Ballroom Level

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.
Break

4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
Heart to Heart | Regency A – Ballroom Level
(Healthy Start Project Directors only)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Congressional Breakfast | Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.
Opening Remarks | Regency ABC – Ballroom Level
Deborah L. Frazier, NHSA CEO | Madie Robinson, Chair, NHSA’s Government Relations Committee

8:45 – 9:10 a.m.
Plenary Remarks
Speaker To Be Announced

9:10 – 9:30 a.m.
Getting Ready for the Hill/KickOff Rally for Hill Visits/Return of Hill Visit Forms
Madie Robinson, Chair, NHSA’s Government Relations Committee

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.
Closing Remarks
Angela Ellison, NHSA Conference Chair
Presentation Posters

**Healthy Start for Pacific Islanders**
- Lauren Haggard-Duff, PhD, RN, CNE, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Northwest
- Britni Ayers, PhD, UAMS Northwest
- Cari Bogulski, PhD, UAMS Northwest
- Betsy O’Connor, MA, UAMS Northwest
- Pearl Anna McElfish, PhD, MBA, UAMS Northwest

**Reducing Low Birthweight in Mississippi Delta**
- Melanie Williams, Director, Home Visit Initiatives, Delta Health Alliance

**Identifying Health Conditions in Federal Healthy Start Participants to Better Evaluate Birth Outcomes, Grand Rapids, Michigan**
- Ran Meng, MS, Strong Beginnings Evaluator, Michigan State University

**Personalize Coordination to Improve Breastfeeding Duration, Bronx Healthy Start**
- Alma Idehen, MSEd, Program Evaluator, Bronx Healthy Start Partnership – Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Saving Tomorrow Today: An African American Breastfeeding Blueprint**
- Andrea Serano, IBCLC, CLC, Program Director, Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Mortality Summit**
- Kacie C. McLaughlin, MPH, Public Health Analyst, DHSPS, MCHB, HRSA

**Life Course Perspective through the Lens of FIMR**
- Faye Johnson, BS, CEO, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition (NEFHSC)
- Rev. Tom Rodgers, Board of Directors, NEFHSC

**Fostering Quality Improvement through Participatory System Dynamics Modeling, Bronx Healthy Start**
- David W. Lounsbury, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx Healthy Start Partnership – Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Alma Idehen, MSEd, Program Manager, Bronx Healthy Start Partnership – Albert Einstein College of Medicine

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**Building Layout**

**Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill**
Speaker Bios

Timika Anderson Reeves, has worked in the maternal and child health (MCH) community for nearly 15 years and is extremely passionate about assisting mothers with the essential resources that will enable them to have a positive birth outcome. She continues to advance in the social work profession, by staying relevant, but also knowledgeable on topics related to MCH populations and is pursuing her doctoral degree in social work. She currently serves at the MCH Program Manager for Partnership and Outreach Services at Access Community Health Network, an integrated network of over 30 community health centers serving medically underserved communities in the Chicago metropolitan area. In addition to this role, she serves as the Westside Healthy Start Project Director to oversee that coordinated care is accessible to high-risk women, men, and babies. Energized with a passion for improving the lives of the most vulnerable, she supports Count the Kicks efforts to ensure that all mothers have access to resources that reduce the burden of uncertainty and prevents the occurrence of an adverse birth outcome.

Angela Ellison is the Senior Director for UI Health, Office of for Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships (OCEAN-HP). In this role she oversees contract compliance and provides leadership for several school base health centers, a large USDA SNAP-Ed funded nutrition program, a HRSA funded Healthy Start program, and a faith and health initiative, as well as guiding several community engagement activities on behalf of the University. Ms. Ellison is also adjunct faculty at South Suburban College for their certified Community Health Worker program. She has more than 30 years’ experience working with community health workers in a variety of settings. Ms. Ellison’s training experience includes working with and training community health workers, participant recruitment and retention, case management program design and the “how to’s” of implementing a care coordination/case management model within a variety of settings. Ms. Ellison is committed to improving the quality of lives for the families and individuals touched by the programs she oversees and is an advocate for social justice and addressing racial disparities in health. Ms. Ellison has directed a variety of programs focusing on infant mortality initiatives, HIV prevention and education, diabetes and cardio vascular disease and many others.

Tiffany McNair Wiggins, MD, MPH, is Director of the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services within the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Key programs in Dr. Wiggins’ division include: the Healthy Start Initiative, which provides over $100 million in funding to improve perinatal outcomes and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality; the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, a state-based partnership to combat maternal mortality and morbidity through the design and implementation of evidence-based maternal safety bundles; and the Women’s Preventive Services Initiative, in which a coalition of national experts develops recommendations and resources surrounding women’s preventive healthcare services. Dr. Wiggins graduated from Harvard College, received her M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Michael Warren, MD, MPH, became Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, on October 15, 2018. MCHB’s mission is to improve the health of America’s mothers, children and families. Its Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program provides health care and public health services for an estimated 56 million people, including pregnant women, infants, children, including children with special health care needs, and their families in the United States: 86% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 55% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service. Dr. Warren manages MCHB’s $1.33 billion budget, providing vision and direction to ensure programs are planned and carried out effectively to achieve results.

Scott Berns, MD, MPH, is the President and CEO of the National Institute for Children’s Health Quality (NICHQ), a nonprofit organization that works to improve children’s health, and a co-founder of The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF), which aims to discover treatments and the cure for Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome and its aging-related conditions. As Chair of the PRF Board, Berns ensures that PRF is a key force behind the discovery of the progeria gene, and he has developed programs and services to aid both those affected by progeria and the scientists who conduct progeria research. Berns has made multiple media appearances as an expert in perinatal health, and his son Sam and family were featured in an HBO Emmy Award–winning documentary titled Life According to Sam.

Borns a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric emergency physician. He is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and a Clinical Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice at the Brown School of Public Health.

Konn Harris is Project Director for the NICHQ Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project (SHSPPP) and is the former director of the New Haven Federal Healthy Start program at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven in New Haven, CT. His maternal and child health, public health and fatherhood/male involvement experience spans more than 25 years. Harris is also the past President of the National Healthy Start Association and co-creator of the Core Adaptive Model (CAM®), an evidenced-based model for fatherhood/male involvement programs. Harris is a national expert and facilitator on topics ranging from community engagement, fatherhood, racism and equity. He is a community researcher and national advisor on men’s health, and co-authored and published “The Health of Young African American Men” in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, 2015).
Speaker Bios

Vijaya Hogan, PhD, MPH, is a perinatal epidemiologist by training. She is currently the principal consultant at VKH Consulting, LLC, Adjunct Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health, and a Research Fellow at the UNC-CH Center for Health Promotion/Disease Prevention. From 2015-19, she served as a Program Officer at the WK Kellogg Foundation, where she developed National and New Orleans/Mississippi maternal and child health investments and served as an evaluation officer, including using design thinking to improve the status of breastfeeding policy and practice in the US, expanding place-based collaborations to improve maternal health in the South, and ensuring that all hospitals in Mississippi are on the path to Baby Friendly hospital designation. She rose to the rank of full Professor (Clinical) at the Gillings School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill during her 12-year tenure there. At UNCCH, she conducted research relating to understanding and addressing health inequities in perinatal outcomes. She also developed a cross disciplinary health equity certificate program at UNC-CH and played a key role in developing a health equity curriculum at the University. She is currently working as an Independent Consultant in order to provide focused expertise to a variety of public health organizations.

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, is dean and professor of Medicine for the College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University. She will also hold the rank of adjunct Professor of Medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA. Dr. Prothrow-Stith is an internationally recognized public health leader, who since 2008 has advised top-tier healthcare, life sciences, academic and not-for-profit institutions on leadership and executive talent in her role as a principal at the global executive search consulting firm, Spencer Stuart. Prior to joining Spencer Stuart, she served as the Henry Pickering Walcott Professor of Public Health Practice and Associate Dean for Diversity at the Harvard School of Public Health where she created and led the Division of Public Health Practice, and secured over $14 million in grant funding for public health programs. As a physician working in inner-city Boston, Dr. Prothrow-Stith broke new ground with her efforts to define youth violence as a public health problem. She developed and wrote The Violence Prevention Curriculum for Adolescents, a forerunner of violence prevention curricula for schools and communities. She is the author of Deadly Consequences, the first book to present the public health perspective on violence to a mass audience.

Arthur James, MD, is Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. In 1988 joined a practice in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Bronson Methodist Hospital where he expanded prenatal services for undererved women, teens. He later moved to Borgess Medical Center where he established and led Borgess Women’s Health Center, again expanding services. Between 1992 and 1999, he led a community-wide effort in Kalamazoo County that reduced Black infant mortality from 29.7 to 10.2 deaths per 1000 Black births, thereby helping Kalamazoo, Michigan, become only one of a few counties in the United States to accomplish the Healthy-People 2000 goal of 11 deaths per 1000 live black births.

Julie Zaharatos, MPH, serves as the Partnerships & Outreach Manager for the Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths initiative. Since 2016 Julie has supported MMRRCs and conducted outreach to key stakeholders around the country to promote better understanding of the causes and factors contributing to pregnancy-related deaths. She previously served as an Maternal Child Health Program Director at March of Dimes Georgia Chapter and served on the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

U. Michael Currie, MPH, MBA, has held roles in both the public and private sectors with responsibilities related to disease prevention, wellness and health benefits, and has spent more than 20 years of his educational and professional life focused on population health management. Michael has lead the UHG Health Equity Services Program since its establishment in June of 2010 and is responsible for the development and coordination of enterprise efforts, initiatives and interventions to identify health disparities, as well as the enhancement or implementation of programs and services to address identified health disparities.

Prior to joining UnitedHealth Group, Michael was a Major Accounts Manager at CareFirst BCBS, managing CareFirst’s largest block of public sector business, a Wellness Director at Baltimore Gas & Electric, and a Program Director at both the State and local county health department level. He received his MPH from George Washington University and his MBA from Johns Hopkins University, and has served on various boards and committees of local and national organizations.

David Williams, MD, has been a part of UnitedHealth Group since 2012. He currently serves as Regional Vice President and Senior Medical Director for United Clinical Services of UnitedHealthcare. Prior to assuming his current positions, he served as Chief Medical Officer of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of MS, Medical Director in Clinical Services, Clinical Coverage Review and Prior Authorization for UnitedHealthcare’s Community and State Division. Before joining UHC, he served as Medical Director for eQHealth solutions–MS, formerly HealthSystems of Mississippi, the quality improvement organization contracted with Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Vice-Chairman of the Mississippi State Board of Health, Chairman of Mississippi Infant Mortality Task Force, and member of Mississippi Hospital Equipment and Facilities Authority.

Dr. Williams is a practicing internist. His medical education was completed at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his training at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and served as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine. Having a strong commitment to public service, Dr. Williams served in the United Health Public Service Corps for three years.
Speaker Bios

Kimberly Sherman, MPH, MPP, serves as the Women’s Health Specialist for the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS) in the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). She has served in the Bureau for 10 years directly supporting programs and policies focused on improving maternal and women’s health outcomes to include AIM, the Women’s Preventive Services Initiative. She also coordinates the convening of federal, public and private stakeholders to share information and resources to collectively advance efforts to improve maternal health and wellness. She has a Master of Public Policy from American University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Louisville.

Candace Webb, MPH, is a maternal and child health professional with expertise in the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls and women as well as families affected by HIV. She has worked in a variety of programmatic, research, advocacy, and leadership roles in an array of settings, including safety net hospitals and health centers, community-based organizations, government agencies, nonprofits, and health policy and services research institutions. In her current role as the Program Director of the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), she leads a multidisciplinary team of diverse stakeholders with a shared vision to help equip, empower and embolden every locality and health care provider in the U.S. to significantly reduce severe maternal morbidity and mortality and address the stark racial and ethnic disparities in maternal wellness. She comes to ACOG with over 15 years of experience in public health, including federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governmental public health.

Andria Cornell, MSPH, is the associate director for women’s and infant health at AMCHP. The efforts of the women’s and infant health team include an extensive portfolio of grant-funded efforts bridging public health and clinical care in women’s health, improving birth outcomes, care and support for the mother-baby dyad, and transition to early childhood systems. Ms. Cornell has administered programs that build state and community capacity for translating findings from state-based maternal mortality review programs into population health interventions, including the AMCHP Every Mother Initiative and AMCHP’s partnership in the Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths program with CDC Foundation and the CDC Division of Reproductive Health. She represents AMCHP on the Executive Team of the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and serves on its Community Workgroup. She served on the initiative’s bundle workgroup, Reducing Peripartum Racial Disparities, and currently leads implementation of a demonstration project of the bundle. Ms. Cornell has worked in the academic, federal and nonprofit sectors advancing maternal and child health in the fields of public health, research, and health care for more than a decade. She has a Master of Science in Public Health in reproductive, perinatal and women’s health and a certificate in public health informatics from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Rose Aka-James, MPH, is a public health professional with a a Bachelors in Psychology from St. John’s University and a Masters in Public Health from New York University. During her graduate degree program, she worked with physicians and public health researchers to streamline healthcare and HIV/AIDS testing and education for expecting mothers at government hospitals in Accra, Ghana. As a black mama, the issue of inequity in black maternal health, morbidity, and mortality is one which is not only close to home but an imperative human rights area of focus to improve outcomes for generations to come.

Jola Crear-Perry, MD, is the Founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. Most recently, she addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urge a human rights framework to improve maternal mortality. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Birthing Project, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center and as the Director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department where she was responsible for four facilities that provided health care for the homeless, pediatric, WIC, and gynecologic services within the New Orleans clinical service area. Dr. Crear-Perry continues to work to improve access and availability of affordable health care to New Orleans’ citizens post the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005.

Molly Rose Kaufman is a community planner, journalist and youth worker. Her writing has appeared in YES! Magazine, Kinfolk Magazine and the New York Times. As a community organizer in Orange, NJ, she cofounded the University of Orange, a free people’s university, worked with residents and planners to write the Heart of Orange plan and codeveloped ORNG Ink, a youth-led, user driven arts collective. She has a BA from Hampshire College, an MS in journalism from Columbia University and was a 2016 Civic Liberal Arts Fellow at the New School. She currently serves as the University of Orange Provost & Program Director and is a Listening Consultant at HUUB.

Madie Robinson is a community servant and human rights advocate, currently serves as Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer for Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc. (PDHS), a 501(c)(3) founded to help improve the health outcomes for pregnant women and their children. PDHS, headquartered in Florence, covers a seven-county rural area in the Pee Dee region of SC, expanded its services to incorporate the needs of the entire family and provides training and education for youth, helps develop communication strategies for individuals and couples to sustain a healthy relationship and/or marriage, assists youth offenders between ages 18-24 with job training and placement, and connects its clients to medical care, nutrition, clothing and other necessities.
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