

**Melba R. Moore, MS, CPHA**  
**Health Commissioner - City of Cincinnati Department of Health**

Melba R. Moore is the Health Commissioner for the City of Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Health Department is committed to achieving health equity and improving the health and wellness of all who live, work and play in Cincinnati by becoming the healthiest city in the nation.

A Certified Public Health Administrator with emphasis in Health Management. Commissioner Moore has served in government from 1990 to 1996 as the Coordinator of a Genetics Program, 2001 to 2018 as the Director/Commissioner of Health in the City of St. Louis, MO.

Commissioner Moore is the 2009 recipient of the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. In 2011, she was selected to attend the Community Health Leadership Executive Program at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Was also elected by the Office on Minority Health to serve on Region VII's Health Equity Council, where she was later selected to serve as the Co-Chair with a body of experts from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska driving a collaborative health equity agenda. Recipient of the 2017 -Equalizer Award in Health Education and Support from the Youth and Family Center and the 2017 Healthcare Accomplishment Recognition Award (HCARA) in Healthcare Advocacy from the Healthcare Business Women's Association- St. Louis Chapter.

In her earlier career Commissioner Moore served as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Coalition for Stroke Prevention and Awareness with the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians,' providing strategic leadership with 30 + community health agencies and healthcare providers in developing and marketing programs on stroke prevention and awareness.

Health Commissioner Moore is an advocate for women, children, vulnerable populations and lectures nationwide on health disparities. She earned her Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology from Webster University, a Master of Science (MS) degree in Health Management from Lindenwood University, a Certificate of completion from Harvard University - John F. Kennedy School of Government for State and Local Executives and has been approved by the Public Health Practitioner Certification Board as a Certified Public Health Administrator. Doctorate Candidate- Business Administration (DBA) - Specialization in Healthcare Administration.

**Michelle Allison, MS, RD, LD, CLC**

Michelle Allison is the State Breastfeeding Coordinator for the Ohio Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program at the Ohio Department of Health. Before moving to State, she worked at the local level as a WIC Nutritionist and later as a Program Manager. In her current position, Michelle is responsible for identifying breastfeeding promotion and support services needed throughout Ohio's 88 counties, as well as providing staff education and developing state breastfeeding policies and procedures. She received both her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Master of Science in Health Promotion and Education at the University of Cincinnati. Michelle is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian (RD, LD) and Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC).

### **Karen Bankston, PhD, MSN, FACHE**

With over 40 years in health care, Karen Bankston, Ph.D., M.S.N., FACHE, is an adjunct Professor at the College of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati, and President/CEO of KDB and Associates Consulting Services, LLC. She is the former Executive Director of the Child Poverty Collaborative, Cincinnati; a collective impact organization designed to lead the community's planning and implementation of efforts to ameliorate poverty by providing guidance on public policy, employment, housing, transportation, education and health care concerns. Previously she held the role of Associate Dean for Clinical Practice, Partnership and Community Engagement of the College of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati. In that role, she was responsible for developing and maintaining partnerships with nursing and other disciplines, while engaging in community-based research focused on student and parental success in the urban core. She is a co-investigator with Dr. Greer Glazer as they look at the intersection of the social determinants impact on student success. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2017 Cincinnati Woman of the Year; American Nurses' Association Mary Eliza Mahoney Award 2016, University of Cincinnati Distinguished Alumni Award 2016, Kent State University Professional Achievement Alumni Award 2016 to name a few. She is a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives and a member of Sigma Theta Tau.

### **Jennifer Berndsen, LSW**

Jenny Berndsen is a licensed social worker with over 20 years of experience in the field. She currently serves as the Program Manager for the Every Child Succeeds Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where she started as a home visitor in 2005. As the Program Manager, she provides support and is the liaison between the Every Child Succeeds central office and the 9 home visitation provider agencies who provide home visiting services in Ohio and Kentucky. Jenny also manages the ECS Early Head Start Home-based Program and supervises the 4 home visitors who deliver that program. Additionally, Jenny trains on Domestic Violence and is certified in Trauma-Responsive Care.

### **Dwan Bray**

Dwan Bray is a devoted wife of sixteen years to her husband Aaron. They have five children, Nadjah 14, Akerah 11, Aarion & Aubrey 5, and Ny'Leah 2. Dwan & Aaron's youngest 3 children are special needs. The twins were diagnosed with autism at eighteen months old, while expecting baby number five. Unfortunately, the youngest was deprived of oxygen at birth and diagnosed with epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cortical vision impairment, gastric paresis requiring a gastrostomy tube. Dwan also homeschools the oldest two children.

Dwan began her journey as a birth doula in 2002, while pregnant with her first born. She then organized a local mommy to mommy peer group, to help support breastfeeding mothers of color. Dwan has always had a passion for breastfeeding education and support.

After the birth of her twins, Dwan started Mocha Milk Mommy's Breastfeeding Support Group on Facebook. The group is for peer support of breastfeeding, for women of color. We are currently at approximately 2.6K members. Dwan started the group, due to the lack of support while exclusively breastfeeding the twins. Dwan was frustrated when she was told by lactation, that she had never helped a woman to breastfeed twins, and encouraged to use formula. Dwan knew then, that she needed a community, to support her and for her to support.

Dwan officially began training as a birth doula in October 2016, with to Labor, where she also was the local sponsor for the annual certification training. The birth of Dwan's last child sparked new passions in areas of birth and breastfeeding support for families of color. Dwan's baby was in NICU for over 4.3 weeks, where she pumped 975 ounces of breast milk, and advocated for the right to offer exclusive breast milk to her baby.

Dwan has taken a break after birth to focus on her children, and continue to offer peer support to mothers online. Dwan is looking forward to being an active doula, Spring of 2019. Dwan is very passionate about the quality of care and support offered during pregnancy, birth and postpartum, for women of color.

Dwan's goal is to continue to build a network of professionals, to support the needs of women of color, during their maternal care, from birth, breastfeeding and postpartum. Dwan will be a part of the changes necessary, to increase our statistics of breastfeeding, continual support and education to empower more women to trust their bodies, to nurture their babies.

### **Wesley Bugg, Esq.**

Wesley is a 2016 graduate of the University of Miami's School of Law (JD, LLM), and 2013 graduate of Emory University (BA). He is currently the Deputy Director of CourtVision International Inc., a nonprofit that promotes youth advocacy and conflict resolution. His current interests include legal compliance and business development, especially for startups and small nonprofits where these tasks are often expensive and difficult. In this spirit, he serves ROSE as the Legal Compliance Officer and Financial Assistant, aggregated into his role as Financial and Legal Operation Coordinator. He is also the Founder of Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere (ROBE). The mission of ROBE is to educate, equip, and empower men.

### **Stephanie Carroll BS, IBCLC, CLS, CLC**

Stephanie Carroll is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) who lives in southeast Ohio with her two daughters. She founded the Appalachian Breastfeeding Network in May of 2016. Now, just over two years later, ABN has grown to around 500 members across 15 states. Stephanie owns a private practice and works for a Breast Pump DME part-time. She also works as a speaker and marketing manager for Lactation Education Consultants. She continues to work towards transformation of breastfeeding culture, women's health equity, and increasing access to care in Appalachia, giving a voice to Appalachia, which continues to be underserved and overlooked.

### **Natashia Conner, MS, CHES, IBCLC**

Natashia Conner is a doctoral graduate student in Health Education & Promotion with a focus in Behavioral Health at Walden University, a Lactation Consultant at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, and affiliate faculty for the bachelor's program Maternal Child Health-Human Lactation at Union Institute & University. She is a founding member of the Southwest Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition, and owner of Trinity Mother & Baby Outreach. As a graduate, she is heavily involved in research. Her research interests are: Investigations of implicit bias and racism via nonverbal communication in addition to body language and its implications on equitable care, support, and sustaining breastfeeding among vulnerable populations.

In the local community, she has volunteered and served as content expert for the Annual Black Family Reunion, NAACP Annual Conference, First Ladies Health Day, and Breastfeeding Disparities Conference in Cincinnati. She also served in the United States military. Natashia is a breastfeeding advocate, peer, a breastfeeding mother & a US Navy Veteran.

### **Celina Cunanan, CNM, MSN**

Celina Cunanan, CNM, MSN is System Chief for Nurse-Midwifery for University Hospitals (UH), and Division Director of Midwifery at UH MacDonald Women's Hospital, the largest midwifery practice in Northeast Ohio. Celina currently manages a total of 27 midwives at four regional hospitals throughout Ohio, and directs the highly-successful Centering Pregnancy programs at UH, which was recently named Centering Healthcare Institute's Regional Leadership Partner in the Midwest. Celina is active locally with First Year Cleveland, the city-county infant mortality task force, as Co-Chair for both the Centering Pregnancy Coalition and Community Advisory Board; as well as a member of the Executive Board. She also founded the non-profit Babies Need Boxes Ohio, which provides safe sleep education and supplies to families in Ohio. As a regional and national leader, Celina served as past Chair of the Northeast Ohio ACNM Chapter, and was most recently elected nationally to the ACNM Nominating Committee in 2018.

Celina graduated with a BA in Psychology and Health & Society from the University of Rochester in 1994; a BSN from St. Louis University in 1998; and an MSN from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in 2000. Celina is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Reproductive Biology at Case.

### **Lisa Davidson, IBCLC**

Lisa has been working with breastfeeding mothers for almost 20 years. She started her journey selling and renting breast pumps out of her home so she could tend to her newborn daughter full time. She was one of the first Breastfeeding Peer Helpers in the state of Ohio in 2003, working for the Ashtabula County WIC Program. She received her CLC in 2005 and continued her education and skills, becoming an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant in 2011. She currently works as the WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator for the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, is the Founder and Chair of the Southeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition, helps coordinate the newly created Muskingum County Birth Circle, and helps teach the Boot Camp for New Moms class which runs in conjunction with the Boot Camp for New Dads class, sponsored by the local Fatherhood Initiative program, ForeverDads. Lisa is also a former President of the Ohio Lactation Consultants Association and currently serves as Publicity Chair for OLCA.

### **Heather Evans BSN, RN, IBCLC, C-EFM**

Heather graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana University. The first 14 years of my career I worked as a labor and delivery nurse then became an IBCLC in 2013. I am currently the Lactation Clinical Lead for West Chester Hospital where I run the lactation and childbirth education programs. I am also the facilitator for Ohio's first Baby Café, a support group for breastfeeding mothers/infants.

### **Ryan Everett, MPH**

Ryan Everett serves as the Director of Population Health at the Ohio Hospital Association. Ryan oversees OHA's efforts in partnering with hospital, state, and community partners around maternal and child health in Ohio. Ryan earned his Bachelor of Science degree and his masters of public health degree from The Ohio State University. He is originally from North Canton, Ohio.

### **Christin Farmer, BA**

Christin is a dedicated community development and birth professional with a special interest in maternal-newborn stabilization and life long care. A native Clevelander, her background includes community advocacy, health and human equity, perinatal support, economic and workforce development. Christin is the founder and Executive Director of Birthing Beautiful Communities (BBC), whose mission is to improve the social and community structures that lead to poor birth outcomes through culture, education, advocacy, support and engagement. As trained doulas, Christin and her team work directly with new moms who are at high risk for infant mortality by social standards,

through the prenatal period, labor and delivery, and postpartum period, offering a wide range of services that include support and direction. Christin is a Kent State University graduate, and the mother of one son, Jaylen.

### **Tenisha Gaines, MBA, CLC**

Tenisha currently serves as Centering Program Manager for the Rainbow Center for Women and Children. She has earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration which has prepared her for managing all aspects of patient recruitment, compliance, scheduling, grant fulfillment, and auditing for a robust and advanced Centering Pregnancy and Parenting program that has serviced over 2500 women and children. She has been with the program since its inception in 2010 and has been a driving force in its implementation and success.

Ms. Gaines has proven to be an invaluable asset to the program and center while also engaging in patient care as a facilitator and a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). Since the initiation of the program and under her direct supervision, the outcomes have managed to defy the odds in preterm delivery rates averaging 7.6%, 8.24% low birth weights and 78% of participants breastfeeding at discharge in a majority African American population.

Her passion for the health and well-being of patients through the Centering model is one that radiates daily. She is a driver and believes this model should be the standard for medical care moving forward.

### **Bre Haviland, MS, RD, LD, CLC**

Bre Haviland has been a registered dietitian, breastfeeding and public health advocate for over seven years. She attended Ohio University and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition with Science. She completed a Master's of Science degree at The Ohio State University. Her public health career started as a dietitian in the Public Health-Dayton and Montgomery County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. There, Bre provided nutrition education and breastfeeding support for three years then accepted a position as a clinical dietitian in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She currently serves as the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Program Coordinator at the Ohio Department of Health. Her position at ODH includes working in maternal and child health, with interest in breastfeeding promotion and obesity prevention. She attained her Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) certification in 2011.

Her current breastfeeding projects at ODH include co-lead on the *Ohio First Steps for Healthy Babies* breastfeeding initiative and the Ohio Healthy Programs.

### **Neal Hodges**

Neal Hodges is the founder of Dude'la, program of Birthing Beautiful Communities (BBC), which is a support a grassroots, community-driven support program for expectant and new fathers. Neal received his BA in Communications from Cleveland State University. In 2014, Neal became project manager for the Greater University Circle Community Health Initiative (GUCCHI), an initiative that address the social determinants involving the communities that surrounded University Circle, a cultural oasis in Cleveland, with an emphasis on infant mortality and lead poisoning. During his tenure as project manager for GUCCHI (2104 – 2018), the lifelong Clevelander saw a lack of father engagement as it relates to infant mortality and, thus, created the Dude'la program which is founded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation and BBC. Neal describes Dude'la s a man who cares for the betterment of his community and his children. Hodges resides in the Larchmere community, ten blocks of upbeat vitality and offbeat charm, in Cleveland

**Dominique Love**

Dominique Love is a Community Health Worker with Every Child Succeeds. After learning the importance of breastfeeding and breastmilk feeding with her own children, Dominique is especially interested in empowering other mothers to be successful in breastfeeding.

To that end, Dominique has been trained to be a Breastfeeding Champion Peer supporter in her own neighborhood of Avondale, and is the Lead Champion Breastfeeding mom in the Avondale Moms Empowered to Nurse (AMEN) group. She has also received training in breastfeeding through the Certified Lactation Counselor program as well as the Community Transformer Training program.

Dominique is involved in many community projects to improve the lives of her community members including: The All Children Thrive Network, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Learning Community Leadership Institute, and recently was give the Spirit Award from Easter Seals for her dedication to her community.

**Laura Knisley, MSN, APRN, RD, LD, FNP, IBCLC, CDE**

Laura Knisley, an advocate for rural woman's health and chronic disease prevention is a Nurse Practitioner, a Registered Dietitian, a Certified Diabetes Educator and Board Certified Lactation Consultant. To reduce chronic disease, she promotes education and evidenced based infant feeding policy in Ohio by serving multiple roles including vice president of the Ohio Lactation Consultant Association (2014-2018) and consultant for the Ohio FirstSteps Program. Laura is currently a doctoral candidate at Frontier School of Nurse Midwifery and Family Nursing; she is addressing health literacy in rural Ohio. She lives in Lynchburg, Ohio with her family and three amazing rescue dogs.

**Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD** is a Past President of the American Public Health Association (2015-2016), and a Senior Fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and the Cardiovascular Research Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Jones is a family physician and epidemiologist whose work focuses on naming, measuring, and addressing the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation. She seeks to broaden the national health debate to include not only universal access to high quality health care, but also attention to the social determinants of health (including poverty) and the social determinants of equity (including racism).

Dr. Jones is a public health leader valued for her creativity and intellectual agility.

As a methodologist, she has developed new methods for comparing full distributions of data, rather than simply comparing means or proportions, in order to investigate population-level risk factors and propose population-level interventions.

As a social epidemiologist, her work on "race"-associated differences in health outcomes goes beyond simply documenting those differences to vigorously investigating the structural causes of the differences.

As a teacher, her allegories on "race" and racism illuminate topics that are otherwise difficult for many Americans to understand or discuss. She aims through her work to catalyze a national conversation on racism that will mobilize and engage all Americans in a National Campaign Against Racism.

Dr. Jones was an Assistant Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health (1994 to 2000) before being recruited to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2000 to 2014), where she served as a Medical Officer and Research Director on Social Determinants of Health and Equity. Highly valued as a mentor and teacher, she is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

She has been elected to service on many professional boards, including the Board of Directors of the American College of Epidemiology, the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association, the Board of Directors of the DeKalb County (Georgia) Board of Health, the Board of Directors of the National Black Women's Health Project, and the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

She is also actively sought as a contributor to national efforts to define health equity, including her role as a Project Advisor and on-screen expert for the groundbreaking film series *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* She recently co-chaired the Consensus Panel on Racism and Health: Creating a Canon for Discourse and Action convened by the W. Montague Cobb / National Medical Association Health Institute.

Her many awards include the David Satcher Award (2003), Hildrus A. Poindexter Distinguished Service Award (2009), John Snow Award (2011), Paul Cornely Award (2016), Woman in Medicine Award (2017), Hansen Leadership Award (2017), and Louis Stokes Health Advocacy Award (2018). Lauded for her compelling clarity on issues of "race" and racism, she has delivered seven Commencement Addresses in the past four years: University of Washington School of Public Health (2014), University of California San Francisco School of Medicine (2016), University of California Berkeley School of Public Health (2016), University of Minnesota School of Public Health (2017), Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (2017), City University of New York School of Medicine (2017), and University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (2018). She was also awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (2016).

Dr. Jones earned her BA in Molecular Biology from Wellesley College, her MD from the Stanford University School of Medicine, and both her Master of Public Health and her PhD in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She also completed residency training in General Preventive Medicine at Johns Hopkins, and in Family Practice at the Residency Program in Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center.

### **Janelle McClain, MD, PhD Candidate**

Janelle McClain is the founder and Executive Director of a breastfeeding community outreach 501 C 3 non-for profit organization in Cincinnati that is dedicated to educating, promoting, advocacy and helping low income and African-American women with best infant feeding practices. In addition to holding her CLC (certified lactation counselor), she has over 6 years of doctoral research experience and is completing her doctorate in Community Education and Advocacy specializing in breastfeeding intervention practices. She continues to work in the community with over 10 partnering agencies to help educate, promote, and advocate for breast-feeding. Janelle's unique career experience has been working for 14 years with Cincinnati Children's Hospital with over 10 of those years in the division of General and Community Pediatrics - research section. She is recognized as a breast-feeding expert in her field through her involvement in the community, personal experience, and years of community research pertaining to breastfeeding. She is an active member of the national ROSE organization (Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere), and serves on several local committees such as Southwest Ohio breast-feeding Coalition, Creating Healthy Communities, former Community Action Agency Policy board, the State of Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative breastfeeding work group, and has served as a panel expert for the community round table for CCTST. In addition, she has been referenced for her breast-feeding expertise in articles such as the online Splash (<http://milkgenomics.org/article/success-stories/>), professionally presented for CIRHML- (Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Human Milk and Lactation) group and included in the July 2016 online blog issue of Cradle Cincinnati.

To date BOOBS organization has served over 100 BOOBS pregnant moms and dads and a total of 120 expectant moms in the community with collaborating partners. Within the first year the organization has received grants funds from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Kroger foundation, Buckeye Health Plan, private foundations, 4imprint, and donations from the Salvation Army and the Community Action Agency. BOOBS will continue to work in the community to reach pregnant moms and dads and is currently working to present preliminary research findings on the impact of intent to breastfeed

### **Krishna Miller, RN**

Krishna knew at a young age that she was destined to be in the healthcare field. It was only fitting that after pursuing her STNA certification in high school, she set her sights on furthering her career as a nurse. She received her LPN degree in 2010 and began working for Primary Health Solutions in 2013. Her passion for caring for patients continued to grow while learning valuable knowledge in her career. She made the decision to continue with her education and received her RN degree in 2016. Krishna's tenacity and work ethic continues to shine as she took on training to become one of the co-facilitators for our Centering Pregnancy program that started in 2017. Krishna believes there should be nothing that holds you back as long as you have the passion and drive to finish the race.

### **April Moorman, CHW**

My name is April Moorman. I am a Certified Community Care Coordinator with Health Care Access Now. I have been with the agency for 1 year. I work within the agency's Maternal & Child Care Coordination Program. This program gives me the opportunity to not only work with the mother but to assist the entire family with any concerns or barriers the family member may be facing. Even though I only have 1 year of experience as a Community Care Coordinator, I was raised to help others when I



could. My father told me that as human beings, one of our key purposes on this earth is to help our fellow man whether it be an encouraging word, offer food to someone in need or to simply be a sounding board to someone that needs to vent their frustrations.

Being able to visit the client's within their homes gives me a better understanding of the family dynamic as well as to visibly identify indicators that suggests the client is in need of certain education, resources and supportive services upon observation of the client's living space. I find it very fulfilling to be able to work with families who are willing to broaden their outlook on life and how the client can become successful and break away from generational poverty and barriers that can plague development and growth as a family.

### **Molly Murray**

Molly Murray is a trained and professional birth and postpartum doula, childbirth educator, and the owner and founder of Cincinnati Birth and Parenting Network and Doula Agency, with a mission of connecting parents with information, resources and support.

Molly has been passionately devoted to birth and postpartum work since 2012, supporting over 300 families in that time. Molly is committed to continual growth and education and has gone as far as Texas, Chicago and Wisconsin for workshops including Birth Without Fear, Herbal Remedies for Fertility and Pregnancy, Rebozo Technique, Rockin' Dads, Spinning Babies, VBAC Facts and more.

Molly's calm presence, non-judgmental support and strong intuition help her to serve families in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky throughout the childbearing years. Molly resides on the Westside of Cincinnati with her three children."

### **Lori Nester, RD, LD, IBCLC**

A registered dietitian, I have worked as a nutritionist at the Allen County WIC program for over 20 years, many of those part time, while raising 2 boys and being available for many volunteer activities. I became an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant in 2011. As the breastfeeding coordinator for my WIC program, I am actively involved in advocating breastfeeding in the community and participate in my county infant mortality task force and community health improvement plan.

I have been active with the Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance since 2013 and have served as a regional representative for the NW Ohio area (region 3), President from 2014 – 2017, and currently treasurer. I have also been active in the Ohio Lactation Consultant Association, representing the Northwest region from 2013 – 2108 and currently serving as vice president.

I have lived in Bluffton, Ohio for the past 26 years with my husband, Darryl, who is on the faculty at Bluffton University. We have two adult sons and 3 cats.

### **Jessica Roach, MPHc**

Jessica Roach is the co-founder and C.E.O. of Restoring Our Own Through Transformation, (ROOTT) a Non-Profit, Black Women led Reproductive Justice Organization focused in Maternal Child Health and Birthing Justice Columbus, Ohio. Her work has spanned over 20 years in areas such as clinical nursing, public health advocacy and independent scholarship. Ms. Roach has a deeply experiential perspective in her research both personally and professionally, related to the effects of stress related to structural determinants, and the social determinants created as consequence of those structures, with focus on inter-generational and historical trauma as it relates to policy development. Ms. Roach currently serves as the co-lead of the care working group for the Black Mamas Matter Alliance and has been featured in Rewire, The Atlantic, Columbus Underground, and Columbus Alive. She has served as a full spectrum doula, homebirth midwife and assistant,

consultant to various organizations and is the mother of three young women, one of which was a pre-term infant.

### **Chanel Roberts, BA**

Chanel Roberts is a Community Care Coordinator with Health Care Access Now (HCAN). As a Community Care Coordinator, Chanel works closely with mothers who are enrolled in HCAN's Maternal and Child Health, Care Coordination Program. Chanel is passionate about working with the mothers, sharing the goal to help prevent preterm labor as well as helping to reduce infant mortality rates. Chanel is also working to help increase the number of breastfed babies by providing mothers with important information on the many benefits and positive outcomes of breastfeeding.

Before starting work as a Community Care Coordinator, Chanel spent seventeen years as a pre-kindergarten teacher, working closely with many children who suffered from behavior disorders. Chanel was eager to extend her work beyond the classroom, stepping out into the community with the goal of helping impoverished mothers identify and address issues within the family that may affect their child's performance in school.

Chanel currently holds an Associates of Arts degree and is looking forward to continuing her education to become a licensed social worker and certified lactation consultant.

### **Stephanie Satterwhite, CCHW**

Stephanie has over 15 years of service to Healthy Moms & Babes as a seasoned Community Health Worker with the ability to develop strong connections within the community. She was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Certified Community Health Workers in Ohio. She is capable at interacting with people from all walks of life by educating with extensive knowledge of planning, organizing and providing health education to the families for healthy living communities. Her passion in this field derived from being a teen mom with the desire to succeed and encourage all women of child-bearing age to continue moving forward. She graduated in 2003 with her Associates of Arts degree and continued navigating through health and education programs while sharing her knowledge, experiences, and expertise with those who need it most.

### **Amber Sheeks, MPH, RD, LD, IBCLC**

Amber Sheeks holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts. She is a Professor, Registered Dietitian, and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) who lectures for Ohio University's Health Services Administration Department and Muskingum University's Health Science Department, and contracts nutrition and lactation services.

### **Queen Smith, CCHW**

Queen is a highly dedicated and skilled Supervisor, Certified Community Health Worker, Home Visitor, and Data Specialist with over 12 years of service to Healthy Moms & Babes. As a married mom of four children, it is gratifying to share her knowledge, experiences, support, and advocacy to her community with a goal to keep moms, babies, families, and her community thriving for a better life in education, health, parenting, and growth. Her favorite quote that carries her through many tireless days keeping Healthy Moms & Babes vision and mission moving: "People don't care what you know, until they know how much you care."

**Mary (Libby) Svoboda, M.Ed. BSN, RN, IBCLC, FACCE**

Libby is currently the Manager of Community Education at University Hospitals MacDonald Women's Hospital, Cleveland. In this role Libby manages Inpatient and Outpatient Lactation Services, Childbirth/Parenting Program Services and some Women's Programs. Libby received her BSN from the University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing and Health, her M.Ed. Community Health Education, at Cleveland State University, and is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator, and a Fellow in the American College of Childbirth Educators,

Libby's professional service includes 12 years as an inpatient staff RN in Labor & Delivery, Postpartum, Newborn Nursery, and Neonatal Intensive Care in addition to service as a Perinatal Research Nurse, Diabetes Educator, Teacher of Childbirth/Parenting classes, Outpatient Lactation Consultant, Coordinator & Current Manager Community Health Education

Libby's Professional Expertise includes a Master's program practicum on implementation of Kangaroo Care, Team Lead for the CDC NICHQ Best Fed Beginnings Collaboration that led to Baby Friendly Designation for UH Macdonald Women's Hospital, Working group member for the ODH/OHA Ohio First Steps program, NACCHO CDC-funded grant to create a WIC-hospital collaborative support group for African American women. She is also a member of the University Hospitals Infant Mortality Task Force, the Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance, and Co-Lead of the Northeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition.

**Olga Tamayo, MSN, RNC-MNN, IBCLC**

Olga has been a Maternal/Newborn nurse for 32 years. She received her Master of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at El Paso and certified in Maternal Newborn Nursing in 1994. She became an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant in 1996 and has worked with numerous mothers and infants supporting them on their breastfeeding journeys. As a Lactation Consultant she gained valuable experience working with mothers facing breastfeeding challenges: Breastfeeding an infant with cleft lip/palate; Breastfeeding Multiples.

In 2005, she was hired as one of the first two IBCLC's at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and witnessed the birth of the Center for Breastfeeding Medicine which offers both Inpatient and Outpatient breastfeeding support for breastfeeding families at CCHMC. She currently works as an IBCLC in the NICU at Cincinnati Children's and provides breastfeeding education to staff and families.

Olga has a passion for working with Hispanic Breastfeeding mothers in the community and she received her Qualified Bilingual Staff II after taking a Culture & Language Assessment. She has two children – Carlos Andres, 24, and Olga Regina, 21, who were breastfed for 12 & 13 months, and both are studying Engineering.

**Ella Thomas, MEd, CCHW**

Ella is a native of Cincinnati graduating from the Cincinnati Public School System. Ella obtained her Bachelor degree from Xavier University; then went to Cincinnati State where she obtained her certification as Certified Community Health Worker (CCHW). Later on Ella obtained dual Masters Degrees in Education and Human Development with a concentration in Mental Health counseling from Lindsey Wilson College.

Ella has 20 plus years as a Registered Medical Assistant, working in various hospitals and doctor's offices. Currently she is a supervisor of the Community Care Coordinators, Coordinator and Instructor for the CHW Certification Program and Staff Development at Health Care Access Now, one of the top social change agency in the Cincinnati area. She is also an Adjunct Instructor at Cincinnati State

Technical Community College where she teaches a course in Introduction to Community Health Worker profession.

Ella is passionate about her work in the community and helping others by removing or reducing barriers which can prevent them from reaching their self-actualization/ full potential. "I want people to know they can make it and that someone cares about them".

Ella is a strong woman of faith and in her beliefs. She believes there is no situation too big for God to handle. One of Ella's favorite quotes is "The harvest is plentiful but the labors are few" and "for the grace of God here I am" Matthew 9:37 and 1 Corinthians 15:10.

### **Megan Walsh, LISW-S**

Megan Walsh earned a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University with a Children, Youth & Families concentration and School Social Work certificate after completing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a business certificate at Indiana University. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor with 10 years of direct service experience with families living in the city of Cleveland. Four of those years were spent with Cleveland's Healthy Start Project, MomsFirst, as a Community Health Worker and then Case Manager. For six years, she was a therapist for families with a child that had been incarcerated and a Senior School Services Therapist in a Cleveland Metropolitan School District high school. In 2015, Megan returned to MomsFirst, at the Cleveland Department of Public Health, as Deputy Project Director. She is deeply passionate about equity and creating systemic change.

### **Laura Placke Ward, MD, IBCLC**

Laura completed medical school at St. Louis University School of Medicine, and pediatric and neonatology training at Children's National Medical Center. She has been a neonatologist in practice at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for sixteen years. She has a longstanding interest in breastfeeding, and became an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant in July 2013. She has championed several quality improvement projects aimed at increasing human milk consumption in both preterm and full term infants. This work has ultimately led to significant improvements in several patient outcomes, and ultimately Baby Friendly Designation at one local hospital.

### **Cissy Watkins, CLC, CCHW**

Cissy is a current member of the United States Breastfeeding Committee and co-founder of Black Lactation Circle, a breastfeeding group that is specifically for and founded by African American women, an endeavor intended to shift the culture around breastfeeding in the African American community in Columbus Ohio and impact the outcomes, reducing infant mortality and increasing maternal support during this population's most vulnerable time. Cissy is an educator, a community liaison, and core advocate for women's health and family wellness. She is a mother of one and accomplished all of this after finding her passion after the birth of her son.

### **Calvin Williams, CLC**

Calvin Williams is President of Lucian Families Inc., a Cincinnati, Ohio-based company that serves organizations supporting fathers and parents in improving relationship quality. He is the Fatherhood Coordinator for the Hamilton County (Ohio) Department of Job and Family Services, and a co-author of the On My Shoulders fatherhood curriculum.

**Dr. Tara S. Williams**

Dr. Tara S. Williams is a general academic pediatrician, wife and mother of 5 children (all with varied breastfeeding experiences!). She was born in Jamaica, West Indies and lived there until immigrating to the USA at the age of 12. She completed high school at Brooklyn Tech, Brooklyn, NY. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. She stayed in Pittsburgh to complete her medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh. She subsequently moved to the Cleveland, OH area where she completed her Pediatric residency training at MetroHealth Medical Center. As a 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident, wanting to pursue her resident research project in breastfeeding medicine, her caring but ignorant advisor discouraged her by telling her that “nobody studies or funds work in breastfeeding.” She stayed on at MetroHealth to serve as the Associate Pediatric Program Director. It was during this time that she became a site co-investigator for the American Academy of Pediatric’s Breastfeeding Promotion in Physician’s Office Practices (BPPOP): Resident Education and Curriculum Development Grant. This is when she discovered that there was an entire world of breastfeeding scholars, advocates and educators.

Dr. Williams is a passionate breastfeeding advocate and educator. For over 10 years she has been actively teaching breastfeeding medicine to medical students and residents at all levels of training; as well as pediatric providers. She is currently on staff at the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital where she serves at the site medical director for pediatrics at Fairview’s Westtown Physician Center. She also directs the continuity clinic experience for 12 pediatric residents at her site. She leads her department’s Breastfeeding Clinical Effectiveness team where she currently plays a major role in the training and development of breastfeeding champions for all of their pediatric offices.

Dr. Williams serves on the Infant Mortality Council at Cleveland Clinic and the Lorain County Child Fatality Review Board. She strongly believes that improved breastfeeding rates amongst Ohio’s high-risk populations will play a key role in closing the significant gap in the racial disparities seen in Ohio’s infant mortality rates.