



BreastfeedLA

EQUITY SUMMIT

**TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE INFANT
FEEDING INEQUITIES IN LA COUNTY:
OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

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BreastfeedLA

Mission

BreastfeedLA is dedicated to improving the health and well being of infants and families through education, outreach, and advocacy to promote and support breastfeeding.

History

BreastfeedLA (formerly known as the Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles) formed in 1994 by a group of dedicated volunteers who wanted to make a difference in the breastfeeding rates in Los Angeles County. BreastfeedLA incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation in September 2001.

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from BreastfeedLA to...
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Our Amazing Volunteers

***Aditi Fruitwala**
***Alexandria Goodyear**
***Amy Poyer**
April Briggs
Catherine Knight
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Robyn Williams
***Ruth Dawson**
***Sara Brown**
***Sally Saleh**
Sarah Siebold
Tonce Jackson
***Toy Hightower**
Tina Sherman
Wendy De Leon
***Wendy McGrail**
Wenonah Valentine
Willie Duncan

***Denotes a lead role in summit planning.**

***Special thank you to Nakeisha, Melisa, and Katie. This event would not be possible without them.**

PROGRAM

DAY 1: OCTOBER 10, 2018

8:30 - 9:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

9:00-9:15 AM

Welcome

Arissa Palmer, MHS

Executive Director, BreastfeedLA

Bitu Amani, PhD, MHS

Associate Professor, Urban Public Health Program

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

9:15-10:30 AM

Opening Plenary Session:

Barbara Ferrer, MD, MPH, MEd

Los Angeles County Director of Public Health

Wenonah Valentine, MBA

Executive Director, iDREAM for Racial Health Equity

10:30-10:40 AM

Break

10:40-11:00 AM

Reproductive Justice and Breastfeeding:

Ash Williams, MA (they/them/theirs)

NC Organizer, Sistersong

11:00-12:30 PM

**Panel Discussion: Lactation Professionals of Color,
moderated by Jada Parks Chatterjee, BS, RN, IBCLC**

Kimberly Durdin, IBCLC, Doula, Student Midwife

Toy Hightower, Doula, CLE, CAPPA

Stevie Merino, MA, Doula, CLES

Juan Diego Norena

To-Wen Tseng, MS

Leah C. DeShay, IBCLC

PROGRAM

DAY 1: OCTOBER 10, 2018 (CONTINUED)

12:30-1:30 PM

Lunch- Poster and Exhibitors

1:30-2:05 PM

Video Clip/Screening & Afternoon Coffee
Institutional Racism Parable / Tale of Two Births

2:05-3:15 PM

**Panel Discussion: Parent Experience–Mental Health,
Breastfeeding & Intersection of Health Equity
moderated by Jadah Parks Chatterjee, RN, IBCLC**

Celine Malanum, CLEC

Santiago Chambers

Chammarra Nguyen, MS Ed

Raul Martinez, JD

Alyssa Berlin, PSYD

3:20-3:35 PM

Break – Posters & Exhibitors

3:35-4:35 PM

Choose from One Of The Afternoon Workshops
Workshops Listed On the Next Page

4:45-5:00 PM

Bringing Us Together, Bitu Amani, PhD, MHS

Afternoon Workshops

DAY 1: OCTOBER 10, 2018 (CONTINUED)

How Birth Practices Impact Breastfeeding Equity

Sarah Sheely, Mount Saint Mary's University

A concurrent experience that emerges is that when a woman is asked to describe her birth, she will experience a range of emotions. A lens to how best to hold the space for this experience will be presented. The lactation professional's goal is to gather the history, create a trust relationship, support the healing process, identify potential issues that can be addressed, and empower the mother to be confident in mothering her newborn.

Lactation in Special Cases: Custody, Judicial System, and Immigration Detention

Ruth Dawson and Aditi Fruitwala, ACLU

This presentation will cover legal rights and current advocacy efforts related to lactation and other reproductive justice issues in jails, courts, and immigration detention centers. The workshop will end with a legislative update on national and California bills addressing lactation accommodations in custody, the judicial system, and immigration detention centers.

Please Don't Fire My Patient:

How to Support Your Pregnant and Breastfeeding Patients on the Job,

Liz Morris, Center for Worklife Law

Learn how to help your pregnant and breastfeeding patients continue earning an income while staying healthy on the job. Explore workplace legal protections concerning accommodation, discrimination, and leave, as well as best practices for supporting your patients with workplace issues and writing effective work notes that will help your patients get the accommodations they need to continue working while maintaining a healthy pregnancy and continuing breastfeeding.

How Paid Family Leave and Other Supportive Workplace Policies Play a Role in Removing Breastfeeding Barriers and Advance Breastfeeding Equity,

Jenna Gerry, Legal Aid at Work, and Melissa Acoba, California Work and Family Coalition

This workshop will cover current laws and benefits including paid and job protected leave, workplace supports like lactation accommodation and flexible work schedules, and how the various laws interact with each other. In addition to the nuts and bolts of leave laws, the workshop will discuss how breastfeeding advocates can join local and statewide efforts to expand these rights and educate more California workers about these laws

Afternoon Workshops

DAY 1: OCTOBER 10, 2018 (CONTINUED)

Optimizing Breastfeeding: Infusing Infant mental health within High Risk Infant population

Hope Wills and Patricia Lakatos

In this presentation, we will present an infant mental health perspective and describe its impact on the parent-child relationship and the breastfeeding dyad (Bucholz et al, 2016). We will also highlight the unique collaboration of an interdisciplinary team within a High Risk Infant Follow-up clinic, which serves a diverse, underserved population. Using a trauma informed perspective we will present clinical cases that demonstrate the collaboration between the IBCLC and the infant mental health specialist in addressing early breastfeeding difficulties with the goal optimizing nutritional status, growth and development, as well as enjoyable feeding interactions.

LGBTQIA and Chestfeeding,

Stevie Merino and Maricela Renteria de Rivera

At the end of the program, participants will be able to understand ways that LGBTQIA+ people are underserved in lactation, offer a welcoming and nurturing environment for their LGBTQIA+ clients and their families, and provide culturally responsive lactation support for LGBTQIA+ clients and their families. Participants will be able to define and discuss chest feeding in relation to the LGBTQIA+ community. Participants will be able to identify lactation issues/boundaries impacting LGBTQIA+ individuals. Participants will be able to discuss the importance of increasing chest feeding awareness. Speakers will discuss barriers faced for the community and how to be more inclusive in our language, practices, and policies.

PROGRAM

DAY 2: OCTOBER 11, 2018

8:30 - 9:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

9:00-9:15 AM

Welcome

Arissa Palmer, MHS

Executive Director, BreastfeedLA

Bitu Amani, PhD, MHS

Associate Professor, Urban Public Health Program

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

9:15-10:30 AM

Opening Plenary Session: What's Working to Effectively

Reduce Disparities in the community moderated by

Jadah Parks Chatterjee, BS, RN, IBCLC

Asaiah Harville, IBCLC, MLK Welcome Baby Program

Morgan Ervin, CCN, RDN, CLE, CinnaMoms

10:30-10:45 AM

Meditation and Poster Break

10:45-12:00 PM

Plenary: Maternity Care in Crises: What Can We Do? A Review of the Data and Exploration into the Implicit Bias

Sarah Shealy, CNM, IBCLC, RN, Mount Saint Mary's University

12:00-1:00 PM

Lunch – Posters & Art; Exhibitors

1:00-1:10 PM

Exercise

1:10-1:55 PM

Case Study Activity: SisterSong – The National Women of Color Reproductive Collective

Ash Williams, MS (they/them/theirs),

NC Organizer, SisterSong

PROGRAM

DAY 2: OCTOBER 11, 2018 (CONTINUED)

1:55-2:30 PM

Plenary Discussion on Reproductive Justice, facilitated by
Bita Amani, PhD, MHS
Ash Williams, MS (they/them/theirs),
NC Organizer, SisterSong

2:30-2:45 PM

Break

2:45-4:15 PM

Panel and Action Workgroups facilitated by Bita Amani,
PHD, MHS

Legal Workgroup

Amy Poyer, JD, California Women's Law Center
Melisa Acoba, MPH, California Work and Family Coalition

Patient Care/Hospital/Healthcare System Workgroup

Wendy McGrail, PHFE WIC
Rebeca Pastrana Sheng, NEVHC

Immigration Detention/Incarceration and Breastfeeding

Toy Hightower, Doula, CLE, CAPP, Whole Person Care
Ruth Dawson, JD, ACLU of Southern California
Aditi Fruitwala, JD, ACLU of Southern California

Access to Lactation Services Workgroup

Jadah Chatterjee, BS, RN, IBCLC, BreastfeedLA
Helen O'Connor, Department of Public Health

Insurance and Billing Workgroup

Sally Saleh, NEVHC

Data Tracking Workgroup

Chandra Higgins, MPH-Department of Public Health

4:30-5:00 PM

Plenary Speaker: Where do we go from here with Bita
Amani, PhD, MHS

PRESENTERS



Dr. Barbara Ferrer PhD, MPH, MEd

Los Angeles County Director of Public Health

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, is the Los Angeles County public health director. As director of public health, Dr. Ferrer works under the Los Angeles County Health Agency, led by Mitchell H. Katz, MD, to further its mission to integrate services and activities that enable the Health Agency to build health equity across the county. The Department of Public Health is one of three agencies that make up the Health Agency. The other two are the Department of Health Services and the Department of Mental Health. Dr. Ferrer was most recently the chief strategy officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where she oversaw key program areas, including food, health, and well-being. She has also been a senior leader of public health agencies in Massachusetts, particularly in Boston. Dr. Ferrer has a doctorate in social welfare from Brandeis University, where she was a Pew Doctoral Fellow. She also holds master's degrees in public health from Boston University and in education from UMass, Boston. She earned her bachelor's degree at UC Santa Cruz.

WENONAH VALENTINE, MBA

Founder of iDREAM of Racial Equity



Wenonah Valentine, MBA is a champion for improving the health outcomes of Black mothers and babies throughout the life course. Her first-hand experience as an undergraduate and mother framed 39 years of community service leadership and inspired a collegial network of “sisters serving sisters” that examines disparities and cultural competence in preconception health, prematurity and infant mortality. She is skilled in mobilizing action and demonstrating concrete responses to the Healthy People 2020 national goals. In 2013, she introduced health & wellness initiatives that serve as a community call-to action for Black women “to take back their health” and turn around the startling disparities resulting in chronic stress, internalized racism and early onset of preventable illnesses impacting poor birth outcomes. Under her leadership, the Pasadena Birthing Project (1994–2011) retired as the oldest volunteer chapter for Birthing Project USA in the State of California. Repurposing the mission, she launched iDREAM for Racial Health Equity, a project of Community Partners® dedicated to empowering the next generation of millennial and community health advocate leaders with a deeper understanding of the social, academic, environmental and economic issues that impact health outcomes in their respective communities.



BITA AMANI, PHD, MHS

Professor at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in the Urban Public Health Program

I received my MHS from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene & Public Health in Reproductive Biology from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; my PhD from UCLA School of Public Health in Epidemiology, and completed a National Institutes of Mental Health HIV/AIDS Postdoctoral Fellowship at UCLA in the Luskin School of Public Affairs. Since 2010, I have been a professor at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in the Urban Public Health Program teaching and conducting community-based participatory and action-oriented research. I structure my public health teaching, research, and practice around larger political projects working towards social justice. My work is primarily focused on the social-political roots of health inequalities. I am a former board member of Youth Justice Coalition and currently a founding board member of the Frontline Wellness Network.



ASH WILLIAMS, MA (THEY/THEM/THEIRS)

Coordinator, SisterSong

Ash Williams is a queer/ trans non-binary femme from Fayetteville, NC. As a Black Lives Matter organizer, Ash has educated the NC community about state-sanctioned violence as it relates to trans and queer people of color. Since 2013, this work has included leading rapid response/ guerilla actions, building solidarity and coalitions across differences, developing press strategies, designing campaigns, educating and mobilizing people on social media, and training other organizers. As campaign manager for a NC Representative, Ash has also managed donations and calendars, facilitated training for volunteers and interns, supervised all campaign communications, conducted research, and planned and implemented campaign strategies. Ash is a 2016 Human Rights Advocacy Fellow in Residence and Ignite NC Fellow (working against voter suppression), and won the Cyrus M. Johnson Award for Peace and Social Justice in 2014 and the Charlotte Pride Young Catalyst Award in 2016. They hold a master's in Ethics and Applied Philosophy and a bachelor's in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Ash is also a dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher



MORGAN ERVIN, CCN, RDN, CLE

PHFE WIC Program & CinnaMoms

Morgan Ervin serves as a Supervising Nutritionist with the PHFE WIC Program. She is a Registered Dietitian and a Certified Lactation Educator. Morgan is a Facilitator for CinnaMoms, an African American centered program that focuses on breastfeeding, narrative sharing, and connecting families to resources. She is passionate about combating the social inequities in health within the African American community. Her belief is that it truly takes a village and CinnaMoms is creating that village to help bridge the gap and normalize breastfeeding..



JADAH PARKS CHATTERJEE, RN, IBCLC

Kaiser South Bay & BreastfeedLA,

Jadah Parks Chatterjee, is a maternal child health Registered Nurse & International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Jadah provides women and partners with prenatal education that empowers informed, safe decisions to be made during pregnancy, labor and postpartum. Partnering with patients, families and healthcare providers, using evidence-based information to implement best practices during the prenatal, labor and postpartum periods is her mission with every interaction. Improving infant mortality rates by improving lactation support and safe infant feeding practices is her passion. Jadah advocates for patients and families during the prenatal period to ensure receipt of lactation education, to empower informed, safe decisions to be implemented during the postpartum journey. Jadah serves on the board of Greater Los Angeles Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. Jadah is a member of Association of Women, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nursing and International Lactation Consultant Association. She is co-author of *Sticky, A Germ's Story*.



SARAH SHEALY, CNM, IBCLC, RN

Mount Saint Mary's University

Sarah Shealy, mother of two young feminists, certified nurse midwife, board certified lactation consultant, and Nursing Professor, is an expert in women's health. She is a passionate educator of the next generation of nurses. She is editor and contributing author of MSMU Report on the Status of Women in CA women's health section. She served on the editorial review board for the CMQCC Toolkit to Support Vaginal Birth. Sarah's immersion with Looking Is Not Seeing, an innovative pedagogy using art to enhance observation skills began in 2014. Sarah's degrees were earned from Wellesley College and Yale University School of Nursing.



ASAIAH HARVILLE BA, CLE, IBCLC,

MLK Jr. Hospital Welcome Baby Program Coordinator

Asaiah Harville has a BA in Human Development and is an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant. For the past three years she has been working as the Grant Coordinator and Hospital Liaison for the Welcome Baby Program at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Los Angeles, California. Welcome Baby is a home visitation program which provides free services, resources and support to enrolled families. Part of her role as the hospital liaison is to complete client assessments shortly after birth, which includes assessing the birthing individuals social support, a basic needs assessment, and screening for maternal depression. Asaiah also provides breastfeeding education, support and care in the hospital. She also teaches community prenatal breastfeeding classes while participating in local community meetings with various organizations to establish breastfeeding support for the community surrounding King, as well as referrals for additional resources for families in need. This includes referrals to mental health programs, Medi-Cal, CalFresh and other County resources.



MELISA ACOBA, MPH

*California Work & Family Coalition,
Co-Chair, BreastfeedLA Equity Summit*

Melisa Acoba is the Legislative Coordinator for the California Work & Family Coalition. Based in Los Angeles, Melisa is focused on establishing and building relationships with diverse partners, legislative advocacy, communications, research, and administrative activities. Melisa is particularly interested in the health implications of Paid Family Leave and Paid Sick Days laws and achieving equitable access for all workers. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC, and also works as the Policy Director for Maternal Mental Health NOW.



JENNA GERRY, JD

Legal Aid at Work, Healthy Mothers Workplace Coalition

As a Staff Attorney in the Work & Family program, Jenna focuses on the employment rights of pregnant women, new parents, caregivers and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She provides direct representation, participates in legislative advocacy to expand family-friendly workplace policies and engages in community education. Jenna also helps direct the Healthy Mothers Workplace Coalition and the Medical Legal Partnership with the Women's Clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

Jenna came to Legal Aid at Work from a clerkship with trial Judge Cynthia S. Kern in Manhattan. Prior to that, she served as a post-graduate fellow with the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation. Jenna had internships with the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York and with the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association and the Education Rights Center in Washington. She holds a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where she made dean's list, and she holds a BA in political science (with minors in philosophy and Irish studies) from New York University.



MARICELA RENTERIA DE RIVERA, CLE

Long Beach City Commissioner, Director-Conscious Clean 562, Co-Founder of Long Beach Breastfeeds

Maricela de Rivera owns and operates Conscious Clean 562 and is the Co-Founder of Long Beach Breastfeeds (LBB), where she continues as the Director. LBB's mission and focus is to serve marginalized communities, bringing equity to lactation support. LBB has served thousands of local breastfeeding and chestfeeding families. In partnership with The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach, she founded the nation's first in-person chestfeeding support group, and the city's first Queer Parenting support group. She also founded the city's first parenting support group for Women of Color.

Maricela is a Long Beach City Commissioner; appointed to the board of directors of Long Beach Transit by Mayors Foster and Garcia. Previous experience includes working for the City of Long Beach and serving on the board of directors for BreastfeedLA and Leadership Long Beach, of which she is a graduate. Maricela attended Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles, with a double-major in English and Business Administration, with a Non-profit Management emphasis. While an undergrad, Maricela received the University's second highest honor, Volunteer of the Year. She has been recognized as a Steward of the Second District in the City of Long Beach and nominated as one of the Press-Telegram's Amazing Women. She and her husband are raising their two young daughters in north Long Beach, CA.



LIZ MORRIS, JD

*Deputy Director of the Center for WorkLife Law
Adjunct Law Professor at the University of California, Hastings*

Liz Morris is the deputy director of the Center for WorkLife Law and an adjunct law professor at the University of California, Hastings. Liz co-created the Nursing Mothers Law Project, which seeks to promote the rights of breastfeeding workers and students nationwide through education, legal support, and advocacy. Liz has published articles on how healthcare providers can help their pregnant and breastfeeding patients get the workplace accommodations they need in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and American Family Physician, as well as in the popular press. She has delivered grand rounds on this topic at over a dozen medical schools nationwide. Liz provided legal support for the drafting of ACOG's 2018 Committee Opinion on Employment Considerations During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period, which adopted the best practices and guidance Liz and her colleagues developed.



L. HOPE WILLS, MA, RDN, CSP, IBCLC

USC UCEDD Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Ms. Wills works with mothers, infants and feeding in variety of settings, including the NICU. In addition to her role as a registered dietitian, Ms. Wills also serves as a lactation consultant at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Ms. Wills is a part-time lecturer at USC in the School of Medicine teaching graduate level courses in public health and clinical nutrition. In addition, she is a staff nutritionist at the Center for Child Development and Developmental Disabilities at USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Wills has over 30 publications and presentations in the field of nutrition.



PATRICIA LAKATOS, PHD-USC

USC UCEDD Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Dr. Lakatos is a licensed clinical psychologist and member of the ZERO TO THREE Academy of Fellows provides prenatal and postnatal infant mental health services at the Fetal-Maternal Center, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the High Risk Infant Follow-Up Clinics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles where she works collaboratively with other disciplines to support parents in understanding and coping with the impact of trauma and strengthening the parent-infant relationship.



ADITI FRUITWALA, JD

LGBTQ/Gender/Reproductive Justice Project at ACLU SoCal

Aditi Fruitwala: Aditi is a Staff Attorney with the LGBTQ/Gender/Reproductive Justice Project at ACLU SoCal, focusing primarily on gender equity issues. Prior to joining the ACLU of Southern California in July 2017, Aditi served as an Honors Attorney with the California Department of Justice from September 2014 to June 2017. Aditi graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law, where she served as co-editor-in-chief of the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice. Aditi holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from American University and a Master of Science degree in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics. She currently serves as the Education & Advocacy Chair for Satrang and Co-Director of Fellowships and Grants for the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California.



RUTH DAWSON, JD

LGBTQ/Gender/Reproductive Justice Project at ACLU SoCal

Ruth Dawson: Ruth is a Staff Attorney with the LGBTQ/Gender/Reproductive Justice Project at ACLU SoCal. Ruth joined ACLU SoCal as a reproductive justice fellow in April 2013, where she conducted legal, policy and community engagement work on reproductive justice, gender equity and LGBT issues. Her work focuses on expanding access to the broad range of reproductive and sexual health care services, protecting youth access to confidential health care, upholding the health and dignity of incarcerated women and promoting the rights of pregnant and parenting workers. Ruth is increasingly focusing advocacy at the intersection of reproductive and economic justice. She graduated in 2012 with a J.D. and a Masters of Public Health from Emory University, where she was recognized with the Outstanding 3L Commitment to Public Service award by the Emory Public Interest Committee and was a Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellow. While at Emory, Ruth co-founded a chapter of Law Students for Reproductive Justice and completed a thesis about reproductive health law and policy in the Deep South. Prior to graduate school, Ruth managed a Bay Area reproductive health clinic and participated in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs in Los Angeles. Ruth currently serves on the board of the Planned Parenthood Young Professionals, facilitates the Reproductive Justice Coalition of Los Angeles and is a member of the Population, Reproductive & Sexual Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

PANELISTS

Lactation Professionals of Color



KIMBERLY DURDIN, IBCLC, DOULA

Student Midwife, and Childbirth Educator

Kimberly Durdin is a Los Angeles based Lactation consultant (IBCLC), Student Midwife, Childbirth Educator and Doula. As a mother of six and grandmother of three, Kimberly credits her children as her greatest teachers. Over the last 26 years, Kimberly has interwoven her life with the lives of thousands of families throughout New York City, Washington DC Metro Area & Los Angeles. Be it through her work of providing lactation care, postpartum support, groups, counseling, childbirth education, labor support or through her work mentoring current and future birthworkers, her dedication has allowed her to fully enjoy the fruits of her labor in the faces of the communities served.



TOY R. HIGHTOWER, DOULA, CLE, CAPP

Helping Hands, Loving Doula Services, Whole Person Care

Toy R. Hightower manages and operates Helping Hands, Loving Hearts Doula Services. She is a Health ConnectOne certified community based doula, certified lactation educator counselor as well as a CAPP trained as a birth, postpartum doula and teen educator. Ms. Hightower serves on the United States Breastfeeding Committee and recently attended USBC's National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference as a representative for Health ConnectOne; and she participated in the first Birth Equity Leadership Retreat in Albuquerque, New Mexico serving communities across the country and developing programs where there is no equity in the birthing world. She provided childbirth training for Black Infant Health programs and served as a member of Soul Food for Your Baby, and volunteered for Prototypes (Pomona, CA), WIC (South Los Angeles/Watts), Shields for Families (Watts) and BHS (Hawthorne/Long Beach).



JUAN DIEGO NORENA

Education Manager at MOMS Orange County

From the beginning, I started the program for Latino men called "Daddy Boot Camp" in which the focus is to prepare future dads and encourage them to be more active in the lives of children and family. As part of the training, we share about the importance of breastfeeding and how we can support our partners to be successful breastfeeding the baby. During my first 7 years at MOMS I was a breastfeeding educator. For me it was a great experience and a great challenge as a man to be able to teach breastfeeding classes to women's groups. Currently, I am the Education Manager at MOMS and I also teach prenatal classes, childbirth preparation and support in gestational diabetes.



STEVIE MERINO, MA, CLES, DOULA

Sol & Roots Doula, BreastfeedLA Trainer

Stevie Merino has a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and is currently finishing her Master's Degree in Anthropology with a focus on Pacific Islander birth disparities and traditions at California State University Long Beach. Stevie identifies as a proud Queer mami to a 3 year old and a Queer Birth Worker of Color. Stevie is a full spectrum doula, a Lactation education specialist, and a trainer with Breastfeed LA for their Lactation Education Specialist 45 hour training. Stevie is the co-founder of the Long Beach Birthworkers of Color Collective and Doula of Color training in Long Beach. She has conducted and presented research at various national conferences centering the voices and experiences of Birth Workers of Color in Los Angeles County. Much of Stevie's birth and life work is in efforts to increase visibility, representation, and create spaces for Queer birthing people and People of Color.



TO-WEN TSENG

Independent Journalist/Author

To-wen is a freelance journalist. She writes about parenting, education, family life style, and maternal/infant health for a variety of publications. Prior to freelancing, To-wen was a talk show host at KSCI-TV and then a correspondent at World Journal. She got the rude awakening when returned to her previous newsroom after giving birth to her first child in 2013, since then she's been dedicating her career to advocating for breastfeeding as a human right and speaking about breastfeeding barriers.



LEAH C DESHAY-EVANS, IBCLC

Lactation Consultant

Leah C DeShay-Evans graduated from La Sierra University with a degree in Psychology and Speech Pathology & Audiology, completed post-baccalaureate work in lactation at the University of California, San Diego, was awarded a CLEC (Certificated Lactation Educator Counselor) certificate, and became an IBCLC. Leah took part in a pilot project studying the implications of HIV and AIDS on breastfeeding families in South Africa with a team of Loma Linda University doctors and researchers. She has worked in various health care systems, including as Director of the Welcome Baby Program pilot research project in the Providence health system. In that time she has also cared for families at a local community hospital, the UCLA Venice Family Clinic, UCLA Health systems.



CELINE MALANUM

Co-Founder of Long Beach Breastfeeds

Celine Malanum is the proud Pilipinx mother of three young queens. She is a birth and breastfeeding community advocate and has worked with Breastfeed LA: The Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles and the California Breastfeeding Coalition. As a lactation educator-counselor she led support groups, held “Open Mic Nights for Breastfeeding,” and co-organized the first human milk drive in Long Beach. She is a co-founder of the annual Latch & Link Community Breastfeeding Fair and is one of the founding mothers of Long Beach Breastfeeds. With a mission of bringing equitable, accessible, quality support to every family and every neighborhood, Long Beach Breastfeeds holds community events, maintains a private online support group, and offers free peer support groups: For the Whole Family, For Women of Color, and Queer Parenting Support. Celine has created program content for WriteGirl, Girls & Gangs, and AltaMed. Celine started breastfeeding in August 2009 and never looked back. Her first daughter self-weaned at seven years old, her second daughter at 3 years, and her youngest nursling is almost 9 months. She breastfed through two traumatic births and two periods of severe postpartum depression and anxiety. Celine is also a writer, van-driving PTA mom, and member of Gabriela Los Angeles



ALYSSA BERLIN, PSYD

Maternal Mental Health NOW Training Institute

Dr. Alyssa Berlin is a clinical psychologist specializing in pregnancy, postpartum and parenting. She offers private counseling for women individually and with their partners on issues such as anxiousness and emotional fluctuation during pregnancy, postpartum blues and depression, and the complex issues that can arise between and around new and expectant parents. Dr. Berlin is the creator of The AfterBirth Plan Workshop, a program that prepares couples for what to expect after a baby is born and how to prepare for a physically and emotionally healthy postpartum transition for the baby, for each partner and for the evolving relationship. Dr. Berlin is on the Board of Advisors for the International Cesarean Awareness Network (ICAN) and is a faculty member of Maternal Mental Health NOW Training institute. She conducts a multitude of live pregnancy and parenting workshops throughout Southern California and globally via Skype. You can read Dr. Alyssa's blogs on the Huffington Post where she contributes to PBS's 'This Emotional Life' project.



SANTIAGO CHAMBERS

Santiago Chambers is a US Navy veteran with over 20 years in healthcare. His degree focus is in human services and healthcare administration. He is a Certified Healthcare Safety Professional, Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional, State of California Certified Hazmat Industry Technician, State of California Private Patrol Operator with the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor, and Community Emergency Response Team Member.



CHAMMARRA NGUYEN, M.S.ED

Special Education Coordinator at Goals Academy

Chammarra Nguyen is the Coordinator of Special Education at GOALS Academy. She joined the faculty in August 2016. As a part of GOALS Academy's leadership team, Chammarra is responsible for overseeing programs that provide educational assistance to children with mental, psychological, learning, behavioral, or physical disabilities. She works closely with teachers, parents, service providers and scholars to maximize the growth potential of all scholars, including those with exceptional learning needs. She facilitates all aspects of the school's special education program, including direct and indirect services, initial and triennial assessments, IEP creation, and in-class supports, accommodations, and modifications. After studying English and Sociology at the University of California, Irvine, Chammarra began contributing to the field of education in 2009 as a Teach For America Corp Member. While teaching high school English and reading intervention to scholars with special needs, she attended night school at Loyola Marymount and received her Educational Specialist Credential and Masters in Special Education.



RAUL MARTINEZ, JD

Raul Martinez lost his wife, Kelly, to complications with postpartum depression in 2010, when their daughter was only 3 months old.

Since then, Raul has become an advocate for improvements in perinatal depression awareness, prevention, and treatment. Raul has been featured in documentaries about postpartum depression and has spoken before the California Legislature, at medical training seminars, and to numerous community groups in an attempt to raise awareness and to effect change on behalf of the women, children, and families of California.

POSTER EXHIBITORS

October 10-11, 2018 8:00 AM-5:00 PM



ELIZABETH WOODS, MA, MPH,

Founder and Interim Executive Director of Soul Food for Your Baby

Elizabeth Woods is the Founder and Interim Executive Director of Soul Food for Your Baby (SFYB), a community-based program that aims to increase breastfeeding among African Americans in South Los Angeles. She created SFYB while working at Los Angeles County's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Programs. Before earning her MPH, Ms. Woods worked in communications. She has an MPH with an emphasis in community health sciences from UCLA and an MA in (international) development studies from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. She also works as a public health in the Research Triangle area.



CHANDRA HIGGINS, MPH

Epidemiologist, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health

Ms. Higgins completed her MPH and doctoral coursework at UCLA, in the Department of Epidemiology. She has expertise in survey design, sampling methods, data management, and advanced statistical analyses. Ms. Higgins' research has focused most recently on perinatal depression, infant sleep position, teen births, infant mortality, and breastfeeding



SARAH E. BROWN, PHD(C), EDD, MSN, RN

Faculty Member of University of California Irvine

Primary Investigator- Sara Brown PhD(c), EdD, MSN, RN. Dr. Brown has been invested in maternal child health in roles at the bedside, in-home care and through the community setting. She has provided both medical care and health education/health promotion content through various strategies. She has served as a content expert on several small studies and has published numerous manuscripts. She is a current faculty member at the University of California, Irvine and was previously faculty at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. While in Nebraska, her work focused on population health within vulnerable groups and creating community-centered models that were sustainable. Dr. Brown's long-term career goal is to build an expertise in the measurement of social networks and their utility in spreading health promotion education with the purpose of developing population-based interventions that (1) target African-American, emerging adult, low socioeconomic mothers and (2) are sustainable.



AMANDA M. REYES, LC

Lactation Consultant / Children Hospital Los Angeles Clinical Nutrition Services Department

Amanda M. Reyes is Lactation Consultant who views the community as her client, working to acknowledge the nutritional and breastfeeding barriers of the community and hospital setting and finding solutions to those problems through education and counseling. Amanda earned her bachelors in Nutritional Sciences from Rutgers University in 2007. From 2007 to 2012 she worked with the New Jersey WIC program first as a Nutritionist and then Breastfeeding Manager. In 2012 Amanda joined Children's Hospital Los Angeles Clinical Nutrition Services department.



JANICE AHANA, MS, RD, IBCLC

Nutrition & Lactation Counselor for Special Nutrition Services Department of the LA BioMed WIC Program

Janice Ahana, MS, RD, IBCLC works for the Special Nutrition Services Department of the LA BioMed WIC Program under the South Los Angeles Health Projects. She provides nutrition counseling for high risk participants and as a lactation consultant for mothers who require more specialized intervention at the Compton WIC site. Ms. Ahana has worked for the WIC Program for 26 years.



NANCY ANN DAMIANI, MPH, RD, CLE

Chief of Special Nutrition Services for the LA BioMed WIC Program

Nancy Ann Damiani, MPH, RD, CLE is the Chief of Special Nutrition Services for the LA BioMed WIC Program under the South Los Angeles Health Projects. She and her staff of thirteen registered dietitians and degreed nutritionists provide intensive nutrition services and breastfeeding support for participants with medical conditions. Ms. Damiani has worked for the WIC Program for 24 years.



ARISSA PALMER, MHS, CLEC

Executive Director for BreastfeedLA

Arissa Palmer joined the staff of BreastfeedLA as the new Executive Director July 2015. Arissa came to BreastfeedLA with over 18 years of non-profit experience addressing various community health concerns. Since 2009 she has been with the University of Phoenix as faculty teaching numerous public health courses. Prior to working for University of Phoenix, she served as the Outreach Education Director for a federally qualified health center in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley.

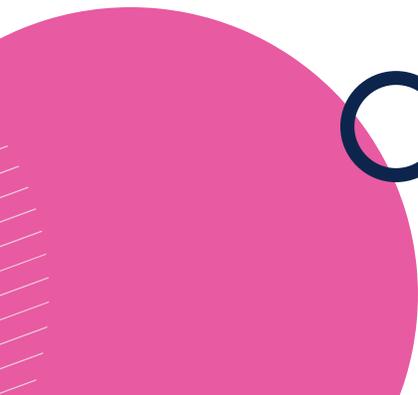
Arissa's responsibilities included providing transformational leadership and strategic direction for the outreach and education department; developing functional trainings, leadership coaching and development, grant writing and fundraising for the organization. Prior to her efforts at the clinic, she worked as the Development Director for an HIV Service Organization in Santa Monica, and many years at the Baltimore City Health Department in various leadership roles. Arissa holds a Master's Degree in Health Science with an emphasis in Community Health from Towson University.



CINDY M. YOUNG, MPH, RD, CLE

Senior Program Manager for BreastfeedLA

Cindy is a Program Manager with the BreastfeedLA. Cindy manages the Baby-Friendly Hospital Project which provides technical assistance to hospitals pursuing the Baby-Friendly designation. Cindy loves working closely and learning from all the amazing and passionate people she has met through this position. Prior to coming to the Task Force, Cindy was a Nutritionist for the County of Los Angeles, Public Health Nutrition Program for over 10 years. Cindy received her undergraduate degree in Dietetics from Brigham Young University and received her Master's degree in Public Health Nutrition from UCLA. Cindy is a registered dietitian with a passion for food and nutrition education. Cindy enjoys cooking, running, backpacking and exploring the outdoors with her husband and two children.



PLANNING COMMITTEE



KATIE WATERS-SMITH, IBCLC

Advocacy Chair, BreastfeedLA

Katie Waters-Smith is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator. She supports new families at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, teaches prenatal classes at the Family Room in San Marino, and is the Advocacy Committee Chair for BreastfeedLA. She has a bachelor's degree in Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College.



NAKEISHA ROBINSON, MA, LMFT

Co-Chair BreastfeedLA Equity Summit

Mrs. Robinson holds a MA in Clinical Psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is a community health advocate who partners with local organizations focused on improving the lives of mothers and babies in Los Angeles County and the surrounding communities. While working directly in the South Bay area of LA County through community resident and direct service provider educational presentations, program implementation and coalition work, Mrs. Robinson has also garnered extensive experience supervising, managing, and training staff at all levels. Mrs. Robinson has partnered with a host local organizations including iDREAM for Racial Health Equity, Soul Food for Your Baby, and BreastfeedLA on the development and implementation of advocacy, capacity building, and fundraising activities. As the Program Manager of the First 5 LA Partnerships for Families program in SPA 8, Mrs. Robinson was promoted to Director of the Early Care and Learning division where she oversaw the integration of in-home and onsite services that included: case management; perinatal services for high-risk pregnant and parenting families; community-based doula services, an early learning program; and a specialized perinatal mental health services component. In addition to her extensive community engagement, program development, and leadership experience, Mrs. Robinson is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist currently working from home providing coaching support to private practice clients, works with local non-profit organizations to build internal capacity, and is homeschooling her children.





**First 5 California is proud to sponsor BreastfeedLA
in their efforts to promote and support breastfeeding.**

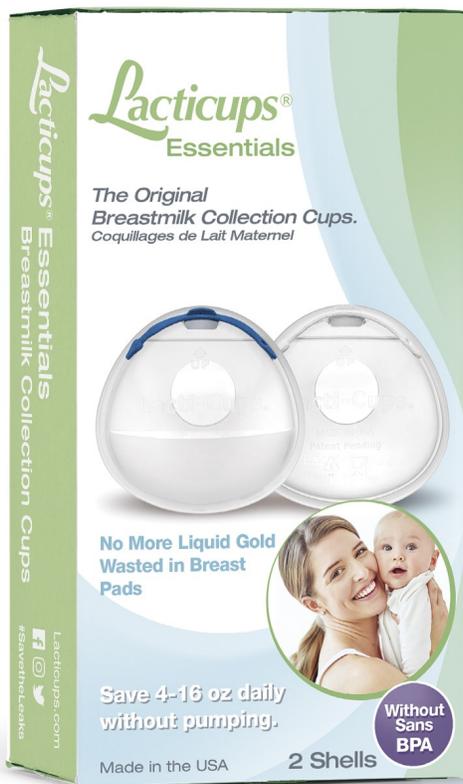


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Pursuing Justice for Women and Girls

California Women's Law Center

is proud to join BreastfeedLA for their 2018 Summit.

We thank you for your commitment to families
and ensuring healthy lives for all.

Count on WIC for Healthy Families!

WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

You may qualify if you:

- Are pregnant, breastfeeding, or just had a baby;
- Have children under age 5; and
- Have low to medium income; and/or
- Receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh (Food Stamps), or CalWORKS (TANF) benefits; and
- Live in California

WIC provides:

- Nutrition education and health information
- Breastfeeding support
- Checks for healthy foods (like fruits and vegetables)
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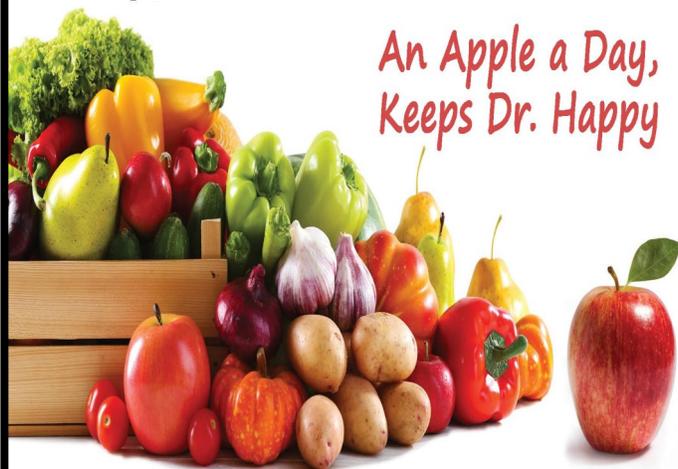
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The MOMS Orange County logo is on the left, featuring a pink graphic of three stylized figures holding hands above the text "MOMS Orange County" in blue. Below this is the tagline "Helping Families Have Healthy Babies" in pink and the website "www.momsorangecounty.org" in blue. To the right is a photograph of two women, one in a pink shirt and one in a white lace top, both looking down at a baby who is lying on a white blanket.