



BLACK

BELONGING. LOVE. AFFINITY. COMMUNITY. KINSHIP.

WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER

BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

OUR MISSION

BLACK Wellness and Prosperity Center (BWPC) exists to serve the Black community in California's Central Valley focusing on Black birthing persons with sustained efforts to improve Black maternal and infant health outcomes, effectively unite and elevate Black voices, and build sustainable infrastructure to strengthen the capacity of the Black community. We have built multi-stakeholder alliances with local agencies, health plans, and universities to lead research and policy solutions that improve maternal and infant health outcomes for Black families in the underserved region of California's Central Valley and elsewhere.

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

BWPC's leadership team is spearheaded by President & CEO, Shantay R. Davies-Balch, a seasoned public health expert, certified doula, and lactation specialist. Joining her are Katalin Nemeth, the Executive Program Manager, and Allison Birkle, in the role of Marketing & Program Manager. The leadership team at BWPC creates and disseminates community-centric public health education, with an intentional emphasis on reproductive and maternal health topics. Beyond education, the team actively partners in community-based research initiatives and implements relevant programming aimed at addressing healthcare disparities, especially in Black maternal and infant health.

Complementing our leadership team, BWPC Program Coordinators are integral to the development of BWPC's community education, clinical content, and program implementation. Administrative support staff plays a crucial role in maintaining office organization and coordinating BWPC's schedule, events, and various operational responsibilities.

BWPC programs focus on overcoming preventable negative birth outcomes by filling knowledge gaps in power-sharing practices in community engagement, creating resources informed by those who are the most impacted, and developing equity-minded infrastructure.

OUR WORK

- **DEVELOPING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCES**

BLACK Maternal Health Circles is a space where Black women use their expertise and lived experiences to advise Blue Shield of California on care solutions.

The **BLACK Doula Consortium** aims to increase access to information and resources, target key stakeholders, amplify the voice of Black maternal health experts, and advocate for Black-centered public health.

Our **Provider Engagement program** involves strategically designing resources and education in partnership with providers to build knowledge among providers on doula's scope of practice. The goal is to successfully integrate doulas into hospital birthing teams.

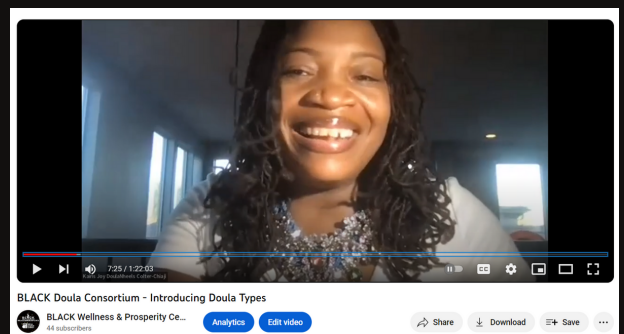


Photo: Kairis Joy Chiaji speaking at our BLACK Doula Consortium event discussing self-care and developing a Circle of Support.

- **BLACK- CENTERED INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**

The **BLACK Doula Network** aims to address the doula provider deficit in Fresno and build the necessary backbone and infrastructure to support and sustain doulas.

Community outreach and access to care: **BWPC acquired a Mobile Health Unit** to utilize as a community health and training vehicle. Its purpose is to serve Fresno's Black birthing persons and babies, as well as provide direct community care in the neighborhood.



Photo: Doula training interest meeting



Culturally affirming state-of-the-art community birth-simulator: Olivia, "Liv" is a full-body-sized, proportionate wireless and tether less, maternal and neonatal care patient simulator. LIV moves her eyes, blinks, talks, and demonstrates breathing, heartbeat, and various vital functions and health conditions.

She gives birth to her babies, Akilah and Neema through vaginal or Cesarean delivery. Olivia allows the BLACK Doula Network's doula candidates and local community to observe the clinical process of labor and birth and other relevant health scenarios

Photos: Presentation of a normal birth simulation for BWPC stakeholders in 2022

- **ADVOCACY**

We engage with policy and decision makers to raise awareness of racial health disparities and influence local and state-level policies. Our recent advocacy work includes sponsoring Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula's AB 2420 that studies the impact of extreme heat on pregnancy and aims to develop guidance for safe conditions and health considerations.

We have collaborated with partners on local proclamations that elevate significant maternal and infant health issues such as preterm birth education or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention.



Photo: Dr. Joaquin Arambula at BLACK Maternal Health Week

- **RESEARCH**

Anemia Research:

We designed opportunities that prioritize opportunities for birthing persons to be heard. We worked with community voices and institutions to explore barriers of IDA (Iron Deficiency Anemia) treatment during pregnancy in Black and Hispanic/Latinx birthing persons and develop culturally resonating and effective solutions in patient education and anemia management.

BLACK Fatherhood Legacy:

In collaboration with community champions and researchers, we piloted and evaluated a fatherhood workshop that aimed to strengthen paternal involvement during pregnancy among Black men in Fresno. Our work offers California stakeholders implementing Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) Fatherhood programs guidance to improve program delivery to Black men.



Photo: Online ACLG meeting - The Anemia Community Leadership Group was created to inform the patient engagement strategies and the development of data collection tools



Photo: Jay Cortez host of the podcast BLACK Fatherhood Legacy

OUR RESULTS

We don't just implement projects and proceed to the next one. We bring tangible and sustainable changes in our community. Several of our work such as the BLACK Fatherhood Legacy (BFL) and the Safer Sleep Education portfolio grew out of singular projects, including our expansive parent education library.

We are a visionary community-based organization, and we seek partners who wish to invest in transformative community-led changes. In less than two year more than 24 funders with one or more grants trusted our work. With the continued trust from our partners and community, we are committed to bringing the BLACK Birthing Center into reality and deliver the care Black mothers and babies deserve but traditionally have not received.

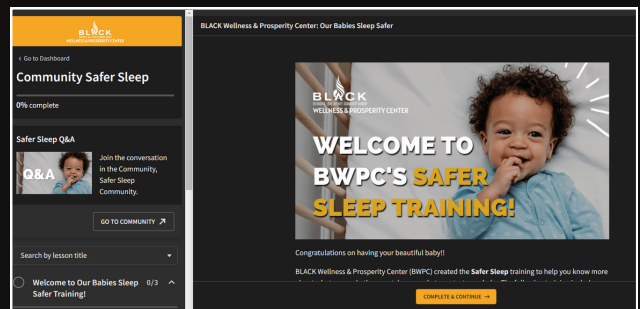


Photo: Safer Sleep online training available on the BWPC website

BWPC FINANCIALS 2022

	2022	2021	DIFF
REVENUE			
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS	2,211,185	800,597	1,410,588
PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE.	15,014	19,735	-4,721
INVESTMENT INCOME.	25	66	-41
TOTAL REVENUE	2,226,224	900,398	1,325,826
 EXPENSES			
GRANTS AND SIMILAR AMOUNTS PAID	1,325,826	61,436	-49,936
SALARIES, OTHER COMPEN., EMP. BENEFITS	393,687	260,323	133,364
OTHER EXPENSES	783,864	238,072	545,792
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,189,051	559,831	629,220
 NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES			
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES.....	1,037,173	340,567	696,606
TOTAL ASSETS AT END OF YE.AR	3,709,071	878,443	2,830,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES AT END OF YE.AR	2,339,385	545,930	1,793,455
NET ASSETS/FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	1,369,686	332,513	1,037,173

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

Our organization CEO is led by Shantay R. Davies-Balch, a public health expert, certified doula, and lactation expert. Our leadership team includes Katalin Nemeth, Executive Program Manager, Marcie Santanta HR Manager, Tinicia McPeters, Contracts Administrator, Allison Birkle, Communications and Marketing Manager, Julie Bouchareune, Program & Evaluations Manager, and Medical Director, Dr. Sergio D. Ilic.

Our star team members include our nurse practitioner, doula trainer, program coordinators, and community health workers, supporting project design, implementation, and communication, community education, clinical content in reproductive and maternal health topics, facilities, and XXXX

Our programs focus on overcoming preventable negative birth outcomes by filling knowledge gaps in power-sharing practices in community engagement, creating resources informed by those who are the most impacted, and developing equity-minded infrastructure.