



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2024

SYMPOSIUM

**“OUR BODIES STILL BELONG TO US.
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE NOW!”**

SYMPOSIUM

AGENDA

BREAKFAST

“PUBLIC HEALTH WALK” TO SOUL SCHOOL

WELCOME

SHANTAY R. DAVIES-BALCH, PRESIDENT & CEO
BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER

CYNTHIA CERVANTES, MSN, RN, NP
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS MEDICAL
PRESENTING SPONSOR

VOICES FOR BIRTH JUSTICE FRESNO

JOHN EVANKO, MD, MBA, FACOG
SAINT AGNES MEDICAL CENTER

STEPHANIE LEONARD, PHD
IJEOMA IWEKAOGWU AND TAYLER HUGHES
CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

AMANDA P. WILLIAMS, MD, MPH, FACOG
& CHRISTINA M. OLDINI, RN, MBA, CPHQ
CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SARAH PUTMAN, MSN, MHA, RNC
COMMUNITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

TA-SHE-RA MANNING, TATIANA & CANDICE
A DOULA SUPPORT CONVERSATION

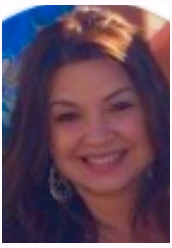
VENISE CURRY, MD
DOULA CERTIFICATION

CHRISTINA J. HIEBERT, MD
KAISER

DIANA RAMOS, MD
CALIFORNIA SURGEON GENERAL

CLOSING

LUNCH PICK UP & INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT
BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER



CYNTHIA CERVANTES, MSN, RN, NP

ANTHEM

Cynthia Cervantes, MSN, RN, NP is a clinician who has practiced as a Nurse Practitioner in family practice and critical care/Open heart surgery. For the last 10 years, she has worked in hospital administration, serving as Chief Nursing Officer. She has consistently maintained her clinical skills by moonlighting as an NP. Cynthia has a deep passion for administration, management, and improving outcomes. Her professional journey includes consultancy work with Hensleit Consulting, addressing regulations from the Joint Commission, CMS, and CDPH. In July 2015, Cynthia took on a role with Anthem Blue Cross, challenging conventional perceptions of insurance work. Rather than focusing on claims processing, she is actively engaged in dynamic initiatives, partnering with hospitals and providers to enhance outcomes. Leading a team in Central California, her primary responsibilities include developing programs, interventions, and partnerships aimed at improving community health.

VOICES FOR BIRTH JUSTICE FRESNO

In partnership with Fresno County's Perinatal Equity Initiative, Voices for Birth Justice: Fresno raises awareness of the racial inequities in infant mortality in Fresno County. Led by Community Champions, this campaign truthfully represents what's happening in our communities and provides a platform for people to share their stories.

JOHN EVANKO, MD, MBA, FACOG

SAINT AGNES MEDICAL CENTER

John Evanko, MD, MBA, FACOG, joined Saint Agnes in September 2023. Dr. Evanko is an accomplished physician executive with extensive leadership experience in both academic and community health care settings. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at The Medical Centre Insurance Company Vermont. In this role, he developed strategies and programs to improve patient safety and satisfaction by working directly with physicians to mitigate risks and provide more patient-centered care. He is passionate about developing systems and protocols that ensure every patient is treated with the safest, highest quality of care, while also receiving an exceptional experience. A New York native, Dr. Evanko earned his undergraduate degree from Princeton University, his Medical Degree from New York Medical College and, later in his career, an MBA from Columbia Business School. Formally trained in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dr. Evanko is a Board Certified Fellow of the American College of OB-GYNs.

STEPHANIE LEONARD, PHD

CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Stephanie Leonard is a perinatal public health researcher and Assistant Professor in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics at Stanford University. Stephanie is a lead of the evaluation component of the anemia prevention project, and has previously partnered with Shantay Davies-Balch and BWPC on projects related to preterm birth and doula training.

TAYLER HUGHES

CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Taylor Hughes is a clinical research coordinator in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Stanford University. She is one of the program managers for the anemia prevention project.

IJEOMA IWEKAOGWU

CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Ijeoma Iwekaogwu is a clinical research coordinator in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics at Stanford University. She is one of the program managers for the iron deficiency anemia prevention project alongside Kata Németh and Shantay Davies-Balch.

VOICES FOR BIRTH JUSTICE

Fresno





AMANDA P. WILLIAMS, MD, MPH, FACOG
CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Amanda P. Williams, MD, MPH, FACOG is the Clinical Innovation Advisor with the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) based at Stanford University School of Medicine where she also is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Williams previously served as Medical Director at Mahmee, a tech-enabled maternal health company dedicated to improving health equity and empowering families with wraparound care during the pregnancy and postpartum period. In this role she oversaw the company's clinical programming, while fostering institutional partnerships, developing new business opportunities and supporting investor outreach. Prior to joining Mahmee, Dr. Williams was a practicing OBGYN at Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center where she served as Director of Maternity Services. Additionally, she oversaw the maternity continuum across Kaiser's 15 medical centers in Northern California. She has also served on several state and national committees, such as the California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review, the California Surgeon General's perinatal redesign stakeholder group and the National Quality Forum Maternal Morbidity and Mortality work group. Dr. Williams is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Harvard University where she majored in American Medical History and Biochemistry. She completed her medical degree at Emory University School of Medicine where she also received a master's degree in public health, focusing on health policy and management. She completed her graduate medical training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at The University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Williams is a prominent voice on maternal health and health equity. Her expertise has been showcased at prestigious institutions like Rush, Harvard, Stanford, Georgetown and Howard Universities. A sought-after speaker, she has been featured at the The Future of Maternal Care Summit, The Fortune 500 Most Powerful Women Next Generation Conference, The Doula Expo and Mino Fest. Finally, she has been interviewed on national television outlets such as PBS, BET, CNN and MSNBC and in print media such as, The New York Times and The Washington Post.



CHRISTINA M. OLDINI, RN, MBA, CPHQ
CMQCC & STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Christina is a nurse and fortunate to be able to say that she supported birthing persons for over 19 years at Children's Hospital of San Francisco, now CPMC. She is a native (and proud) San Franciscan. In her over 30 years as a nurse and then clinical manager, led physician practices and programs in high-risk obstetrics and gynecology. She obtained both her nursing degree and Master's in Business Administration at The University of San Francisco. She now leads quality improvement efforts on behalf of women, birthing persons, and newborns. "I led the development of task forces to guide the work on substance use and exposure for pregnant persons and newborns, as well as perinatal equity. I led the production of the Hospital Action Guide for Respectful and Equity Centered Obstetric Care - which will always be a 'work in progress' to improve. I am honored to be on the DEI Committee of the Association of California Nurse Leaders, act as a mentor at my alma mater, The University of San Francisco and sit on the ARISE (Act, Respond, Include, Sustain, Empower) Intersectional Coalition Team which aims to use an anti-racist and intersectional approach to address various needs, challenges, and opportunities to promote a greater sense of equity, inclusion, and belonging for faculty, staff, and trainees within the Stanford Department of Pediatrics." The future is now for healthcare and her passion is to improve it for all.



SARAH PUTMAN, MSN, MHA, RNC
COMMUNITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Sarah Putman is the Director of Women and Newborn Services at Community Regional Medical Center. Sarah Putman is the Director of Women and Newborn Services at Community Regional Medical Center. Sarah has been a Registered Nurse (RN) with Community Medical Centers for 40 years. Sarah has devoted her career to Community Medical Centers, specializing in Women & Newborn care. With over 25 years of bedside experience as an RN serving birthing persons and their families of the central valley, she now serves as the Nursing Director at CRMC. A title she's held for 9 years. Under her leadership, CRMC achieved recognition from the Joint Commission for Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care, as the third only hospital in the state of California to achieve this accolade, and recipient hospital #10 nationwide. Sarah's commitment extends beyond the hospital walls; she advocates for birth equity and respectful care for all, serving on boards like the Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention (FCCAP) and The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Central Valley Chapter.



CHRISTINA J. HIEBERT, MD

KAISER

My California experience started at the age of 17 when I moved from Oregon to attend The University of San Francisco. After receiving my bachelor's degree in chemistry, and working for a time in pharmaceutical development, I decided to pursue a career in Medicine. I moved to Los Angeles to complete my medical training at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. I continued my journey at Los Angeles County Medical Center-USC for my Internship and Residency in OBGYN. There I worked to support the poorest and most vulnerable communities and families in Los Angeles.

In 2011, I joined The Kaiser Permanente Medical Group. In my early career, I practiced full scope Obstetrics and Gynecology, caring for women throughout their reproductive years and beyond. But in 2018, I transitioned my practice to focus on my true passion, OBGYN Hospitalist Medicine. This sub-specialty carries a focus on hospital leadership, quality, and equitable care delivery in the hospital setting. Soon after, I co-developed the UCSF - Kaiser Permanente Fellowship/ program in OBGYN Hospitalist Medicine, which is currently one of only 11 programs in the US.

Since 2021, I stepped into a new position of OBGYN Hospitalist Lead for all Northern California Kaiser Permanente. Here, I focus on developing educational opportunities for my peers in areas such as high-risk pregnancy inpatient management, supporting vaginal birth, health equity and diversity, and physician peer support and self-care. Through this leadership role, I have been able to guide over 70 OBGYN Hospitalists from across the region in their own pathway towards hospital leadership.

Finally, bringing us to the CURRENT, I was excited when given the prospect to develop the first Kaiser Permanente OBGYN Hospitalist Division at the Fresno Medical Center in 2022. The same year, with the support of our PIC Dr. Jahromi, I was named the Fresno Medical Center Birth Center Chief, and in this position have been able to leverage my work in leadership to help create an equitable, diverse, and safe environment for ALL people to expand their family in the Central Valley. I am SO delighted to be a part of this growing local community of impassioned individuals, who share my vision and mission for access to the highest quality health care for reproductive women and furthering our advancements in the practice of medicine today.



DIANA E. RAMOS, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOG

CALIFORNIA SURGEON GENERAL

Dr. Diana E. Ramos is a renowned public health leader and California's second Surgeon General and first Latina Surgeon General. As California's Doctor, she is the leading spokesperson on the most pressing public health issues of the time within the State of California. Her mission is to advance the health and wellbeing of all Californians. Raised in South Central Los Angeles, Dr. Ramos received her medical degree from the Keck University of Southern California School of Medicine and completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center. She also holds a Master of Public Health degree from UCLA and a Master of Business Administration degree from UC Irvine Paul Merage School of Business.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Ramos has provided reproductive care to thousands of Californians as an Obstetrician Gynecologist at Southern California Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Ramos' leadership spans from the local level in Los Angeles County where she served as the Director for Reproductive Health, State leadership as chair for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist, California & Ecuador (IX) District, Nationally in Women's Preventive Service Initiative, American Medical Association, National Hispanic Medical Association, and many others. Prior to her appointment as the California Surgeon General, she served as the Assistant Deputy Director of Chronic Disease Prevention for the California Department of Public Health. Within the academic sector, she has served as an adjunct Associate Professor at the Keck University of Southern California School of Medicine for many years. Dr. Ramos has written and contributed numerous articles to the obstetrics and gynecology and public health literature and has lectured in Spanish and English, locally, nationally and internationally. The Orange County Medical Association recently named Dr. Ramos the 2023 Physician of the Year.

Doulas are **trained non-clinical birth professionals** that provide individualized support to birthing persons and their families during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum (after delivery).

BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center established the **BLACK Doula Network (BDN)** to:

- Address the **doula provider deficit**
- **Build the missing backbone infrastructure** needed to train, support and sustain doulas
- Provide birthing persons with access to healthcare services **demonstrated to decrease health disparities**

DOULA SCOPE OF PRACTICE INCLUDES:

- Asking many **questions and active listening**
- Developing **positive and collaborative relationships** with everyone involved in their client's care
- **Offering the choice to accompany clients** to their medical appointments
- **Assisting clients in understanding** their providers' medical recommendations
- **Showing coping methods** to ease stress and pain
- Encouraging **healthy choices**
- **Helping clients consider and plan** for various birth scenarios
- **Helping birthing persons feel more in control** of their birth experience
- Directing clients to **evidence-based health information** on all aspects of reproductive health
- **Building a trusting relationship** with clients
- **Documenting the care they provide** to clients

DOULA SCOPE OF PRACTICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Performing **clinical or medical** tasks
- Giving **medical advice, diagnosing or treating** any medical conditions
- **Leading** birth
- **Assuming they know what is best** for their clients
- **Telling their clients what to do** or sharing their personal opinions
- Promoting practices that are **not supported by health data**
- **Spreading rumors or perpetuating** mistrust towards medical staff

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
BDN DOULAS AT
www.Blackwpc.org/bdn**

CONNECT YOUR PATIENT WITH A DOULA
Visit our website at www.Blackwpc.org/bdn



Helping Medi-Cal families since 1994.

At Anthem, we're committed to being a valued health care partner and working together to transform health care with trusted and caring solutions. We're developing the technology, solutions and programs that give members greater access to care and working with providers to ensure a quality health care experience for members.

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**THANK
YOU FOR
ATTENDING!**

**We look forward to seeing you at next
year's events! Visit [Blackwpc.org](https://blackwpc.org)**