

MO PQC Maternal & Infant Symposium

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[Karyn Fowler, M.D., FACOG, MHCM](#), FIT Center Provider, *SSM Health*

[Bridget Galati, DO](#), Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University in Saint Louis, *Washington University School of Medicine- MO Maternal Health Access Project*

[Kim Hawley, LMSW](#), President & Founder, *Whole Parent Foundation*

[Jenna Hicks, RN, BSN, BS, MBA](#), Director of Quality and Population Health, *Citizens Memorial Hospital*

[Robin Hogan, RN, BSN](#), Director of HCCH Medical Clinics, *Harrison County Community Hospital- HCCH Medical Clinics*

[Kathryn Istas, DrPH, MPH](#), Outcomes Research Scientist, *Saint Luke's Health System/BJC*

[Elena Jenkins, BSN, RN](#), RN Program Coordinator, *SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital- St. Louis*

[Courtney Johnson](#), Missouri State Liaison, *Amniotic Fluid Embolism Foundation*

[Traci Johnson, M.D.](#), OBGYN and Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician, *University Health*

[Stephanie Jones, MSN, RN, RNC-OB](#), Maternity Nurse Navigator, *North Kansas City Hospital*

[Sue Kendig, J.D., WHNP-BC, FAANP](#), Women's Health Integration Specialist, *SSM Health*

[Megan Krohn, DDS](#), Chief Dental Consultant, *Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services*

[Gaurav Kulkarni, M.D.](#), Psychiatrist, *Compass Health Network*

[Sarah Long, IBCLC](#), Clinical Director, *The Milk Bank*

[Kelly McKay-Gist, MSW, LMSW](#), Vice President of Health Equity, Culture, and Innovation, *St. Louis Integrated Health Network*

[Lori Melvin, BSN, RN](#), Registered Nurse Specialist, *Mo HealthNet*

[Kathryn Menard, M.D., MPH](#), Distinguished Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

[Emilia Mense Caby](#), Vice President Whole Parent Foundation, *Whole Parent Foundation*

[Amruta Padhye, MD](#), Associate Professor of Pediatrics, *University of Missouri School of Medicine, MU Children's Hospital*

[Kelley Peters](#), *Home State Health*

[Jason Posley, MHA](#), Project Manager- Infant/Maternal Health Initiatives, *BJC Health System- Community Health Improvement*

[Anahi Primgaard, PhD](#), Clinical Investigator, *University Health*

[Adam Saunders](#), Co-Founder & Special Projects, *Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture*

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Stephanie "Stef" Shorey, WHNP, WHNP for MFM and Project Leader for FIT Center, *SLUCare SSM*

Emily Van Schenkhof, MPH, *Children's Trust Fund*

Amanda Wilkinson, PMH-C, CLS, MFA, Peer Support Specialist, *Weeding the Garden: Peer Support & Coaching for Perinatal Mood Disorders*

Alisa Williams, IBCLC, MSN, RN, Owner, *Momentum Lactation*

Lindsey Wilson, DNP, CNM, Clinical Director (Retired), *New Birth Company*

Cammie Wine, OB, RN & IBCLC, *Citizens Memorial Hospital*

Kendra Wyatt, CEO (Retired), *New Birth Company*

Marvella Ying, C.D., Doula and Childbirth Educator, *M-Brace Birthing*

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Ryann Allen, Mobile Integrated Healthcare Coordinator, *Citizens Memorial Hospital*

Ryann Allen serves as Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CMH) Coordinator at Citizens Memorial Hospital with six years' experience in patient care and care coordination. Growing up in a small rural town in Missouri, Ryann developed a strong sense of community, empathy, and compassion that inspired a lifelong commitment to helping others. As MIH Coordinator, Ryann is passionate about innovation, connecting high risk patients and families with the resources they need, improving access to care in rural communities, and ensuring that patients in need receive needed care and support.

Anjali Anders, M.D., Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, *MU Health Care- Children's Hospital and Birthing Center*

Dr. Anjali Anders is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri in Columbia in the Division of Neonatology. She completed her medical school and residency at University of Missouri-Columbia. Following this she completed Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Anjali has a strong interest in improving patient outcomes through quality improvement (QI) but also spreading of evidenced based practices through collaboration. She currently co-leads several QI initiatives within and outside of the NICU. She serves as the NICU QI director at the Children's Hospital, the Departmental Director of Quality and Safety and was elected co-chair of the Missouri Hospital Association Maternal-Child Learning Action Network (Perinatal Collaborative). She aspires to build a culture focused on providing the safest and most effective care for patients and families.

Kimberly Baker, MD, Family Practice Physician, *Harrison County Community Hospital*

Dr. Kimberly Baker grew up in the rural town of Bethany, Missouri, where her father served the community as a family physician for more than 30 years. Inspired by his example, she pursued medicine, attending the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completing her residency at Mercy-Des Moines, along with a rural training track in Corydon, Iowa. Her unopposed residency provided her with extensive prenatal and obstetric experience.

Following residency, Dr. Baker served four years in the United States Air Force at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico. After completing her service, she returned to her hometown to provide care to the community where she was raised. She has a deep passion for expanding services in underserved areas, with prenatal care being one of the greatest needs due to the financial constraints many families face.

Dr. Baker is especially grateful for her partnership with UMKC and North Kansas City Hospital, whose collaboration has been vital in making HCCH's rural OB program possible.

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Ta'Mare Banks, MSN, RN, Programs Specialist, *SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital- St. Louis*

Ta'Mare Banks currently serves as the Women's Services Programs Specialist at SSM Health, St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis. She oversees the Share Program, Doula Program, and Childbirth education regionally for SSM Health Family Birthplaces. Ta'Mare obtained a BSN with a minor in Psychology from Maryville University in 2015, as the sole African American student in her class. In her first three years of nursing practice, she received two daisy awards for providing exceptional care. She went on to earn her MSN degree from Webster University in 2020, graduating with honors as a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Following obtaining her MSN, she spent time as an adjunct faculty at Maryville, facilitating the OB simulation labs. She has a total of 10 years of experience in nursing, with 6 of those years spent on the High-Risk Mother/Baby unit at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital- St. Louis. She is currently enrolled in Saint Louis University's Nurse Executive Leader DNP program. In her current role, she also orchestrates community outreach for the women's services departments with goals of promoting birth equity and building relationships with other community organizations. In addition, she is active on the Regional Nurse Practice Council, Breastfeeding Taskforce, Safe Sleep Coalition, Equity and Safe Sleep for Infants, and the Perinatal Substance Use Disorders Taskforce. These multidisciplinary committees work to define and implement evidence-based care for vulnerable populations. She also is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an organization dedicated to performing community service. She will always be a nurse at heart, advocating for exceptional and holistic care for those she serves.

Abigail Barker, Ph.D., *Medicaid Office of Transformation*

Abigail Barker, PhD is a health economist and research associate professor at the Brown School at Washington University. She is also an economic consultant for the State of Missouri's Medicaid program, contributing to transformation initiatives including payment policy redesign, accountability and transparency, and ways to address social risk factors in vulnerable populations. She designs data-informed and evidence-based policy solutions that focus on aligning incentives to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in areas including maternal/infant health, rural access to care, and others.

Allie Bodin, MPH, CPH, Health Data Analytics and Informatics Manager, *Missouri Public Health Institute*

Allie Bodin, MPH, CPH works as Health Data Analytics and Informatics Manager at the Missouri Public Health Institute. She is passionate about community- and data-driven, equity-centered public health practice. Allie develops and executes business proposals to build Missouri public health data system infrastructure. She launched and leads the Missouri Syphilis Advisory Group

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and Congenital Syphilis Review Board, utilizing insights of participants and data to inform and develop the Elimination Plan and Outbreak and Response Plan. Beyond that work, Allie has received recognition for advancing data-driven decision-making for mobile health services by the Mobile Healthcare Association, who published her data collection methodologies and decision support tool in their Start-Up Guide in 2023. She also has developed a local substance use dashboard for public and private use to inform public health practice for community stakeholders county-wide.

Becky Boedeker, DNP, RNC-MNN, IBCLC, C-ONQS, Advanced Clinical Nurse- Perinatal, *SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital- St. Louis*

Becky has been an RN for over 40 years, the last 24 at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis, currently as the Advanced Clinical Nurse for their Perinatal Units.

In this role, she promotes the implementation of evidence-based practice across perinatal units in a multidisciplinary environment, analyzes patient data and healthcare processes to identify areas for improvement, and works to implement changes and monitor outcomes to enhance patient care quality. Her responsibilities include routine review and updating of Regional and System-level Perinatal Policies, Guidelines, Order Sets, and Protocols to ensure patient care aligns with current evidence and complies with regulatory imperatives.

Richard Bottner, DHA, PA-C, FACHE, Chief Clinical Officer, *The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare*

Dr. Richard Bottner currently serves as the Chief Clinical Officer at the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, an international non-profit that advances compassion for patients and care teams through research-based strategies and tools including the signature Schwartz Rounds program.

At the Schwartz Center, Dr. Bottner leads collaborations with healthcare leaders to strengthen programs, provide thought leadership, grow strategic partnerships, and support advances in the compassion sciences. Prior to joining the Schwartz Center, Dr. Bottner served as the Vice President of Clinical Excellence at the Colorado Hospital Association where he led the association's Center for Clinical Leadership and Excellence, a grant-funded department focused on improving hospital care across the state through legislative and regulatory advocacy, disseminating thought-leadership, and multistakeholder problem-solving. A significant amount of this work was focused on improving maternal and perinatal health, and Dr. Bottner served on the board of the Colorado Perinatal Quality Collaborative during this time as well.

Previously, Dr. Bottner was an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Dell Medical School where he led quality and patient safety initiatives. He was the director of the Buprenorphine

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Team, a federally funded program to provide patients with opioid use disorder access to treatment during acute hospitalization.

Dr. Bottner lives in southern New Hampshire with his wife, a labor and delivery nurse, their two kids, and their very happy golden retriever.

Chrisitna Bravata, Director of Grants Management, *Citizens Memorial Hospital*

Christina Bravata has served as the founder and Director of the Grants Management department at Citizens Memorial Hospital since 2019. She has received over \$17M in awards and strategically manages funds of greatest impact in her rural area. This includes rural care delivery through an innovative Mobile Integrative Health program which integrates several service lines within patient homes through the use of community paramedics and specialty providers. She is the Program Director for CMH's HRSA Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome II award which focuses on providing mental health, perinatal support, and addiction recovery treatment and resources to moms and families. She and her husband, Kurt Bravata MD, co-founded the CMH Addiction Recovery Program, integrating medication assisted treatment programs within 4 rural health clinics. She is a member of the Recovery Coalition of the Ozarks, Polk County Community Connections board member, Begin Again Ministries women's rehabilitation center board member, and a founding member of the SW MO Drug Poisoning Coalition. She actively strives to develop innovative service lines to rural communities that have limited access to care. She and her husband are raising their four children in Bolivar, MO.

Sara Bridgewater, MPH, CBS, Nutrition and Health Field Specialist, *MU Extension*

Sara Bridgewater is a Nutrition and Health Field Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension, where she has served as faculty for seven years. She provides evidence-based nutrition and health programming across Bates, Vernon, and Cass Counties in the West Central Region. Sara holds a Master of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science in Health Services from Missouri State University. She recently earned her Certified Breastfeeding Specialist credential and is working toward becoming an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC).

Sara is completing her Ph.D. in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum at the University of Missouri, with dissertation research focused on breastfeeding mothers in rural Missouri. Her work reflects a strong passion for serving rural communities, supporting mothers, and advancing health equity. Outside of her professional role, Sara enjoys spending time with her husband and their three young children.

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Niraj Chavan, M.D., MPH, OBGYN and Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician, *SSM Health*

Health

Niraj R. Chavan, MD, MPH, FACOG, FASAM is a Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) and Addiction Medicine physician who specializes in the management of substance use during pregnancy. Dr. Chavan is an Associate Professor at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He serves as the Medical Director of the Women and Infant Substance Help (WISH) Center at SLU / SSM Health, focused on managing perinatal substance use disorders (SUD) in St. Louis, MO. He also serves as the Program Director for the MFM fellowship, core faculty for the Addiction Medicine fellowship and Course Director for a SLU School of Medicine course on “Perinatal Addiction and Maternal Mental Health”. Most recently, Dr. Chavan was appointed as the Regional Obstetric Quality Chair for SSM Health – St. Louis region, in order to oversee perinatal quality improvement efforts across 5 hospitals, which constitute the St. Louis region for SSM health. Dr. Chavan is a current Co-Chair on the Missouri PQC Maternal Child Learning and Action Network and he is invested in the development and dissemination of programming directed at clinical and community integration to address the complex nuances in the field of perinatal addiction medicine.

Sarah Davis, MPH, *MU Extension*

Sarah Davis is the State Maternal Health Specialist with MU Extension. She brings her background in public health and community-based maternity care to her work harnessing the strengths and resources of MU Extension to make Missouri a safer and easier place to be a mom. Sarah specializes in bridging clinical and community-based care by linking Extension’s direct education programming to local and state health and health-affiliated organizations. Current projects include the Maternal Nutrition Education Program collaboration with Missouri’s Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and Born Strong, Stay Healthy, a strength training and physical activity program designed specifically to help perinatal Missourians prepare for and recover from childbirth. Sarah’s previous work in community-based, peer-led breastfeeding and maternal mental health support inform her future Extension programming goals.

Kelsey Davis-Humes, D.O., Family Practice Physician, *Scotland County Hospital*

Dr. Kelsey Davis-Humes is a passionate advocate for rural health care, especially in the fields of women’s health, obstetrics and pediatrics. A graduate of A.T. Still University (2016) and SIU Family Medicine Residency in Quincy, Ill. (2019), Dr. Davis-Humes currently serves as medical director for Memphis Medical Services and Wyaconda Medical Services, and as chief of staff at Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, Mo.

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Her practice spans the full spectrum of family medicine — from newborns to geriatrics. She delivers babies, serves as a hospitalist on weekends and provides care in nursing homes. Her commitment to community health is deeply rooted in hands-on, compassionate care.

Cynthia Dean, CEO, Director of Programs, *Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Inc*

Cynthia Dean is the Project Director/Principal Investigator, Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start. CEO/ Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Inc. Extensive experience in Maternal Child & Family Health and community-based programs. Served as a Past President of the National Healthy Start Association and is a current Board member. Regional Director of Cardiovascular Health Programs for the State of Missouri Department of Health oversight of 26 counties. Chaired several Committees with the Office of Minority Health Advisory Board. Received honors for Mo. Dept. of Health employee of the month and year. Co-authored several journal articles on the topics of Community-Based Risk Reduction Prevention Strategies in Underserved Populations. Featured in the 2023 PBS “Birthing Justice” Documentary. Worked with the Center for Disease Control as a liaison with community-based health programs and St. Louis University Research Prevention Center. Co-Founder of the Missouri Community Doula Council.

Appointed by Governor/Attorney General to serve on the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) Community Advisory Board and two terms as a MFH Board of Directors and chaired five committees. Nominated to return to the MFH Board in 2024. National Women of Change Legacy award recipient for recognizing the ability to improve opportunities for rural underserved families.

Appointed by Governor to the Delta Leadership Institute a seven-state co-hart Executive Leadership training and the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education in Boston. Currently serves as a Board Director for the Home State Health (Centene) Managed Care Agency. Recognized in 2023 among 18 individuals in Southeast Missouri as Difference Makers for providing education and advocacy for underserved communities. Attended Alabama State University.

Tierra Dean, Manager of the Wellness Center/FIT, *FIT Center*

Tierra Dean is a nurse for just over 20+ years. Most of Tierra’s career has been devoted to caring for mothers and babies in a high-risk labor and delivery unit at St. Mary’s in St. Louis, where she was also part of the maternal transport team, coordinating and providing care for pregnant women across Missouri and Illinois by both ground and air transport. Following Tierra’s time in labor and delivery, she worked alongside Maternal – Fetal Medicine specialists and nurse practitioners supporting high-risk mothers throughout their pregnancies. After three years in that role, Tierra transitioned into leadership and now serves as the Clinical Manager in the Women’s Service Line for three OB offices with SSM Health. While Tierra is not bedside as

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much anymore, she continues to support patients, families, and the incredible teams who care for them.

Sharon Dekel, Ph.D., M.S., M.Phil, Associate Professor, Founding Director of Postpartum Traumatic Stress Disorders Research Program, *Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Sharon Dekel is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School and the founding Director of the Postpartum Traumatic Stress Disorders Program at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is internationally recognized as a leading expert on childbirth-related posttraumatic stress disorder (CB-PTSD), with NIH-funded research that has transformed understanding of maternal mental health and informed new approaches to care. Her work spans large-scale clinical studies, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and global investigations in perinatal mental health, with a focus on improving early identification and treatment for women at risk after traumatic childbirth. Dr. Dekel has received numerous honors for her scientific and mentoring contributions, including the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Young Investigator Award, Mass General's Claflin Distinguished Scholar Award, Harvard's Shirley Driscoll Dean's Leadership Award for the Enhancement of Women's Careers, and the Postpartum Support International Award for Innovation in Perinatal Psychiatry Research. In addition to her academic leadership, she maintains a private practice specializing in perinatal mental health and serves as Chair of the Postpartum Trauma Special Interest Group of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) and as a Board member of the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health.

Bekah Elrod, BS, National Engagement Director, *Mammha*

Bekah Elrod is a maternal health advocate and speaker with over 16 years of experience spanning education, storytelling, and systems-level policy change. She currently serves as the National Engagement Director at Mammha, leading outreach efforts to integrate perinatal mental health technology into hospital systems and state quality collaboratives, with a commitment to ensuring no mother falls through the gaps in care.

Previously, Bekah served as the National Program Manager for MoMMA's Voices, where she designed and led training for patient advocates and clinicians focused on quality improvement and trauma-informed care.

Grounded in her lived experience, Bekah specializes in helping clinical and policy teams humanize care delivery through the power of storytelling. Her contributions have been recognized through national media coverage, published works, and keynote speaking engagements at more than 20 state perinatal collaboratives. She brings passion, policy fluency, and people-centered innovation to every aspect of her work.

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Tommy English, MPH, CPH, Asst. Vice President of Evaluation, Quality and Learning, *St. Louis Integrated Health Network*

Tommy is a public health professional dedicated to using data to work towards health equity and general community well-being. In 2018, he began working to support a coalition of CHWs, employers, and other allies in conducting aligned evaluation of CHW programs in the St. Louis region. He has been working to support the CHW workforce in the St. Louis region ever since. Tommy currently serves as the Assistant Director of Evaluation and Quality and Director of the CHW Workforce Initiative at the St. Louis Integrated Health Network – a regional healthcare intermediary that works across sectors to advance health equity. Tommy enjoys spending time with his spouse, daughter, and dogs in St. Louis’ parks, in addition to gardening and watching soccer whenever he can.

Atara Estes, ICHW-C, Community Health Worker, Undiagnosed Disease Network, *St. Louis Integrated Health Network*

Atara Estes is the Senior Community Health Worker (CHW) Strategist at the St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN). In this role, she leads workforce development initiatives that strengthen CHW integration, improve retention, and build sustainable career pathways. She has helped design the CHW and CHWs supervisor trainings, peer mentorship models, and trauma-informed curricula that equip CHWs with the tools to thrive personally and professionally.

Atara also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW), where she co-chairs the Development Committee and advocates for national policy and workforce sustainability. As the inaugural president of the Community Health Workers Association of Missouri (CHWAM), she set a foundation for CHW leadership at the state level.

Atara empowers trauma survivors and CHWs with healing, coaching, and leadership programs. Recognized as a Health Equity Champion and national advocate, she continues to elevate the CHW profession while inspiring others through her story of resilience and purpose.

Jenine Evinger, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, IBCLC, Director, Women's Health, *HCA-Centerpoint Medical Center*

Jenine is an experienced and accomplished obstetric nurse, who has served in a variety of roles in a complex and busy hospital setting. She completed her BSN at Graceland University and MSN at Capella University. Throughout her career, Jenine has worked as a frontline labor & delivery and NICU nurse, an OB clinical nurse educator, an OB nurse navigator, and now, nursing director of Women’s Services at Centerpoint Medical Center. She is committed to the elevation of nursing care, focused on a foundation of evidence-based practice. Most recently, Jenine has been instrumental in the transition from a traditional NICU care model to family-centered, single family room NICU care model.

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Amanda Fahrendorf, Education and Collaboration Manager, *Mo HealthNet*

Amanda Fahrendorf is the Education and Collaboration Manager located in the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), MO HealthNet Division (MHD). Amanda has worked for the Department of Social Services for more than 22 years.

Amanda oversees the MHD Education and Training resources for all programs and speaks at many events and conferences on MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) policy and initiatives. For the past three years, she has been working on provider recruitment with a special emphasis on dental providers. Amanda also serves as an expert for complicated Medicaid inquiries and is a member of several committees and workgroups related to Maternal and Infant Health initiatives, provider recruitment, and access to care. She has used these opportunities to build strong relationships with our providers and partners to provide education and streamline processes to serve our providers and participants.

Amanda graduated in 2009, from William Woods University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Amanda recently earned her Public Health Workforce Preparedness Certificate through A.T. Still University's College of Graduate Health Studies and is currently working on completing a Master's of Public Health.

Ronke Faleti, Founder, *Korede Foundation*

Ronke Faleti is the visionary founder and CEO of Korédé House, a pioneering organization dedicated to providing community support for mothers during the perinatal stage. In response to the critical maternal health crisis, declining birthrates, and the erosion of traditional community support, Ms. Faleti and her team have developed a comprehensive ecosystem. This system seamlessly integrates direct support with practical assistance through the Stage Care technology platform, an innovative maternal mental health platform designed to connect providers, community caregivers, and mothers. This platform aims to transform experiences of isolation and overwhelm into those of connection and support.

Ms. Faleti and her husband, Yinka Faleti, both born in Nigeria, draw upon their African and Christian heritage to guide the upbringing of their children—Fisayo, Tiwa, Sade, and Motunrayo. Concurrently, they are committed to fostering a supportive environment where families feel sustained, connected, and empowered.

Ronke Faleti is not merely addressing deficiencies in maternal care; she is leading a movement to redefine societal support for the family unit, which she identifies as our most fundamental institution. By leveraging the expertise of doulas, home visitors, and peer specialists as essential providers of life-stage support, integrating technology with community wisdom, and prioritizing

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economic empowerment, Ms. Faleti is constructing a comprehensive system designed to cultivate healthier, happier, and more prosperous families and communities.

Karen Florio, D.O., MPH, OBGYN and Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician, *MU Health Care*

Karen L. Florio, DO, MPH is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist and Vice Chair for Patient Safety and Quality in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Missouri. She is nationally recognized for her work in high-risk obstetrics, with a focus on cardiovascular disease in pregnancy, hypertensive disorders, and quality improvement to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Dr. Florio serves as Principal Investigator on multiple multicenter studies, including NIH-funded projects, and has been a leader in implementing evidence-based safety bundles across hospital systems. She earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and her Master of Public Health from George Washington. A dedicated educator and mentor, she is also the founding Program Director for Missouri's first Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship.

Karyn Fowler, M.D., FACOG, MHCM, FIT Center Provider, *SSM Health*

Dr. Karyn Fowler, MD, MHCM, FACOG, is an obstetrician-gynecologist and physician executive who serves as Women's and Neonatal Clinical Program Medical Director at SSM Health in St. Louis. She is also the co-principal investigator for Missouri's MOC3 maternal health innovation grant and continues to see patients in the WISH Clinic and Women's Wellness Center at St. Mary's. Dr. Fowler is recognized for her leadership in advancing maternal health, postpartum care, and family-centered approaches to care.

Bridget Galati, DO, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University in Saint Louis, *Washington University School of Medicine- MO Maternal Health Access Project*

Bridget Galati is a perinatal psychiatrist at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis. As a clinical psychiatrist for the Perinatal Behavioral Health Service, she treats peripartum individuals with psychiatric conditions. And in the Clinic for Acceptance, Recovery and Empowerment in Pregnancy (CARE), she treats perinatal patients with substance use disorders and co-occurring psychiatric conditions. She works as a consultant for the Missouri Maternal Health Access Project (MHAP). She is dually boarded in psychiatry and neurology and addiction medicine and has additional certification in perinatal mental health (PMH-C). Her research has been published in Obstetrics and Gynecology among other journals. She is passionate about improving clinical outcomes for perinatal patients, especially those with substance use disorders.

Kim Hawley, LMSW, President & Founder, *Whole Parent Foundation*

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Kim Hawley, LMSW, is the founder and president of Whole Parent Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the mental health of all parents in Missouri and Kansas. She is a member of the MC LAN Core Team and serves on the Missouri Optimizing Postpartum Care Task Force. She is the Postpartum Support International (PSI) State Lead Coordinator for Missouri and is a Nonprofit State Policy Fellow with the Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health. Kim is a clinician at Centimano Counseling, the first specialty practice for perinatal counseling in the KC metropolitan area. She has spoken about parental mental health for organizations including Parents as Teachers, Mental Health KC, St. Luke's Health System and the Missouri Hospital Association.

Jenna Hicks, RN, BSN, BS, MBA, Director of Quality and Population Health, *Citizens Memorial Hospital*

Jenna Hicks, RN BSN MBA, serves as Director of Quality & Population Health at Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, MO, a rural healthcare system supporting an 8-county service area in southwest Missouri. With a background in research, Jenna has leaned her nursing career towards healthcare leadership and innovative service line development over the last 15 years. In her role for the CMH system, she supports patient safety, regulatory compliance, performance improvement, quality reporting, infection prevention, employee health, acute and transitional care management, hospital and clinic social services, and organizational participation in value-based care models, including Accountable Care Organization, Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Advanced, Transformation of Rural Community Health, and multiple payer-specific quality incentive programs. Jenna is passionate about bridging the gap in caring for our rural communities through no-nonsense strategies that deliver what they intend by simplifying the mechanics of healthcare delivery and fostering ingenuity for improved access and quality.

Robin Hogan, RN, BSN, Director of HCCH Medical Clinics, *Harrison County Community Hospital- HCCH Medical Clinics*

Robin Hogan has been part of the Harrison County Community Hospital District for 14 years and has served as Director of the HCCH Medical Clinics for the past five. She attended Graceland University's School of Nursing, where she completed her practicum in maternity health, sparking a lifelong passion for obstetric care.

Robin was instrumental in helping establish HCCH's rural OB program in collaboration with North Kansas City Hospital and Dr. Baker—a project she describes as a wonderful opportunity to expand services for local families. Having grown up in a rural community and later returning to serve her hometown, Robin takes great pride in helping bring OB services to an area long considered an "OB desert," ensuring families have access to high-quality care close to home.

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Kathryn Istas, DrPH, MPH, Outcomes Research Scientist, *Saint Luke's Health System/BJC*

Dr. Istas is an early-career researcher in the position of Outcomes Research Scientist at the Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute. They support existing and ongoing research through the applications of qualitative methods including content analysis, qualitative coding and analysis, interview guide design, and triangulation of findings across methods. They also serve as Team Lead for Maternal Health Quality Improvement Initiatives for the Healthcare Institute for Innovations in Quality at the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Dr. Istas has seven years of experience in medical education evaluation and medical student assessment. While serving as Evaluation Manager at the Creighton University School of Medicine, they contributed to research about student perspectives about teamwork in healthcare and supported the University Reaccreditation Committee on Student Assessment. As Program and Evaluation Specialist at the University of Kansas Medical Center, they conducted research about interprofessional education, student perceptions of active learning pedagogies, design and implementation of a clinician coaching program, and served on the Governor's Task Force for Rural Obstetrics Access. Prior to their current role, they served as a strategist at the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) in the Division of Population Health and Science, where they managed \$250,000 in grant and foundation funds annually, created patient- and physician-facing content, facilitated Office Champions projects for quality improvement, and evaluated a national physician well-being program. They served as AAFP's liaison to the CDC's Community Preventative Services Task Force.

Prior to joining the Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Association, Dr. Istas conducted their dissertation research in the Kansas City bi-state region about opportunities for collaboration in the development of a community information ecology. Dr. Istas's previous work in Maternal Health includes experience mapping obstetric deserts in the state of Kansas and exploring the perceptions of rural moms about obstetric care access. Their current research interests include practice patterns in the treatment of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy in emergency department settings and advocacy interests include birth equity and preservation of the physician-patient relationship.

Elena Jenkins, BSN, RN, RN Program Coordinator, *SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital- St. Louis*

Elena Jenkins is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has been caring for birthing people for over 20 years as a Labor and Delivery nurse, Maternal Transport nurse, and then Nurse Manager of a high-risk L&D Unit in an Urban Hospital in St. Louis City. Elena served as the Team Lead for the Birth Equity Initiative at her institution, striving to implement strategies to address implicit bias, maternal health disparities, and promote conditions of optimal births for all people while specifically addressing racial and social inequities. She served as an AIM Clinical Champion in the 2022-2023 cohort and has been integrally involved in the implementation of

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several the AIM Patient Safety Bundles. Elena is currently the RN Program Coordinator for a HRSA Maternal Health Innovation Grant to improve outcomes for maternal health.

Courtney Johnson, Missouri State Liaison, *Amniotic Fluid Embolism Foundation*

Courtney Johnson is an Amniotic Fluid Embolism Survivor from Missouri Baptist Medical Center, February of 2020 after the birth of her second child. Courtney's experience with birth trauma propelled her to become passionate in advocating with the Amniotic Fluid Embolism and shares her story to raise awareness about the need for blood donations, maternal mental health, and the need for research to end Amniotic Fluid Embolisms. She now serves as the Missouri State Liaison for the AFE Foundation, is a member of Missouri PQC, and has been successful in having Missouri Governor Michael L. Parson (2023, 2024) and Governor Mike Kehoe (2025) proclaim March 27th as AFE Awareness Day. Courtney is passionate in advocating for maternal health in the state of Missouri.

Traci Johnson, M.D., OBGYN and Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician, *University Health*

Dr. Traci Johnson is a maternal-fetal medicine subspecialist and obstetrician-gynecologist committed to enhancing outcomes for birthing people through safety, equity and innovation. She completed her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship in 2023 at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and rejoined the University Health faculty in Kansas City as the Director of Perinatal Safety and Quality Assurance. She currently chairs the Missouri Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board (2024-2026), where she leads statewide reviews and initiatives aimed at quality and equity.

Dr. Johnson is the Principal Investigator for the newly funded \$4.2 million EMBER Program (Empowering Motherhood through Behavioral Health, Education, and Recovery), which reimagines care delivery for pregnant and postpartum individuals in recovery from substance use. Her professional focus includes maternal mental health, social drivers of health, and obstetric care for complex and under-resourced populations.

Originally from rural Texas, Dr. Johnson was trained at Prairie View A&M University for her bachelor's, Drexel University College of Medicine, and Washington University in St. Louis for residency, where she served as Chief Resident. She is a respected leader in regional and state-level maternal health quality initiatives and a frequent presenter on maternal morbidity, population health, and health equity in obstetrics.

Stephanie Jones, MSN, RN, RNC-OB, Maternity Nurse Navigator, *North Kansas City Hospital*

Stephanie Jones has worked in women's health since the day she graduated from her ADN program in 2009. After obtaining her master's degree in nursing leadership in 2018, she

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developed the 'maternity preadmission nurse's role, which has evolved into the Maternity Nurse Navigator position. She loves being part of the family's pregnancy journey, explaining what their delivery and stay will look like, answering questions, discussing birth preferences, and calming fears. In addition to educating patients, Stephanie is the liaison between labor and delivery and partnering providers, she is an AWHONN fetal monitoring instructor, and is the lead for the Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care program at NKC Health. In her spare time, she loves to read, travel and spend time with her husband.

Sue Kendig, J.D., WHNP-BC, FAANP, Women's Health Integration Specialist, SSM Health

Susan Kendig, JD, WHNP-BC, FAANP, is a board-certified women's health nurse practitioner and attorney with over four decades of experience as a health care provider, educator, and strategist. Her work is grounded in a strong background at the intersection of clinical practice, policy, and public health.

Currently, Sue is a Women's Health Integration Specialist and Co-PI of the Missouri Collaboration for Clinical Community Integration in Maternal Health (MO C3), with SSM Health Women's Services, St. Louis, MO, is an adjunct professor in the Saint Louis University, School of Public Health and Social Justice, Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice, and serves as Director of WHNP Practice, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH). Prior to joining SSM Health, Sue was a teaching professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she led the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program for almost two decades. Sue is a member of the Women's Preventive Services (WPSI) Advisory Panel, which guides a HRSA funded collaborative interdisciplinary effort to develop, review, and disseminate recommendations for women's preventive health care services. Active with the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) national team, she co-led development of maternal safety bundles related to mental health, postpartum and women's health.

She is committed to the concept of clinical and community integration as a tool to improve health outcomes, and to optimize quality in health care service delivery. To this end, she has provided technical assistance to integrated primary care medical home/behavioral health home and other value-based care initiatives, and collective impact maternal and infant mortality reduction efforts in urban and rural communities.

Megan Krohn, DDS, Chief Dental Consultant, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Megan Krohn, DDS serves as the Chief Dental Consultant for The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) within the Office of Dental Health (ODH). Krohn is responsible for

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developing and overseeing core public health activities aimed at improving oral health in Missouri. Her focus is on providing clinical expertise for oral health to drive forward the strategic initiatives of the department ensuring there is access to oral health information and services for all Missourians.

Dr. Krohn previously served as the Executive Vice President of Dental Services at Swope Health, one of Missouri's largest federally qualified health centers. Krohn increased access to patient care through clinic expansions, mobile dental care and development of innovative practices such as integrated care models. Krohn also has experience in private practice, portable dentistry and board service. She graduated from UMKC School of Dentistry in 2016 with oral surgery honors.

Dr. Krohn is a member of the American Dental Association, Missouri Dental Association, and the Greater Kansas City Dental Society. She is also a member of the National Network for Oral Health Access where she serves on multiple committees and is the State of Missouri Ambassador. She is a member of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. In 2024, she was inducted as a Fellow to the Pierre Fauchard Academy and began service as a Delta Dental of Missouri Board Member. Incisal Edge Magazine honored Krohn as a "40 under 40" honoree for her work in expanding access to oral health care. Krohn brings a wealth of knowledge around social drivers of oral health, alternative care models and innovative thinking in how to bridge the gap between all dental practice modalities.

Gaurav Kulkarni, M.D., Psychiatrist, *Compass Health Network*

Gaurav Kulkarni, MD, FAPA, PMH-C is a board-certified Adult Psychiatrist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, as well as Board Certified in Addiction Medicine. He is also a certified Perinatal Mental Health specialist.

Dr. Kulkarni completed his residency and fellowship programs at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Dr. Kulkarni became familiar with the Compass Health organization during this time when he completed rotations in both an outpatient setting as well as at Royal Oaks Hospital. Dr. Kulkarni provides education to residents and fellows from the University of Missouri in his role as the Assistant Training Director of Psychiatry Residency and Child/Adolescent Fellowship, in addition to serving as the Medical Director for McCambridge Women and Children's Center. In addition to these responsibilities, Dr. Kulkarni also serves as a collaborator and mentors many new psychiatrists in the Central Region of Missouri. He is the member of Psychiatry Executive Team at Compass health and fellow at the American Psychiatric Association and fellow at the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

In his spare time, Dr. Kulkarni enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, as well as CrossFit training.

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Sarah Long, IBCLC, Clinical Director, *The Milk Bank*

Sarah Long, IBCLC, has served as Clinical Director at The Milk Bank for 12 years. She oversees clinical operations and fosters healthcare partnerships to ensure the delivery of evidence-based science and safety standards. With a background in Midwifery in the UK, Sarah is well-positioned and passionate about supporting positive maternal and child healthcare outcomes by promoting the critical importance of human milk in combating infant mortality. She is committed to advancing The Milk Bank's mission to save infant lives and improve health outcomes by providing access to safe human milk.

Kelly McKay-Gist, MSW, LMSW, Vice President of Health Equity, Culture, and Innovation, *St. Louis Integrated Health Network*

Kelly McKay-Gist is the Vice President of Health Equity, Culture, and Innovation at the St. Louis Integrated Health Network in St. Louis, Missouri. In this role, she is responsible for guiding organization-wide learning, with a focus on strengthening capacity for professional development, leadership effectiveness, and fostering psychological safety and belonging.

She also oversees initiatives centered on community-driven innovation, aimed at improving health outcomes for individuals across the lifespan from birth through older adulthood. These initiatives emphasize the development of collaborative solutions in partnership with the community to achieve positive health outcomes.

Previously, McKay-Gist held a range of direct service leadership positions focused on implementing mental health interventions, conducting community-driven research in perinatal health, and managing community-led projects addressing mental health treatment for children, adults, and young families.

She earned her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Vermont and a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. She is also a licensed clinical social worker.

Lori Melvin, BSN, RN, Registered Nurse Specialist, *Mo HealthNet*

Lori Melvin is a registered nurse specialist with the MO HealthNet Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services. In her role, she provides clinical oversight for a wide range of covered services within the fee-for-service delivery system and supports initiatives to improve maternal health. She also partners with fellow nurse specialists to bridge the gap between the fee-for-service model and the MO HealthNet Managed Care Plans. In addition, Lori participates in external stakeholder groups, collaborating with healthcare providers, community organizations, and other partners to strengthen care delivery and improve health outcomes for

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Missouri residents. Her dedication to leadership and growth was recognized with the Professional Development and Leadership Award.

Before joining MO HealthNet, Lori worked in acute care on a progressive care unit, specializing in cardiac and pulmonary nursing. In this role, she gained extensive hands-on experience caring for patients with complex health needs.

Lori earned her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Lincoln University and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Central Missouri. She has also completed a Legal Nurse Consultant certificate training course, further strengthening her ability to bridge clinical expertise with legal considerations in healthcare.

Kathryn Menard, M.D., MPH, Distinguished Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Dr. M. Kathryn Menard is a Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine. She previously served for fourteen years as Director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and as Director of the UNC Center for Maternal and Infant Health. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania and her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at UNC, where she also earned a Master of Public Health degree.

Throughout her career, Dr. Menard has worked to bridge clinical medicine and public health, fostering collaboration to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. At the state level, she helped develop and served as Medical Director for North Carolina's Pregnancy Medical Home, a statewide program designed to support Medicaid beneficiaries and maternity care providers in accessing high-quality care and community services.

Nationally, Dr. Menard has provided foundational leadership for two major initiatives: (1) defining Levels of Maternal Care to strengthen regional systems, and (2) advancing the broad dissemination and implementation of maternal safety bundles through the HRSA-funded Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM).

Her current work focuses on an NHLBI-funded, community-engaged study testing strategies to implement the pregnancy-related hypertension bundle in outpatient settings to better address the needs of Black, rural, and low-income pregnant individuals disproportionately affected by this condition.

Emilia Mense Caby, Vice President Whole Parent Foundation, *Whole Parent Foundation*

Emilia Mense Caby is a community activist, advocate and educator in mindfulness, trauma, resilience, violence prevention and mental health. With a personal history as a trauma survivor

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she became a leader in the violence prevention movement in the Kansas City metro. She has worked with thousands of community members, both young and old, on preventing and healing from violence and building resilient communities. After the birth of her third child and suffering debilitating perinatal anxiety and depression she left the traditional workforce to stay home with her children. With this shift she transitioned to working in the perinatal mental health space through writing, content creation and helping to found Whole Parent Foundation a local nonprofit fighting for compassionate, whole person support for all KC parents. As an educator and community activist she has created and provided training for thousands of community members on trauma, resilience, interpersonal violence, violence prevention, the child welfare system, mindfulness and mental health. When she isn't working with communities to heal trauma and build resilience she's reading, eating and cuddling her babies.

Amruta Padhye, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, *University of Missouri School of Medicine, MU Children's Hospital*

Dr. Amruta Padhye is a pediatric infectious diseases physician and faculty member at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, where she has served since 2017. She completed her pediatric residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria and went on to fellowship training in pediatric infectious diseases at Washington University in St. Louis. Her clinical interests include congenital infections, pediatric bone and joint infections, and antimicrobial stewardship. Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Padhye is passionate about education—both in medical training and through community outreach—and her dedication has been recognized with multiple teaching awards from the pediatrics residency program.

Kelley Peters, *Home State Health*

Jason Posley, MHA, Project Manager- Infant/Maternal Health Initiatives, *BJC Health System-Community Health Improvement*

Jason Posley serves as Project Manager for BJC Health System's Office of Community Health Improvement, where he leads initiatives to reduce disparities in maternal and infant outcomes by integrating community-based solutions into health systems. He brings over seven years of healthcare experience, focusing on projects that expand care and resources for communities with limited access. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Maryville University, a Master of Health Administration from Webster University, and a certificate in Neighborhood Leadership from the University of Missouri–Columbia. He also serves as a board member for Gateway Empowerment Institute and Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis.

Anahi Primgaard, PhD, Clinical Investigator, *University Health*

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Anahi Primgaard, PhD is a Clinical Research Coordinator to Dr. Traci Johnson at the University of Missouri Kansas City. She graduated with a PhD in Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with an interest in improving patient health outcomes. Her current research focuses on improving health outcomes in birthing people at risk of pregnancy and postpartum complications.

Adam Saunders, Co-Founder & Special Projects, *Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture*

Adam Saunders, 40, is a co-founder of the 501c3 Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (est. 2009) and served as the Development Director for 15 years. He also serves as the Campaign Director for the public-private-partnership effort to develop Columbia's Agriculture Park. Adam is also a farmer who runs an integrated custom orchard installation/management service that specializes in apple and pear orchards. Adam and his wife, Adrienne Stolwyk AP, recently built a net-zero Accessory Dwelling Unit in central Columbia that showcases in-fill development and sustainable design using strawbale insulation and earthen plasters. Adam grew up in Springfield, MO and currently lives in Columbia, MO with his wife and two children.

Stephanie "Stef" Shorey, WHNP, WHNP for MFM and Project Leader for FIT Center, *SLUCare SSM*

Stef Shorey is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for SLUCare SSM Health Maternal Fetal Medicine and the Project Leader for the Fourth Trimester Integrative Transition (FIT) Center at SSM Health. She is a wife and mother to 4 children and 2 canines. She has nearly 30 years of experience in serving the health of women including labor and birth nursing, gynecologic care, and high-risk obstetrics. After years of caring for high-risk postpartum patients, she was determined to bridge the gap between delivery, inter-pregnancy, and long-term healthcare for these women. She embarked on a journey with Dr. Mary McLennan to formalize a fourth trimester center that would focus on the long-term cardiovascular health needs of women affected by chronic medical conditions that increase their risk. The FIT Center has been receiving more widespread recognition for its innovative work on improving the health of women in the postpartum period. Her goal: to make women FIT NOW, and for LIFE!

Emily Van Schenkhof, MPH, *Children's Trust Fund*

Emily van Schenkhof is the Executive Director of the Missouri Children's Trust Fund, a quasi-governmental child abuse prevention foundation. Emily oversees the Trust Fund's strategy to prevent child abuse and neglect in Missouri, including \$25 million in Fiscal Year 2026 distributions to community-based child abuse prevention organizations and advocacy efforts to create a supportive environment for raising healthy children. Before joining CTF, Emily was the Deputy Director of Missouri KidsFirst for six years and a Policy Specialist at the Missouri

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Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for five years. She has undergraduate degrees in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Missouri and a Master in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Emily grew up in Columbia, MO and now lives in Fulton with her husband and two daughters.

Amanda Wilkinson, PMH-C, CLS, MFA, Peer Support Specialist, *Weeding the Garden: Peer Support & Coaching for Perinatal Mood Disorders*

Amanda Wilkinson PMH-C, CLS, MFA is a passionate advocate for maternal mental health and draws upon her lived experiences with birth trauma, infertility, lactation support, postpartum anxiety, and postpartum OCD to provide evidence-based peer support to mothers at every stage of pregnancy, postpartum, and beyond through her practice Weeding the Garden: Peer Support & Coaching for Perinatal Mood Disorders. She is a certified Peer Support Specialist through Postpartum Support International, as well as a Certified Lactation Specialist and an IVF mom of 2.

Amanda also works as the Copywriter & Brand Specialist for Medical Teams International, and enjoys contributing to improved maternal health outcomes in the global communities where they provide life-saving healthcare through telling the stories of women, and how improved maternal health care can be truly life-changing.

Alisa Williams, IBCLC, MSN, RN, Owner, *Momentum Lactation*

Alisa Williams is a registered nurse and a board-certified lactation consultant currently in clinical private practice. She is the owner of Momentum Lactation in Edwardsville, IL. She brings over 40 years of experience as an obstetric nurse, educator, and IBCLC to her speaking and teaching engagements. Alisa has a passion for lactation practice, skill building, incorporating an awareness of mental health and social support into lactation care, community engagement and evidence based collaborative multidisciplinary care models. She is an affiliate member of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, ILCA, USLCA, and other local professional organizations.

Lindsey Wilson, DNP, CNM, Clinical Director (Retired), *New Birth Company*

Lindsey has been a midwife since 2010 and was a labor and delivery nurse for 5 years prior to that. She has experience in both low and high-risk pregnancy in hospital and birth center settings and in full-scope midwifery care. She was the Clinical Director of New Birth Company, a community birth center, for 2 years. She is currently a coinvestigator for a research study assessing the benefits of nutritional interventions in maintaining a healthy pregnancy. She has a passion for community birth, normal physiologic birth and patient education. She has been writing health education material

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for the Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health since she became a midwife and has authored an article on how to create these materials. Lindsey earned her B.S. in Nursing and D.N.P. in Nurse-Midwifery from Baylor University. She is both a RN and APRN- CNM

Cammie Wine, OB, RN & IBCLC, Citizens Memorial Hospital

Cammie Wine, RN, IBCLC serves as OB MIH RN at Citizens Memorial Hospital and brings 30+ years of experience in maternal-child health. While serving in labor and delivery, postpartum recovery, newborn nursery, and in the home for at-risk mamas and babies as a nurse and lactation consultant, she leads with passion and love for the patients she supports. She strives to guide new mothers and families on their journey as their closest advocate and coach for achieving physical and mental wellbeing. Throughout her nursing career, Cammie has been recognized for her nursing excellence as CMH Employee of the Year (1999), CMH Nurse of the Year (2017), and CMH's first Daisy Award Winner (2019).

Kendra Wyatt, CEO (Retired), New Birth Company

Kendra Wyatt is a Missouri Mom of two, maternal health advocate and social entrepreneur with a deep passion for empowering women with their own health information, and the full scope of pregnancy and birth options for optimal outcomes, racial and rural health equity, and tax payer cost savings. As CEO and co-founder of New Birth Company (2010-2024), a Midwife Led Birth Center, she enabled thousands of women to experience healthy pregnancies and birth including KanCare and MoHealthNet members. Kendra has extensive experience in maternal policy and payment, state legislative efforts, including full practice authority for CNM APRNs and professional malpractice statutes for birth center facilities. Prior to NBC, she worked at Cerner (Oracle) and now provides technical assistance on the adoption of ASTP USCDI + Maternal Health standards. She has been recognized for her advocacy with the Elevance/Anthem Maternity Provider Award and the AABC Consumer Advocate Award. A life long learner, she is a Master's student at the University of Missouri Truman School for Public Policy.

Marvella Ying, C.D., Doula and Childbirth Educator, M-Brace Birthing

Marvella Ying is the founder and principal doula at M-Brace Birthing LLC a Full spectrum Doula Support Service. A devoted mother, wife, daughter, granddaughter, aunt, and community advocate, her personal birthing experiences have fueled her passion for this meaningful work. She views birth as a profound journey for families and is committed to fostering a positive experience that strengthens bonds and nurtures love.

Beyond her hands-on work with families, Marvella is deeply committed to expanding access to equitable birthing support. She manages a GoFundMe initiative to offer discounted services to

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financially vulnerable families. She also is the Operations and Financial Manager at The Doula Lab, a nonprofit organization that provides birthing support, childbirth education, lactation assistance, and newborn care education to underserved communities in the Metro East and St. Louis City. Her impact extends to maternal health policy and advocacy. As a member of the Missouri Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PQC) and the Missouri Postpartum Taskforce, she collaborates with healthcare professionals to drive systemic change. She also co-authored the "Doula Integration Guidance for Healthcare Settings" for the state of Missouri, helping to bridge the gap between doulas and medical institutions.

Marvella is also a sought-after public speaker, sharing her expertise on maternal health, birth equity, and community-based support at major conferences and conventions. She has spoken at the Uplift Convention, MHA Convention, IL PQC Conference, and many other platforms where she continues to advocate for improved maternal health outcomes and systemic change. With experience across diverse birth settings—including home births, hospitals, medicated and unmedicated births, cesarean sections, and vaginal twin deliveries—Marvella's ultimate goal is to ensure that every birthing person feels respected, heard, supported, and fully informed in their birthing choices.