

2024 MARYLAND MATERNAL MORTALITY SUMMIT

Collaborating to Address Preventable Mortality for Birthing People



.....
MAY 9, 2024 • 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LIVE & LIVE STREAMED FROM

Coppin State University • Baltimore, MD
.....

DESCRIPTION

Rates of maternal mortality are increasing across the nation. Nationally, Non-Hispanic Black birthing people die at 2.6 times the rate of those who are White. In Maryland, disparities in maternal mortality have similarly continued to widen.

The leading causes of pregnancy-related deaths in Maryland in 2018 were non-cardiovascular conditions, cardiovascular conditions, and suicide. The leading cause of non-pregnancy-related deaths was unintentional overdose. 83% of the pregnancy-related deaths and 85% of the non-pregnancy-related deaths were judged to be preventable. Through a grant from the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Patient Safety Center partnered with an interdisciplinary advisory group of individuals from across the state passionate about improving outcomes to plan the inaugural Maryland Maternal Mortality Summit. The summit aims to bring together birth workers and other key stakeholders from across the state to learn, collaborate, and innovate toward eliminating preventable maternal mortality and its associated disparities in care, access, and outcomes for birthing people.

OBJECTIVES

1. Describe patterns, disparities and drivers of maternal mortality in Maryland.
2. Outline innovative strategies to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and the disparities that exist in this outcome.
3. Collaborate with key stakeholders to improve the care of birthing people in Maryland.

DETAILS

Date: Thursday, May 9 | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Location: Coppin State University
J. Millard Tawes Center, 2500 W North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216

Parking: Please park in F or J Parking Lot. Attendees should self-pay at the parking lot kiosk and put a ticket on their car dashboard. Parking is \$2/hour with a \$12 maximum.

Registration: Scan the QR code to register.



SCHEDULE**ACTIVITIES****SPEAKER**

7:15-8:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-8:30am Welcome and Moment of Silence

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH
Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

8:30-9:30am Rethinking Our Approach to Maternal Mortality

Kesha Baptiste-Roberts PhD, MPH
Chair, Department of Public and Allied Health
Associate Professor
Morgan State University School of Community Health & Policy

9:30-10:30am The Constellation of Care for Holistic Maternal Health

Tanay Lynn Harris
Director and Co-Founder of the Bloom Collective

10:30-10:45am Break

10:45-11:45am Barriers to Bridges: Maternal Mental Health Solutions for Maryland

Moderator:
Lyneia Richardson, PhD
Assistant Professor of Counseling
McDaniel College

Panelists:
Kristen Brooks, LCSW-C, LICSW, PMH-C
Licensed Clinical Social Worker Perinatal Mental Health Certified Clinician
@buildingbeyondtherapy

Amy Radion, MSW, LCSW-C, PMH-C
Perinatal Depression and Anxiety Outreach Program
M. Peter Moser Community Initiatives
Sinai Hospital

Lindsay R. Standeven, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Clinical and Education Director,
The Johns Hopkins Reproductive Mental Health Center
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

11:45-12:45pm Lunch and Networking

12:45-1:30pm Battling While Birthing: How Issues of Violence Impact Maternal Mortality

Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD
Executive Director, UMB Center for Violence Prevention
University of Maryland, Baltimore

1:30-2:30pm	<p>Birth is Not the End Point: Opportunities to Improve the Care of Birthing People with Substance Use Disorder in the Year Following Delivery</p>	<p>Katrina Mark, MD, FACOG, FASAM Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences University of Maryland School of Medicine</p>
2:30-2:45pm	<p>Break</p>	
2:45-3:45pm	<p>Preventing Future Cardiovascular Disease by Managing Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes</p>	<p>Estelle D. Jean, MD, FACC Cardiologist, MedStar Health Cardiology Associates</p>
	<p>Innovative Community-Based Solutions for Maternal Morbidity and Mortality</p>	<p>Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas DNP, CRNP, NP-C, CBS Healthcare Director of Trinity Wellness Postpartum Nurse Practitioner for Baltimore Healthy Start Assistant Professor Morgan State University</p>
3:45-4:15pm	<p>Connecting with Patients as Partners: Uplifting their Lived Experience Because Their Voice Matters</p>	<p>SherWanda Knight Patient Advocate Certified Patient Family Partner</p>
4:15-4:30pm	<p>Closing and Evaluations/ Moment of Silence</p>	<p>Ben Wormser, MD, MPH Medical Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau Maryland Department of Health</p>
		<p>Lady Brion International Spoken Word Artist Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District</p>

SPEAKERS



Kesha Baptiste-Roberts PhD, MPH

Chair, Department of Public and Allied Health
Associate Professor Morgan State University
School of Community Health & Policy

Kesha Baptiste-Roberts, PhD, MPH is the Chair of the Department of Public and Allied Health and an Associate Professor at Morgan State University, School of Community Health and Policy. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Juniata College, a Masters in Public Health degree from Saint Louis University, and she completed a Maternal and Child Health Certificate in addition to PhD and postdoctoral training in Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Baptiste-Roberts is an accomplished researcher, having authored or co-authored over 30 scientific publications, including journal articles and book chapters. She is the co-editor of a book titled "Obesity in Pregnancy". Dr. Baptiste-Roberts has published research in maternal and child health, women's health, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and racial/ethnic health disparities. Her early work was primarily focused on pregnancy-related factors and their influence on cardiometabolic outcomes for both mother and offspring along the life-course. During her career, she worked on health among sexual minority women and substance abuse. Most recently, she has been working on improving maternal health for underserved communities utilizing

telehealth and doula services. She is currently the principal investigator of an HRSA-funded maternal child health research center. She was the 2021 recipient of the Abraham Lilienfeld Award from the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA), which recognizes excellence in teaching epidemiology over the course of a career. This award is given in memory of Dr. Abraham Lilienfeld, an outstanding teacher, scholar, and former chair of the epidemiology department at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She has held leadership roles in several national organizations, including the American Public Health Association (APHA), where she served as a governing councilor and section councilor for two terms. She has been the co-chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the past seven years. She is a past president of the Society of the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI). She has also served as an executive committee member on the Sankofa Collaborative, a collaborative of public health leaders focused on providing a forum to promote the health of minority women affected by HIV through research, policy, advocacy, and social justice.

Rethinking Our Approach to Maternal Mortality

Objectives:

1. To describe briefly the trends in maternal mortality in the state of Maryland
2. To summarize evidence on interventions aimed at reducing maternal mortality
3. To explore novel holistic approaches to address maternal mortality across the life-course that include community, advocacy, healthcare providers, and other key stakeholders

Summary:

Maternal Mortality rates are on the rise in the US, and unfortunately, the rates in the state of Maryland are also increasing. We have made great strides in addressing this issue, but we have not had the level of success needed. We have identified root causes but we must now be courageous to address these root causes of the problem. These causes include structural, political, and social determinants of health. As such, we need to work together and share our resources, expertise, and ideas for sustainable solutions.

SPEAKERS



Tanay Lynn Harris

Director and Co-Founder of the Bloom Collective

Tanay Lynn Harris is the Director and Co-Founder of The Bloom Collective, a reproductive and perinatal space providing holistic services and support in Greater Baltimore. She is a Certified Lactation Specialist, Certified Perinatal Educator with Commonsense Childbirth Institute, and a Postnatal Doula, trained with Abuela Doulas in the United Kingdom. She is a community-centered researcher and ethnographer focused on Black maternal health, transnational reproduction, abolition, and human rights. Tanay has worked with various national and international human rights and racial justice institutions over the past 18 years, including the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She is an Advisory Board member of CLLCTIVLY, a Kindred Partner with the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, and co-chair of the Maryland Maternal Health Improvement Task Force. Her work through the years has deepened her commitment to the otherwise

possibilities, coined by Dr. Ashon Crawley, that building the world we need and deserve is an everyday practice and she attempts to embody in her work and life. In addition, she is a co-editor of a maternal health equity toolkit for Maryland Hospitals that was developed through the Maryland Maternal Health Innovation Program (MDMOM). She also helps facilitate the community of learning to support birthing hospitals to implement the maternal health equity toolkit. Tanay provides consultation to organizations and institutions that want to advance Black perinatal health and reproductive justice. Tanay is a graduate of Africana Studies at Temple University and the School for Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Tanay is co-teaching a course with Dr. Lisa R. Wright at Johns Hopkins University entitled “Reintroduction to Writing: Reproductive Justice in Baltimore” for the Spring 2024 semester.

The Constellation of Care for Holistic Maternal Health

Objectives:

1. Provide an overview of the current state of maternal health globally and locally, emphasizing the significance of preventing maternal mortality and morbidity in Maryland
2. Explore the systemic and root causes contributing to maternal mortality and morbidity
3. Introduce a holistic approach to maternal/perinatal health care that addresses full constellation of supports needed for optimal care
4. Learn how to implement a holistic standard of care that centers the people most affected and focuses on co-collaboration and intentional relationship building
5. Reflect on the work of community based reproductive health practitioners, scholars and organizations who center a holistic standard of care

Barriers to Bridges: Maternal Mental Health Solutions for Maryland

Summary:

This panel discussion will explore the multifaceted landscape of maternal mental health and the well-being of birthing individuals and families in Maryland. Panelists will delve into the background, barriers, and innovative solutions to addressing maternal mental health, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and community engagement. From disparities in access to care to the impact of maternal mental health on the life course, attendees will gain insights and leave with action steps toward improving mental health outcomes for birthing people in the state.

Objectives:

1. Increase awareness of the complexities concerning maternal mental health including disparities, access to care, and other long-term implications on individuals and families
2. Identify and explore collaborative solutions among healthcare providers, policymakers, and the community to address the present issues concerning maternal mental health
3. Identify actionable steps towards improving maternal mental health outcomes in Maryland for birthing people and families.



Moderator
Lyneia Richardson, PhD
Assistant Professor of Counseling
McDaniel College

Dr. Lyneia Richardson is a licensed psychologist with over twelve years of experience providing direct therapy services in a variety of clinical and community settings including: substance abuse treatment centers, hospitals, and private practice. Dr. Richardson received her B.A. in psychology from North Carolina A & T State University, M.S. in mental health counseling from Johns Hopkins University, and her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She previously worked as a staff psychologist of a university counseling center. She is currently a tenure-track assistant professor at McDaniel College in their counseling program and is the owner of a private practice healing space where she has carved out a special niche focusing on perinatal and women’s mental wellness.



Panelist
**Kristen Brooks, LCSW-C,
LICSW, PMH-C**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Perinatal Mental Health Certified
Clinician

Kristen Brooks is the founder and lead clinician of Building Beyond Therapy Inc. With over a decade of experience as a social worker, Kristen has provided social work services in many capacities, including child welfare, inpatient psychiatric services, and schools. Kristen received her MSW from the University of Maryland Baltimore and is clinically licensed in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Kristen’s true passion lies in helping young women and mothers realize their true importance and potential. Kristen holds a Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C) through Postpartum Support International (PSI) and has completed specialized trainings in Postpartum Mood Disorders with an emphasis on trauma and pregnancy and infant loss. She is also trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy.



Panelist
Amy Radion, MSW, LCSW-C, PMH-C
Perinatal Depression and Anxiety
Outreach Program
M. Peter Moser Community
Initiatives
Sinai Hospital

Amy Radion is the Program Coordinator for the Perinatal Depression & Anxiety Outreach Program for the M. Peter Mosher Community Initiatives at Sinai Hospital. In this role she provides psychoeducation, support, and referral for perinatal mental health. She also runs a virtual weekly postpartum support group. Prior to this position, she was the social worker for the University of Maryland Women’s Health Center for fifteen years. In this position she provided the same services for not only perinatal mental health but other social determinants of health that impact maternal health and wellbeing. She holds a Perinatal Mental Health Certification through Postpartum Support International. She is the Informant Interviewer for Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Team. She is also a member of the Baltimore City’s Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program.



Panelist
Lindsay R. Standeven, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences
Clinical And Education Director,
The Johns Hopkins Reproductive
Mental Health Center
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Lindsay Standeven is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins and the Clinical and Education Director of Johns Hopkins Reproductive Mental Health Center. After completing her residency in Psychiatry, Dr. Standeven completed a two-year fellowship in reproductive psychiatry. She is the director of resident training in women’s mental health and serves on the educational board of the National Curriculum on Reproductive Psychiatry (NCRP). Her research focuses on the role of neurosteroid changes in pregnancy and PMADs. She has also received NIH funding to study the role of neurosteroids and the psychiatric symptoms of women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.

SPEAKERS



Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD

Executive Director, UMB Center for Violence Prevention
University of Maryland, Baltimore

Nadine M Finigan-Carr, Ph.D., is a prevention research scientist focused on the application of behavioral and social science perspectives to research on contemporary health problems, especially those that disproportionately affect people of color. She is an internationally recognized expert on minor human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and community

violence. Recently, she was named the inaugural Executive Director of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Center for Violence Prevention. The center's mission is to build resilient and equitable communities for all through the prevention and intervention of all forms of violence and trauma.

Battling While Birthing: How Issues of Violence Impact Maternal Mortality

Summary:

Violence against women is one of the top causes of pregnancy-associated deaths. An understanding of the social and contextual factors that contribute to the violence impacting maternal mortality is necessary. This presentation will discuss these factors, including not only the battles women face within the home leading to intimate partner violence but also those outside the home such as battles due to the acute and chronic stress of living in violent areas. Dr Finigan-Carr will discuss these issues and provide a call to action for those of us looking to improve the lives of women who are battling while birthing.

Objectives:

1. Discuss the effects of community violence and complex trauma on maternal mortality.
2. Investigate the feasibility of comprehensive, coordinated systems or protocols for early identification, management, and rapid response to women at risk of experiencing violence during the prenatal or postpartum period.

SPEAKERS



Katrina Mark, MD, FACOG, FASAM

Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics,
Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Director, SUPPORT program

Dr. Mark is an obstetrician and gynecologist who cares for people throughout their lifespan. She is the medical director of Western Penn Women's Center. She is Board Certified by Addiction Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. In her gynecologic practice, Dr. Mark provides full-scope care including family planning/contraception management; treatment of menstrual disorders, cervical dysplasia, and postmenopausal issues; and transgender care. She also provides

obstetric care for pregnant and parenting people in her ambulatory practice. Dr. Mark is director of the SUPPORT clinic at the University of Maryland, which focuses on comprehensive care of pregnant people with substance use disorders.

Birth is Not the End Point: Opportunities to Improve the Care of Birthing People with Substance Use Disorder in the Year Following Delivery.

Summary:

Drug-related death is a leading contributor to maternal mortality. It is imperative to engage nurses, providers, and community stakeholders in providing a comprehensive and trauma-informed approach to maternity care for birthing people with substance use disorder. In this presentation, we will review data on the intersection of substance use and the maternal mental health crisis and provide action items so that providers, nurses, health systems, and communities can improve the care provided and outcomes in the postpartum period for birthing people with substance use disorder.

Objectives:

1. Review the impact of substance use disorder on maternal health through the first year postpartum.
2. Outline best practices for supporting birthing people with substance use disorder after delivery.
3. Identify areas for systematic improvement to prevent maternal mortality from substance use disorder.

SPEAKERS



Estelle D. Jean, MD, FACC

Cardiologist
MedStar Health Cardiology Associates

Dr Estelle Jean is a board-certified cardiologist at MedStar Health. She treats a full spectrum of cardiac disorders, with a special interest in women’s heart health, maternal health, and addressing healthcare disparities. Dr Jean also collaborates closely with obstetricians to manage cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, and preeclampsia during pregnancy. She is passionate about community-based medicine and improving health through education.

She serves on the MedStar Montgomery Board of Directors, the MedStar Health Women’s Heart Program leadership council, and is the Health Equity lead at Medstar Montgomery. Additionally, she is board certified in echocardiography and serves as the director of the vascular lab for MedStar Health Cardiology Associates. Recently she was nominated for the 2024

American Heart Association Woman of Impact in the Greater Washington Region.

Dr Jean received her medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, followed by a residency program at Harvard’s Massachusetts General Hospital. Subsequently, she completed her cardiology training at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital.

Dr Jean has been featured in various media outlets, including Washington, DC local TV and radio news networks, as well as publications such as Forbes Health, Parade, SELF Magazine, HuffPost, PopSugar, and Fitbit. She is dedicated to raising awareness about maternal health and empowering women to take control of their health through education and preventive measures.

Preventing Future Cardiovascular Disease by Managing Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes

Summary:

Adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, preterm delivery, and low birth weight have been linked to an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) later in life. Will discuss the potential reasons for this connection and the steps that birthing individuals and healthcare providers can take to reduce their cardiovascular risk.

Objectives:

1. Understand the relationship between adverse pregnancy outcomes and future cardiovascular disease risk.
2. Identify common pregnancy-related disorders that can contribute to cardiovascular disease
3. Discuss the importance of postpartum care and follow-up to monitor for potential cardiovascular issues.
4. Understand the role of preconception care and risk factor modification in preventing adverse pregnancy outcomes and reducing future cardiovascular disease risk
5. Understand the role of a multidisciplinary cardio-obstetrics team to improve maternal health outcomes.

SPEAKERS



Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas DNP, CRNP, NP-C, CBS

Healthcare Director of Trinity Wellness

Postpartum Nurse Practitioner for Baltimore Healthy Start

Assistant Professor Morgan State University

Dr. Marilyn F. Berchie-Gialamas DNP, CRNP, NP-C, CBS is a family nurse practitioner specializing in maternal-child health, nurse educator and researcher. She is the Healthcare Director of Trinity Wellness and the Postpartum Nurse Practitioner for Baltimore Healthy Start. Her research projects include being a co-investigator of the HRSA-funded Maternal Health

Research Center at Morgan State University and the Primary Investigator in a research project entitled Racial Disparities in Maternal Child Health and the Role of Doulas in Reducing Disparities.

Innovative Community-Based Solutions for Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

Summary:

In this presentation, we will review innovative strategies community organizations like Baltimore Healthy Start have implemented to help eliminate preventable maternal mortality and the disparities that exist.

Objectives:

1. Review community-based solutions and their outcomes
2. Discuss Call to Action Call to action individual, community, hospital level

SPEAKERS



SherWanda Knight

Patient Advocate
Certified Patient Family Partner

My name is SherWanda Knight, and I am a mother of 3 children. I am a survivor of Preeclampsia. I developed Preeclampsia in 2009 after having my 1st living child. I never had the correct knowledge of what Preeclampsia is and how it affects the human body. After my death experience in 2015 after having my premature child, I started to do my own research to find out what Preeclampsia is and what other diseases I may have. Since I was a teenager, I complained about body pains. No doctor ever did a full examination to see what my issues were. I was told by a doctor that my issues were inside of my head, and I should get a therapist. In 2019, when I was pregnant with my 3rd living child a

doctor cared to listen to me. During my care with her she expressed that I sound and act like her child with sickle cell anemia. She helped me to understand what preeclampsia was and the other diseases that I had. Because of this caring doctor, I found out that I had sickle cell C anemia, iron anemia, and preeclampsia. Before this doctor, I had to advocate for myself. I am now a Patient Family Partner. I want to help advocate for those who believe that they may not have a voice. Or the ones that may want to give up because they believe they cannot be helped.

Connecting with Patients as Partners: Uplifting their Lived Experience Because Their Voice Matters

Objective:

Describe the importance of listening closely to the lived experiences of birthing people so you can better understand their needs and determine how to improve the care provided.



Lady Brion

International Spoken Word Artist
Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District

Lady Brion is an international spoken word artist, curator, activist, organizer, educator and the executive director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District. She received her B.A. in Communication and Culture from Howard University and her MFA in Creative Writing & Publishing Design from the University of Baltimore. During her slam career she has won the 2016 National Poetry Slam, the 2017/2019 Southern Fried Regional Slam, and the 2019 Rustbelt Regional Slam. Most recently she became

the Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion and International Poetry Slam Champion (team slam) in April 2021. In 2018, she published a book and accompanying album called With My Head Unbowed. Lady Brion also serves on the board for DewMore Baltimore and as the Cultural Curator for a grassroots political think-tank called Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle in Baltimore.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVISORY GROUP.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION
Tamika	Auguste	MedStar Health
Lakisa	Ballard	Nursing - Holy Cross
Rachel	Breman	University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Nursing
Amy	Brown	AWHONN and University of Maryland
Adriane	Burgess	Maryland Patient Safety Center
Abby	Butler	Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
Naomi	Cross	University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Nursing
Sara	Daly	Johns Hopkins Reproductive Mental Health Center
Cristina	Haas	Nursing - UMMS
Stacey	lobst	AWHONN and Towson University
Yasmine	Jackson	Maryland Perinatal and Neonatal Quality Collaborative Health Quality Innovators
Monica	Jones	Luminis Health
Jennifer	Kirchner	Baltimore City Health Department
Traci	LaValle	Maryland Hospital Association
Nina	Martin	Maryland Department of Health
Cory	McCray	Maryland State Senator
Kristen	Newman	Prince George's County Health Department
Monique	Powell-Davis	Mary's Center
Meghana	Rao	Mary's Center
Jess	Ratner	Baltimore City Health Department and Johns Hopkins
Maxine	Reed-Vance	Deputy Director/ QA and Clinical Affairs
Katie	Richards	Maryland Perinatal and Neonatal Quality Collaborative Health Quality Innovators
Lindsay	Standeven	Johns Hopkins Reproductive Mental Health Center
Pansay	Tayo	Doula Sacred Butterfly Birth
Jheanelle	Wilkins	House Representative - Montgomery Co., Maryland State Delegate
Carrie	Wolfson	Johns Hopkins University/MDMOM
Ben	Wormser	Maryland Department of Health
Shelly	Choo	Maryland Department of Health