

Saving Our **BABIES**

How & Why Black Women Are Leading Transformation in Maternal & Child Health

Presented By: Gabe Doyle, Chief Health Initiatives Officer
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THE WISCONSIN MCH CRISIS

Numbers You Need to Know

WI Infant Mortality Rate:

Black - 14.5%
Indigenous - 10.4%
Hispanic - 6.7%
Asian Pacific Islander (API) - 6.4%
White - 4.9%

WI Low Birth Rate:

Black - 15.3%
Indigenous - 7.6%
Hispanic - 7.6%
API - 8.1%
White - 6.5%

WI Inadequate Prenatal Care Rate:

Black - 22.3%
Indigenous - 25.5%
Hispanic - 15.8%
API - 13.6%
White - 8.3%



WWW.WIBIRTHEQUITY.ORG

25

Wisconsin women die
each year during or within
one year of pregnancy.

3X

Black infants are 3 times more
likely to die before they reach the age
of one in Wisconsin.

#1

Wisconsin ranks number one and has THE
highest Black infant mortality rate in the nation.

3-5X

Black, Brown & Indigenous women in
Wisconsin, are 3 to 5 times more likely to
experience death or disability during
pregnancy than other women.

Sources: 2016-2018 MCH Data in Wisconsin, Prenatal, March of
Dimes, 2018 DHS Report, and 2017 DHS Report

We Know The Crisis

- ✓ Structural Racism & Discrimination
- ✓ Chronic Stress
- ✓ Social Risk Factors
- ✓ Socioeconomic Factors
- ✓ Environmental Factors
- ✓ Culturally Unsafe Care

The Urgency

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Our Present
& Future!*

9

of every 1,000 babies born to Black mothers in Dane County don't live to see their first birthday



1st

Wisconsin's 2018 national ranking for Black infant mortality



2x

more babies born to Black mothers in Dane County are low birth weight, than those born to white mothers

Learn More At:
www.savingourbabieswi.org

THE FOUNDATION FOR
BLACK WOMEN'S
WELLNESS



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WELLNESS



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Saving Our **BABIES**

Community Listening Sessions



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Community Listening Sessions



The report further details 10 consistent themes as root causes:

- Racism, discrimination, and institutional bias
- Bias and cultural disconnect in health-care delivery experiences
- Economic insecurity
- Housing insecurity and high cost of living
- Poor access to health-supporting assets
- Inadequate social supports
- Gaps in health literacy, education, and support
- Disconnected and hard-to-navigate community resources
- Systemic barriers to individual and family advancement
- Chronic stress

Our Responsibility is to Respond



THE FOUNDATION FOR
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WELLNESS

Supporting Mothers and
Birthing People During & After
Pregnancy

DOULA SERVICES & SUPPORT

Doulas Help Support Healthier Pregnancy, Birth & Postpartum Wellness

Community-based doulas are trained professionals and birth workers who provide culturally appropriate, non-medical emotional, physical, and informational support before, during, and after birth.

How Doulas Help

Prenatal Support

Support through the stages of pregnancy (prenatal period, labor, and delivery); educational support including childbirth education, and referrals to resources and services.

Birth Support

Support to mother/birthing person during labor and delivery to provide comfort, assurance, pain-relief and relaxation techniques; and encouragement for partner participation if needed.

Postpartum Support

Support for emotional and physical recovery and well-being after birth and for your new parenthood journey; breastfeeding/infant feeding, bathing and care support & education.



Infusion

Helping Women & Their
Families Achieve Better
Health & Wellness



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SUPPORT

Educate. Energize. Elevate!

Our Community Health Worker team is here to assist you to secure resources, information and support you need to improve your health and well-being.

HOW WE HELP

- Help with securing healthcare services
- Help locating community resources you and your family need to improve your well-being
- Connect you to community services for help with food, housing, childcare, personal safety, transportation, and mental health support
- Access to health and wellness activities



**Serving Dane County and
specializing in zip codes:**

53711, 53713, 53704, 53714,
53719, 53590

**Scan the QR code
for direct access**



Accountability

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"Nothing About Us, Without Us"



**BLACK
MATERNAL &
CHILD
HEALTH
ALLIANCE**

OF DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Multi-Sector Approach



SAVING OUR BABIES

- ▶ Community led
- ▶ Invest upstream
- ▶ Data driven

Saving Our Babies is a comprehensive cross-sector collaboration that brings together health care systems, community organizations, public health leaders and service providers to close the gaps in birth outcomes. We center the voices of Black women to shape resources and solutions in policy and practices affecting Black maternal and child health. Our three domains of change are:

INTERNAL HEALTH SYSTEM ACTIONS	COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS	SYSTEM & POLICY ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Expand promising initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establish Black Maternal & Child Health Alliance ▶ Fund Annual BMCH Summit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reframe & tie healthcare to economic & regional advancement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prioritize cultural competence & workforce diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fund A Doulas/Training Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Include & engage Black men, fathers, partners and family support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Root out racial bias and invest deeply in efforts that embed equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Build BMCH Community Portal/Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Engage Cross-Sector Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to invest in and partner with existing community based efforts and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fund Neighborhood-based Action Teams & Education in high need zip codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advocacy & Alliances for Public Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Align efforts, initiatives and CHNA's across systems for greater systemic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Care Coordination/ConnectRx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prioritize DEI Commitment

DEVELOPED BY: FFBWW, INC.



Community Workforce



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WELLNESS



WELL BLACK DOULAS



Tamisha Binion



J. Dale Gardner



Jasmine M. Jones



Tracey Russell



Thedora Smith



Khaleah Monger



Kay Spencer



Katie Wakonyo
Taylor Rice



Tamara N.
Thompson



Felica Turner-
Walton



Rachel Wagabaza

Full Spectrum Doula Care

Full-spectrum doulas are individuals trained to support people across the entire spectrum of reproductive experiences and choices. While traditional doulas might specialize in childbirth support, full-spectrum doulas expand their role to cover a range of reproductive health events.



- * EVALUATE MATERNAL & FETAL HEALTH
- * PROVIDE EDUCATION to PROMOTE HEALTH
- * INTERVENE when POSSIBLE to ENSURE BIRTH of HEALTHY BABY w/ MINIMAL RISK for MOTHER

COMMUNITY BASED DOULA BENEFITS TO PREGNANT MOTHERS & BIRTHING PEOPLE

Data has demonstrated that patients and families who are supported by a Doula experience better birth outcomes and fewer birth complications. Our Doula Partners ensure better birth and maternal health outcomes by:

- Providing childbirth education and birth planning
- Culturally relevant peer support visits
- Advocating and ensuring for clients wishes are heard, when client may feel overwhelmed, tired or intimidated by medical staff
- Staying throughout birth, ensuring a 1st latch if breast/chest feeding is desired, and supporting the transition to postpartum care suites.
- Providing mental wellness and postpartum care visits
- Lactation education and support



Badges



Hospital badges for doulas promote safety, professionalism, and clear communication within the healthcare setting. They help doulas integrate seamlessly into the hospital environment, providing the best possible support to expectant mothers and their families.

Our Doula providers have badges for both birthing hospitals in Dane County, St. Marys and UPH-Meriter.



Doulas in the Operating Room Pilot Program

Pilot Program Guidelines

- Doula must be from one of the three identified partnering groups to participate
- Doula must wear a UPH-Meriter ID Badge to be allowed in the OR
- Doula will support the delivering patient and their partner while in the OR
- Doula must adhere to infection prevention criteria as instructed by the OR staff
- Doula and the support person will not be present in the OR if the patient requires general anesthesia for a Cesarean birth





We must
***Save Ourselves
& Our Babies***
in order to
***Secure Our Present
& Future!***

Impact

CONNECT

W I S C O N S I N

Securing
Our Present
& Future!

- **601 Black Women & Birthing Persons Referred to CRx**
- **134 Babies Born!**

ConnectRx Wisconsin Doula Support (Year 1 Snapshot)

- **90%** of babies born to Well Black Doula-supported clients reached **optimal gestational age!**
- **86%** of Well Black Doula-supported babies reached a **healthy birth weight!**
- **73%** of our Well Black Doula-supported clients were able to **avoid medical interventions like c-sections and inductions!**
- **94% breastfeeding initiation** under three months postpartum!
- **54 babies born** with Well Black Doula support!

Physician Testimony

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& Future!

“Each Doula I have had the pleasure of working with has been absolutely fantastic, and in my opinion, vital to the success of the delivery. It’s an awesome experience so far and I am grateful for everyone involved.”

- Dr. Evan Nolander

Family Medicine Physician, OB GYN
UW Health, Access Community Health Center





Recap

- Community Listening
- Community Accountability
- Culturally Safe & Reflective Care Teams
- Infusion - Adding Trusted New Lines of Workforce
 - Doulas
 - CHWS
 - Mental Health
 - Lactation
 - Postpartum
- Workplace Respect
 - Badges
 - Shared Documentation Platforms
 - Bi-directional Documentation and Referrals



Thank
you