



Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Committee

Committee Chairs

Lekisha Daniel-Robinson, MSPH

Director of the Center for Maternal and Child Health Research, IBM Watson Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Lekisha Daniel-Robinson, Director of the Center for Maternal and Child Health at IBM Watson Health, provides leadership to a portfolio of federal projects to modernize health and social programs to improve care delivery, quality, and access. She has more than 17 years of experience collaborating with healthcare organizations and federal and state entities to define performance standards to achieve financial, service, and quality goals. Before joining Watson Health, she launched maternal and child health initiatives on behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to promote system transformation in quality measurement, service delivery, and value-based purchasing.

Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP

Associate Professor, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

Dr. Elizabeth Howell is a professor in the Departments of Population Health Science & Policy and Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, and Director of the Blavatnik Family Women's Health Research Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her medical and public policy degrees at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She received her residency training at Cornell/NY Hospital and is a board-certified OB/GYN. Dr. Howell received her postdoctoral training in clinical epidemiology as an RWJ Clinical Scholar at Yale Medical School.

Timoria McQueen Saba

Patient Advocate; Coordinator, Postpartum Support International
Milton, Massachusetts

Timoria McQueen Saba is a maternal health advocate, speaker, and writer with a focus on mental and physical trauma due to childbirth and pregnancy. Immediately following the birth of her oldest daughter, she suffered a near fatal postpartum hemorrhage. Thirteen months later, she had a miscarriage. Resources and support for mothers who have survived a near miss were scarce, so she began connecting with thousands of women across the world who have experienced similar birth and pregnancy complications and the lingering psychological effects. She is the coordinator of resources and support for Postpartum Support International (PSI) and a member of the PSI President's Advisory Council. In 2017, she was appointed to a House chair seat on the Senator Ellen Story Special Commission on Postpartum Depression. She also serves as the project lead for Patient Voice and Engagement for the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts (PNQIN) and is a member of the Massachusetts Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Advisory Committee.

Committee Members

Angela Anderson, CNM, DNP, FACNM

Practice Director, American College of Nurse-Midwives
Salt Lake City, Utah

Angela Anderson is the Director of Intermountain Nurse-Midwives in Murray, Utah. She has several decades of service leadership within the quality landscape including serving as an Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) state leader, ACNM Quality Section member, and member of the Midwifery Data collaborative in partnership with the ReVitalize ACOG project. Specific quality improvement leadership initiatives include: Every Mother Initiative, PPH and HTN Bundles, Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Maternal Mortality Representative, and the CDC Maternal Mortality workgroup. Dr. Anderson has served as an American College of Nurse-Midwives Chapter Chair and is an active ACOG member.

Katherine Barrett, MPH

Founding Executive Director, March for Moms
Walpole, Massachusetts

Katie Shea Barrett is a tireless advocate for better care for all American moms and a successful healthcare transformation policy strategist. A postpartum hemorrhage survivor, she is presently the founding Executive Director of March for Moms, a nonpartisan, solution-oriented nonprofit that advocates for the best possible health and well-being of all mothers. Prior to taking the helm at March for Moms, she worked for 15 years in both the private and public sectors aimed at making healthcare delivery more safe, affordable, and equitable for Massachusetts families. She holds an MPH in health policy and a BA from Columbia University.

Debra Bingham, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Executive Director, Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement
Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Debra Bingham has over 30 years of experience in maternal child health nursing, a master's degree in perinatal nursing from Columbia University, and a doctorate in public health from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her expertise is in quality improvement (QI), healthcare safety, and implementation. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Healthcare Quality and Safety at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and principal investigator for the Advancing Implementation Science Education (AdvISE) grant. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement.

Emily Briggs, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Briggs Family Medicine, PLLC
New Braunfels, Texas

Dr. Emily Briggs is a board-certified family physician in New Braunfels, Texas. She provides the full scope services including operative obstetrics. She has served as Chief of Staff at Christus Santa Rosa New Braunfels and as Medical Director for her local independent school districts. Currently, Dr. Briggs serves as a board member of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, Chair of the Texas Medical Association's Reproductive Women's and Perinatal Health Committee, Chair of the Perinatal Advisory Council for DSHS, and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians Task Force on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality.

Beth Ann Clayton, DNP, CRNA, FAAN

Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing
Cincinnati, Ohio

Beth Ann Clayton is an Associate Professor and Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the University of Cincinnati. She is a primary author of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines. Her research focuses on closed malpractice claims analysis, facilitating identification of patterns of injuries, precipitating events, and interventions to improve care. Dissemination of her work includes over 100 national and international conferences, several peer-reviewed publications, and participation in state and national task forces. Dr. Clayton received her MS in nurse anesthesia from Northeastern University and her DNP from the University of Cincinnati.

Charlene Collier, MD, MPH, MHS

Director of the Mississippi Maternal Mortality Review Committee,
Mississippi State Department of Health
Ridgeland, Mississippi

Dr. Charlene Collier is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and holds a joint position with the Mississippi State Department of Health. She directs the Mississippi Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative. She is a graduate of Brown Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed residency in Ob/Gyn at Yale-New Haven Hospital and then was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar. She serves on the Executive Committee of the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives and on the ACOG Committee on Obstetric Practice.

Joia Crear-Perry, MD

Founder and President, National Birth Equity Collaborative
Washington, DC

Joia Adele Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG—a thought leader around racism as a root cause of health inequities, speaker, trainer, advocate, policy expert, and fighter for justice—is the founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. Joia, a proud recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Hero's award and the Maternal Health Task Force at Harvard University Global Visionary Award for Commitment to Advancing Women's Health, is most known for her work to remove race as a risk factor for illnesses like premature birth and replacing it with racism.

U. Michael Currie, MPH, MBA

Senior Vice President & Chief Health Equity Officer, UnitedHealth Group
Minnetonka, Minnesota

As the Chief Health Equity Officer for the largest insurer, UnitedHealth Group, Mr. Currie has led the coordination of health equity efforts across UnitedHealth Group since June of 2010. He is responsible for the development and execution of enterprise efforts, initiatives, and interventions to identify health disparities, as well as the enhancement and implementation of programs, services, and strategies to address identified health disparities. He has held roles in both the public and private sectors with responsibilities related to disease prevention, wellness, and health benefits, and has spent close to 30 years educationally and professionally focused on population health management. He has contributed to numerous health equity and health disparities related articles and publications, been a guest lecturer at public and private organizations as well as academic institutions, and continues to serve on various

local and national boards and committees focused on addressing barriers to healthcare and improving health outcomes. Michael received his MPH from George Washington University and his MBA from Johns Hopkins University.

Eugene Declercq, PhD, MS, MBA

Professor, Boston University School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Eugene Declercq is a Professor of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health and Professor on the faculty of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Boston University School of Medicine. He has been part of the team that produced six reports since 2002 on women's experiences in childbirth, entitled Listening to Mothers, and is the founder of the website, Birth by the Numbers. He is a current member of the Massachusetts Maternal Mortality Review Committee and is a recipient of the Martha May Eliot Award from the American Public Health Association for service to maternal and child health in the U.S.

Mary-Ann Etiebet, MD, MBA

Lead and Executive Director, Merck for Mothers
Kenilworth, New Jersey

Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet is the Lead of Merck for Mothers, Merck's \$500 million global health initiative to help end preventable maternal mortality. Merck for Mothers invests in programs, evidence generation, and advocacy to improve the access, quality, and experience of care. Since 2011, its partnerships have led to improved access to quality care and services for over 9.2 million women. Dr. Etiebet earned her MD and MBA from Yale University. She completed her residency in internal medicine at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell and her fellowship in infectious diseases Hospital System at New York-Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center.

Dawn Godbolt, PhD, MS

Health Policy Analyst, National Partnership for Women & Families
Washington, DC

Dr. Dawn Godbolt is a health policy analyst at the National Partnership for Women & Families where she co-leads the maternal health portfolio. This includes understanding disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity and crafting policy recommendations that address the current crisis. She also advocates for policies that expand access to healthcare. Prior to her work at the National Partnership, Dr. Godbolt completed her doctorate in sociology from Florida State University and a fellowship with the OpEd Project. Her previous work examined race differences in mothers' fear of allowing children outside, disparities in neighborhood factors, and the connections between stereotypes and obesity.

Kimberly Gregory, MD, MPH

Vice Chair, Women's Health Care Quality & Performance Improvement,
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Kimberly Gregory graduated from UCLA with a BS in psychobiology, received an MD from Charles Drew University of Sciences & Medicine, completed her residency in OB/GYN at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and completed a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at Women's Hospital, USC in Los Angeles. She received an MPH from Harvard University and is currently Professor and Vice Chair, Women's Healthcare Quality & Performance Improvement in the Department of Ob/Gyn at Cedars Sinai

Medical Center. She has received federal and foundation funding for research in women's health and has participated in numerous regional and national health policy advisory boards.

Kay Johnson, MPH, MEd

President, Johnson Group Consulting
Hinesburg, Vermont

Kay Johnson is widely recognized for work in maternal and child health (MCH), as a researcher, analyst, and consultant. She is president of Johnson Group Consulting. Her policy expertise includes perinatal and preconception care; home visiting; early childhood development and mental health; immunization; oral health; newborn screening; adolescent health; and children with special needs. Her work at Children's Defense Fund, March of Dimes, George Washington University, Dartmouth College, and Johnson Group have shaped the direction of MCH and Medicaid policy since 1984. She holds an MPH from the University of North Carolina and an EdM from the University at Buffalo.

Deborah Kilday, MSN

Clinical Improvement Advisor, Premier Inc.
Woodstock, Georgia

With over 35 years in healthcare, Deborah Kilday has dedicated her career to continuously improving the delivery of care to women and infants. Through collaboration with state, national, and international thought leaders, in an effort to improve patient safety and eliminate preventable harm, Deborah has helped to create reliable structures that support key performance improvement initiatives targeted at improving the quality and value of care delivered. Deborah currently serves as Performance Partner Manager—Women, Infants and Children for Premier Inc. She is a nationally recognized speaker and researcher dedicated to enhancing team knowledge and facilitating positive impacts.

Elliott Main, MD

Medical Director, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative
Stanford, California

Dr. Elliott Main has directed the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative since its inception 12 years ago and serves as the Chair of the California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Committee. Nationally, Dr. Main serves as the Quality Director for AIM, the 30-state project for the improvement of maternity outcomes funded by MCH-B. He is currently Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Stanford University). He has served or chaired national committees on maternal quality for ACOG, the AMA, The Joint Commission, Leap Frog, and CMS. In 2013, Dr. Main received the ACOG Distinguished Service Award for his work in quality improvement.

Claire Margerison, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Claire Margerison is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Michigan State University. She earned an MPH and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research identifies determinants of racial/ethnic and socioeconomic inequities in women's health during pregnancy and postpartum. Dr. Margerison's federally funded and published research has examined adverse birth outcomes, long-term cardiovascular health after pregnancy, and impacts of public policy on women's health. Her current research focus is on mortality and morbidity due to drugs, self-harm, and violence during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Kate Menard, MD, PhD

President, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dr. M. Kathryn Menard is a Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of North Carolina's School of Medicine. She serves as Vice Chair of the Department, Director of the Center for Maternal Infant Health, and Director of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine. Dr. Menard completed her residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. While a fellow at UNC, she completed a master's in public health as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. She also currently serves as Medical Director of the Pregnancy Medical Home model through Community Care of North Carolina.

Katrina Nardini, CNM, WHNP-BC, MSN, MPH, FACNM

Associate Chief, University of New Mexico
CNM Consultant, New Mexico Department of Health
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Katrina Nardini is the Associate Chief of the Midwifery Division at the University of New Mexico. As a consultant to the New Mexico Department of Health, she was instrumental in the revival of the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC). She functions as Lead Abstractor on the MMRC and is part of the Executive Leadership Committee. She also works with the New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative, and helped launch New Mexico into becoming an Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) state; she serves as the American College of Nurse-Midwives New Mexico liaison to AIM.

LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH

Director, District of Columbia Department of Health
Washington, DC

Dr. LaQuandra S. Nesbitt is a board-certified family physician with over a decade of experience leading population health initiatives in governmental public health agencies. Dr. Nesbitt currently serves as the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health in Washington, DC. As a physician leader, Dr. Nesbitt mobilizes organizations and communities to implement innovative solutions that promote health and wellness, and achieve health equity. Throughout her career she has led multisector collaborations to address innovation in healthcare delivery and its impact on high-cost, high-need, and other special populations and the integration of public health and healthcare.

Nicole Purnell

Coalition Program Manager and Maternal Health Advocate, Preeclampsia Foundation
Sanger, Texas

Nicole Purnell is a maternal health advocate based in North Texas. Her life was tragically changed in 2005 when preeclampsia and HELLP caused multiple organ failure and placenta abruption and resulted in the stillbirth of her son at 34 weeks gestation. For 10 years, Nicole chaired the Dallas Promise Walk for Preeclampsia while filling other volunteer roles. After 15 years in the printing industry as a project manager, Nicole joined the staff at the Preeclampsia Foundation as the MoMMA's Voices Coalition Program Manager. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the NNPQC.

Diana Ramos, MD, MPH, FACOG

Medical Director, Reproductive Health, Los Angeles County Public Health Department
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Diana Ramos is state lead for addressing and implementing perinatal opioid/substance abuse, perinatal mental health, pregnancy maternal mortality review, maternal levels of care, social determinants of health, and health equity initiatives. She served on the California Maternal Medical Quality Collaborative Executive board since its inception and has been a contributing author for various perinatal safety toolkits. She is co-chair for the California American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology Patient Safety Committee, and she is on the National American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement and the NQF Perinatal and Reproductive Health advisory group. She also serves on various other national health equity committees.

Elizabeth Rochin, PhD, RN, NE-BC

President, National Perinatal Information Center
Providence, Rhode Island

Dr. Elizabeth Rochin is the President of the National Perinatal Information Center (NPIC) located in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Rochin has over 30 years of nursing experience and expertise in maternal, newborn, and child health. Prior to her leadership at NPIC, she was the Vice President of Education and Clinical Solutions/Nursing at AWHONN, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing. Dr. Rochin provides thought leadership and expertise for organizations seeking to elevate and enhance their maternal and newborn quality outcomes. Her research interests include rural health and social determinants of health (SDOH).

Rachel Ruel, MSW, CLC, Community Doula

Co-Director, SPAN (the Family Voices State Affiliate Organization for National Family Voices)
Newark, New Jersey

Rachel Ruel is Co-Director for Sister-to-Sister Community Doulas at SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. She directed the Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Project. Sister-to-Sister focuses on eliminating disparities in maternal/infant mortality, training women from the community in the Uzazi Village Perinatal Doula Curriculum and providing community doula support. She has an MSW with a focus on Women's Reproductive Health. Rachel lives from an anti-racism framework and is focused on justice issues specifically around birth, breastfeeding, system inequities, centering communities at the center of care, and expansion of community doulas. Rachel has supported families as a community health worker, WIC Counselor, domestic violence advocate, etc.

Amber Weiseth, DNP, MSN, RNC-OB

Research Associate, Ariadne Labs
Boston, Massachusetts

Amber Weiseth is the Associate Director for the Delivery Decisions Initiative (DDI) at Ariadne Labs, where she oversees the measurement and implementation of the TeamBirth Project, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of childbirth. Amber has been an obstetric nurse for 15 years, specializing in quality improvement. Prior to joining Ariadne Labs, Amber served as Assistant Director for Maternal-Infant Health Initiatives at the Washington State Hospital Association. Amber earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Minnesota. She graduated with her MSN from Western Governors University and completed her BSN from Seattle Pacific University.

Amanda Williams, MD, MPH

Director of Maternity Services, The Permanente Medical Group at Kaiser Permanente Oakland, California

Dr. Amanda Williams is a practicing Obstetrician Gynecologist with The Permanente Medical Group at Kaiser Permanente (KP) in Oakland, CA. She has 14 years of experience in a large, integrated multidisciplinary healthcare system serving 4.3 million members. She has held numerous leadership roles and is an active member of KP Northern California's Advisory Council on Disparities in Women's Health, with a focus on maternity care. She has provided interviews in multiple periodicals on women's health focused on prenatal care, and she is currently the "voice" of KP Northern California Obstetrics and Gynecology on Twitter with more than 6,500 followers.

Tiffany Willis, PsyD

Licensed Neonatal Psychologist, The Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas City, Missouri

Dr. Tiffany Willis serves as the Neonatal Psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City where she works with the Fetal Health Center for women delivering babies with identified congenital anomalies, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Neonatal follow-up clinic. Dr. Willis chairs the National Perinatal Association's Perinatal Mental Health Workgroup, and her clinical interests include attachment and bonding, trauma, infant mental health, perinatal mental health, maternal mortality, and minority/underserved populations. Dr. Willis' research interests include the impact of psychosocial support for parents on the well-being of their baby and the power of attachment on the developing brain.

Susan Yendro, RN, MSN

Project Director, The Joint Commission
Oakbrook, Illinois

Susan Yendro is a Project Director in the Department of Quality Measurement, Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation for The Joint Commission. She leads the clinical team and manages projects associated with the identification, development, evaluation and maintenance of measures for use by healthcare organizations and other relevant entities in ongoing quality assessment and improvement activities. Ms. Yendro has served as the clinical lead for the Perinatal Care and Palliative Care measures. She has extensive clinical and administrative experience in a variety of care settings including home care, hospice, ambulatory, nursing home, assisted living, and hospital inpatient and outpatient.

Federal Liaisons

Girma Alemu, MD, MPH

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