Making It Real: Data and Life Stories on Black Maternal and Infant Health

Quality of Life for Families XXII: Improving Care for Patients Across Generations and Cultures
Perinatal Advisory Council: Leadership, Advocacy and Consultation
The California Endowment
June 13, 2019

Wenonah Valentine, MBA
Founder & Executive Director
Wenonah Valentine, MBA has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.

© 2019 iDREAM for Racial Health Equity
Text published in June 2019. The original concept for a cultural humility approach to implicit bias training was conceived at the iDREAM Social Change Leaders Retreat on February 25, 2017, followed by planning and execution of content developed for the UCSB 11th All Gauchos Reunion Hidden Triggers and Social Change Leaders Programming on April 27 and 29, 2017; and beta-tested content developed with students enrolled at CSUN Division of Health Sciences, St. Mary’s Academy Health Careers Program, and UCLA Honors Collegium. “Making It Real: Data ad Life Stories on Black Maternal and Infant Health” is a part of “Cultural Humility and Quality Care for Mothers, Families, and Children,” an interprofessional education (IPE) orientation for medical maternity providers may not be copied, translated, adapted, nor distributed. Direct written permission requests to iDREAM for Racial Health Equity, WeWork Fine Arts Building, 811 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Template Photo credit: Terri Bennett-Griffin © 2012 Mocha Moms Launch Party in collaboration with iDREAM for Prematurity Awareness Month.
Objectives:

Upon completion of this orientation, participants will be able to:

1. Form a baseline awareness, action and answers for improving Black maternal and infant health.
2. Assess personal communication and power imbalances.
3. Identify privilege, prejudices and generational biases about Black birthing persons.
4. Rethink dismissive vocabulary that contributes to harmful, intentional or unintentional, or encourages cultural biases.
We fight. We fight. We fight.
(Excerpts)

Moving Forward: Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
USC Price School of Public Policy
https://pricediversity.usc.edu/we-fight/
“My encounter with blatant racism happened in the Winter Quarter 1975. Sitting outside of the professor’s office...For the first time, I did not feel safe on campus at UCSB.”
It’s an ancestral cry of pain that we cannot or we are unwilling to discuss. We suffer and swallow it. We don’t deal with it but we live with it.”
“We fight to conceive. **We fight to bring our babies full-term.** We fight to pump breast milk with dignity on our jobs. **We fight for funding.** We fight. We fight. We fight. **The weathering effect of stress is OUR story.**”

---

“For Racial Health Equity”

---

“We fight to conceive. **We fight to bring our babies full-term.** We fight to pump breast milk with dignity on our jobs. **We fight for funding.** We fight. We fight. We fight. **The weathering effect of stress is OUR story.**”
“Lived experience positions my insights as power, passion and proof for first-generation college students and graduates to thrive.”
iDREAM Vision 2025: Inspiring Generational Champions for Resilience and Good Health

HOPE, HEALING AND ACTION
“Black college graduates have worse birth outcomes that white women who did not finish high school.”

www.unnaturalcauses.org

“We evolved as an unapologetic champion for Black college graduates focused on training, leadership and advocacy.

For Racial Health Equity
Community-Defined Peer Learning

Cultural Brokers

iDREAM Vision 2025

Interprofessional Education

Community Research Ambassadors
Defined

CULTURAL HUMILITY
Develop mutually beneficial and non-paternalistic clinical advocacy partnerships with communities on behalf of individuals and defined populations.

Incorporates a lifelong commitment to:

- Self-Evaluation
- Self-Critique

Redresssing (set right) power imbalances

Maternity Patient

Medical Provider

Cultural Iceberg: 5 Things About Me

EXERCISE 1
Treating everyone the same.

Fair access

Release or set free from barriers

https://nam.edu/the-case-for-health-literacy-moving-from-equality-to-liberation/
Exercise 1

List 5 words or phrases (identities) that describe me

How did it feel to write the list?

Was 5 enough?

Now rank them.

Now cross off one.

Now cross off another.

Continue until only one is left.

How are you feeling now?

THE POINT: We have multiple identities. We cannot rely simply on one lens for understanding who people are or what their world is like.
2017-2019 Post-Inauguration

ELEVATE AWARENESS, ACTION AND ANSWERS
“The opposite of poverty isn’t wealth.”

“The opposite of poverty is justice.”

Bryan Stevenson
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
400 Years is **ENOUGH**: Fighting Black Infant and Maternal Deaths

When skin color determines whether a child's life will be protected, we all fail as humans.

I feel like this needs to be posted periodically to refresh people's memories.

Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis

The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the fundamental question of treating a Black woman in America.
The maternal mortality ratio among African American women living in LA County is almost **5 times higher** than White mothers.

In LA County, the infant mortality rate among African American babies is **3.3 times higher** than White babies.

Preterm birth and low birth weight are birth outcomes associated with **infant death**.

**Racism** outweighs income, education, behavior, and access to care as a cause of infant death.

**Adjoa Jones**
Associate Director, Regional Collaboration - SPA 6
Whole Person Care-LA
Community Health & Integrated Programs
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
“What we lack is the ability to see black births and black women as valuable.”
Karen Scott, MD, MPH, FACOG

“What if the experience is the outcome?”
Senator Holly J. Mitchell SB 464 – Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act

This bill SB 464 will require all healthcare providers involved in perinatal services at hospitals and alternative birth centers to undergo evidence-based implicit bias training. The bill will also require the California Department of Public Health to track and publish maternal mortality and morbidity rates, including information about the underlying causes and the racial or ethnic identities of patients. Finally, the bill will adopt the U.S. standard death certificate format regarding pregnancy to better capture information about maternal mortality.

01 FACT:
Black women in the U.S. are 3 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

03 FACT:
Health care providers are not consistently required to undergo implicit bias, cultural competency, or empathy training.
“We are at the bottom of the list of priorities but the highest of disparity.”

Melissa Franklin, MBA
Pritzker Fellow, First 5 LA
USC Rosier School of Education Doctoral Student
Los Angeles County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality
Steering Committee Members include:
Sonya Young Aadam, California Black Women’s Health Project
Dr. Deborah Allen, Department of Public Health
Christina Altmayer, First 5 LA
Dr. Bita Amani, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Linda Aragon, Department of Public Health
Esther Casas, Children’s Bureau
Barbara Dubransky, First 5 LA
Melissa Franklin, First 5 LA/National Children and Infants Collaborative
Kalene Gilbert, Department of Mental Health
Raena Granberry, Black Women for Wellness
Dr. LaTanya Hines, Kaiser Permanente
Tonce Jackson, PHFE WIC
Adjoa Jones, Department of Health Services
Felica Jones, Healthy African American Families
Mashariki Kudumu, March of Dimes
McKinley Kemp, Antelope Valley Partners for Health
Dr. Nomsa Khalfani, Essential Access Health
Gwendolyn Manning, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Helen O’Connor, Department of Public Health
Dr. Simie Patterson, Kaiser Permanente
Kaci Patterson, LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment
Theion Perkins, Department of Mental Health
Nakeisha Robinson, iDREAM for Racial Health Equity
Yolonda Rogers-Jones, Department of Public Health
Brandi Sims, First 5 LA
Tanishia Wright, Department of Public Health

www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org
# Identifying Causes of Inequities

## Infant Mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH OUTCOMES</th>
<th>Infant Mortality Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONDITIONS AND RESOURCES</td>
<td>Income &amp; Wealth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH AND BIOLOGICAL RESPONSES</th>
<th>Chronic Stress &amp; Effect on the Body (physiological &amp; psychological)</th>
<th>Collective and Individual Resilience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND SYSTEMS</td>
<td>Structural Racism and Discrimination</td>
<td>Racial, Gender, and Class Bias</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Health Equity, Los Angeles Department of Public Health, 2018
"We can't sit here and cry over statistics when we're not taking care of our own."

Raena Granberry, BA
Spelman College Alumna
Maternal-Child Health Advocate, Black Women for Wellness
“I think there's a perfect storm of people who have lived experience... who are very interested in looking at reproductive health outcomes and we have better data.”

Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN
Assistant Professor
Family Health Care Nursing
UCSF School of Nursing
Birth Equity Bingo: A Generational Lens

EXERCISE 2
A GENERATIONAL TIMELINE...

- Pre 1945 (Pre-war (Silent))
- 1945-1965 (Baby Boomer)
- 1966-1979 (Gen X)
- 1980-1995 (Millennials)
- 1996- (Gen Z?)
- 2010- (Gen α??)

'I know: toddlers, babies, the unborn.'
Birth Equity Bingo
Shaneeda Lorraine Williamson
SIDS Death March 1984

Malaika Denise Valentine Hamilton
Still Birth July 1996

Vaughan A. Hamilon Valentine
Still Birth September 2001

Nailah Asha Merchant Taylor
Infant Death June 2006

Loretta Jones (1941-2018)
Founder, Healthy African American Families

Geraldine Perry-Williams (1955-2018)
Founding Program Coordinator
Black Infant Health, City of Pasadena

Susan Dove (1960-2017)
iDREAM Advisory Board Member, METRO

Jill Hayes (1954-2017)
iDREAM Graphic Designer

Lark Galloway-Gilliam (1953-2014)
Founder, Community Health Councils

Antronette Yancy, PhD (1957-2013)
Professor, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Clyde A. Woods, PhD (1957-2011)
Professor, UCSB Department of Black Studies
A Pathway to Equity: The 5-Year Plan to Close the Black-White Gap in Infant Mortality, Center for Health Equity, LA County Department of Public Health

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Steering Committee, LA County Department of Public Health in partnership with First 5 LA

Association of Black Women Physicians https://www.blackwomenphysicians.org/

Birth Equity Pilot, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative
https://www.cmqcc.org/qi-initiatives/birth-equity

Black Mamas Matter Alliance https://blackmamasmatter.org/bmhw/

Breastfeed LA http://breastfeedla.org

Community Birth Plan, California Department of Public Health
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Community-Birth-Plan.aspx

Cultural Humility

March of Dimes https://marchofdimes.org

South LA/South Bay African American Infant Maternal Mortality Community Action Team https://blackinfantsandfamilies.org

Special Series: Black Infant Mortality
https://www.scpr.org/topics/special-series-black-infant-mortality

These People Have Dedicated Their Lives To Keeping Black Babies Alive
https://laist.com/2018/07/06/these_people_have_dedicated_their_lives_to_keeping_black_babies_alive.php?ga=2.206280467.16714793.1560133676-2067255075.1543099395
How will you use what you learned today?

Wenonah Valentine, MBA
Founder & Executive Director
wvalentine@idreamnow.org
@IDreamnow