



Mia began at St. Louis Children's Hospital (SLCH) as a volunteer in 2018 and then was hired as a Family Partner & DEI Advisor in 2019. Most recently Mia was promoted to Program Manager for (Equitable) Patient Family-Centered Care at SLCH. Through her role as a DEI Advisory & Facilitator, Mia works with a number of departments to address disparities in care as well as provide guidance regarding staff education and growth as part of their individual and team DEI journeys. Mia has also been instrumental in a number of house & system-wide projects and initiatives. Mia's journey in healthcare, however, began 13 years ago when her son Gavin was born at 24 weeks. Her experiences as a NICU mom to a former 24-weeker paired with her expertise in the DEI space makes her a sought-after advisor and advocate for many both in and outside of the hospital walls. She is the co-author of *Racism & Quality of Neonatal Intensive Care: Voices of Black Mothers*, published in *PEDIATRICS*, as well as *Racism as a Preventable Harm*, published in *Nursing Administration Quarterly* (Oct-Dec 2021). Mia serves on a number of local & national committees and taskforces related to elevating parent and caregiver voices and diversity, equity, & inclusion in healthcare and has presented at both the local and national level on DEI topics. She has also been an instrumental part of the SLCH Black Hair Care Initiative work group and was on the planning committee for the first annual *More than Just Hair: Improving Hair Care Equity in Healthcare*, a first-of-its-kind national webinar series focused on Hair Care Equity in healthcare (Oct. 2022).

Mia's passion for advocacy and DEI work has always been part of her upbringing but was kicked into overdrive by her lived experiences. Her truth is, that in predominantly white spaces, like our hospital systems, children are dying because biases are permeating medicine, and we can no longer afford not to talk about it. Acknowledgment is a step towards equity, but acknowledgement without action is irresponsible. Mia is someone who fights for the voices of families and communities that have been underserved in the "greatest, richest nation in the world."