



Health Advisory Council
Seventh Annual Summer Membership Meeting
June 11, 2021
A G E N D A

12:00 PM

Welcome Remarks

Sally Greenberg, *Executive Director, NCL*

Agenda Overview

Jeanette Contreras, *Director of Health Policy, NCL*

NCL Health Policy Roundup

Nissa Shaffi, *Associate Director of Health Policy, NCL*

12:10 PM

Script Your Future 10-Year Anniversary

Team Challenge Winners

12:20 PM

Panel: Maternal Health Disparities in the U.S.

Moderator: Jeanette Contreras, Director of Health Policy, NCL

Panelists:

Dr. Zsakeba Henderson, *Deputy Chief Medical & Health Officer, March of Dimes*

Jamarah Amani, *Co-Founder, National Black Midwives Alliance*

Christina Wurster, *CEO, Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine*

Alyson Northrup, *Associate Director for Government Affairs, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs*

Natasha Bonhomme, *Founder, Expecting Health*

1:15 PM

HAC Member Round Robin

1:30 PM

Adjourn

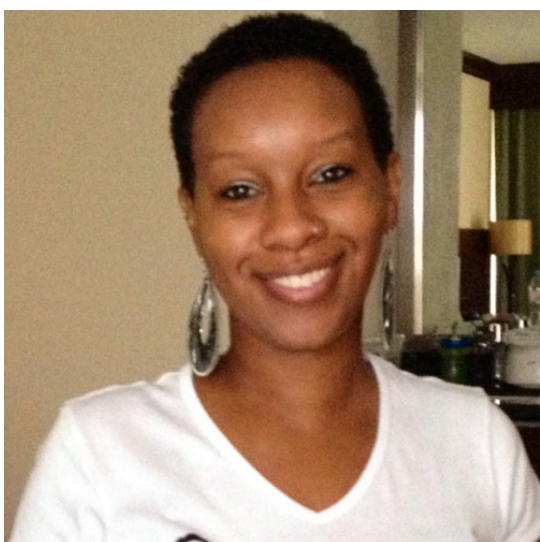
* Please mute your devices when not speaking.

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PANELIST BIOS



Dr. **Zsakeba Henderson, MD**, is the Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Medical and Health Officer of March of Dimes, one of the nation's leading maternal health nonprofits. In this role she leads the Office of Maternal and Child Health Impact where she provides her extensive expertise as a board-certified OB/GYN to help end the maternal and infant health crisis. She has over 15 years of experience managing maternal and infant health initiatives, including the establishment of the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives. Before joining March of Dimes, Dr. Henderson worked as a Medical Officer at the CDC where she developed epidemiologic, programmatic, and surveillance projects to improve maternal healthcare. Dr. Henderson obtained her medical degree at Harvard Medical School after receiving a B.S. In Biochemistry at Oakfield University



Jamarah Amani is a community midwife and the co-founder of the National Black Midwives Alliance, a national professional association for midwives of African descent that seeks to promote access to Black midwives and raise awareness about the services that they perform in their respective communities. Amani has been fighting the epidemics of Black maternal and infant mortality for over 15 years and currently serves as the Director of the Southern Birth Justice Network, a non-profit organization working to make midwifery and doula care accessible to all. Additionally, she offers midwifery care to families across South Florida.



Christina J. Wurster, MBA, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), an organization that supports the practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research, and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of those with high-risk pregnancies and their babies. Wurster brings more than 20 years of experience in strategic planning, program development, communications, and stakeholder relations to this role. Previously, Wurster was the Chief Strategy Officer of the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), an international leader in science, education, and advocacy for cardiac arrhythmia professionals

and patients. Prior to the Heart Rhythm Society, Wurster was Manager of Strategic Marketing and Planning for Massachusetts General Hospital where she was the lead strategic planner and liaison to the Heart and Vascular Centers. Earlier in her career, Wurster held management roles at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and Ford Motor Company. Wurster holds a BA in business administration and communications from Indiana University and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She spent 5 years as an Associate Adjunct Professor at University of Maryland's Global Campus (UMGC), where she taught nonprofit management, strategic planning, and healthcare management.



Alyson K. Northrup, MS is the associate director for public policy and government affairs at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP). In this role, she executes AMCHP's policy activities, including advocating for Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funding, promoting [AMCHP's federal policy agenda](#), and representing AMCHP in various policy coalitions. Ms. Northrup serves as the policy core co-lead for the [Maternal Health Learning & Innovation Center](#). Over the last two years, Ms. Northrup has worked in partnership with many health policy experts and advocates to advance federal and state efforts to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months. Prior to joining AMCHP, Ms. Northrup served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). Ms. Northrup was responsible for managing the senator's

legislative portfolio for health care, child welfare, and education issues. She holds a Master of Science degree from the University at Albany, State University of New York and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University.



Natasha F. Bonhomme. For nearly 15 years, Natasha Bonhomme has advocated for better connections between people and the healthcare system through program design and implementations, public private partnership development, and helping others build their capacity to make change in their communities. She launched Expecting Health to address the fear and confusion many face when they are planning for a family by bringing consumer and professional stakeholders together to address the need for clear, science-based information for families and individuals through tangible, actionable messages.

Her focus on bringing families' perspectives into policy development through implementation and evaluation has led to a number of patient-centric programs. Her programmatic portfolio includes leading Baby's First Test, a national resource center which reaches over 600,000 families and health providers annually, convening the Perinatal Nutrition Collaborative, a coalition of organizations and nutrition experts that share emerging science and research efforts, and participating on numerous committees on maternal and infant health and dignified care throughout the prenatal and postnatal periods. Ms. Bonhomme has also testified in front of Congress on the importance of family support and education in newborn screening. She is a Board Member of the DC-based Federally Qualified Health Center, Whitman-Walker Health, which provides affirming community-based care with a special focus on LGBTQ and HIV care.



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NCL's Health Policy Resources

[Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance](#)

NCL has partnered with maternal and women's health organizations to advocate against the proposed market withdrawal of 17P, the only FDA approved treatment to prevent recurrent preterm birth, a decision that will disproportionately impact women of color.

[Consumers for Safe CBD](#)

NCL continues to advocate for greater regulation of CBD products and more research into the medical benefits and risks of CBD.

[AAPI Heritage Month: The 'Model Minority Myth' and its negative impact on health disparities](#)

NCL Associate Director of Health Policy Nissa Shaffi recently wrote a blog post about the health inequities and discrimination faced by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to commemorate AAPI Heritage Month.

[NCL Supports the Protecting Seniors Through Immunizations Act of 2021](#)

NCL recently spoke out in support of the Protecting Seniors Through Immunizations Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation would eliminate copays for all vaccines covered by Medicare Part D, ensuring that all older Americans can access vaccines that protect them from preventable illnesses and deaths.

[Como Detectar el COVID-19 en Casa](#)

NCL Director of Health Policy Jeanette Contreras wrote this Spanish Language blog post on why we must all continue to take public health precautions to halt the spread of COVID-19, with an emphasis on the use of home diagnostic test kits.

[The Decline in COVID-19 Testing Nationwide Could Derail Pandemic Response Wins](#)

NCL Associate Director of Health Policy Nissa Shaffi wrote a blog post highlighting the declining rate of COVID-19 testing over the last several months and why we must halt this trend as we continue our fight against the pandemic.