

**NEW ENGLAND  
MATERNAL HEALTH SUMMIT**  
September 12, 2022

Hosted by the US Department of Health and  
Human Services - Region 1 (New England)

# **Community-Led Triumphs: How Community Advances Maternal Health and Wellbeing in New England**

Monday, September 12, 2022  
9:00AM – 4:30PM

## **Program Booklet**

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## Community-Led Triumphs: How Community Advances Maternal Health and Wellbeing in New England

Monday, September 12, 2022  
9:00am – 4:30pm ET

### AGENDA

<p><b>9:00am-9:15am</b></p>	<p><b>Greetings and Welcome</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Everett L. Handford, MBA</b>, Regional Director – Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• <b>Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM</b>, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, women’s health care provider at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and Founder of Lucinda’s House</li> <li>• <b>Betsy Rosenfeld, JD</b>, Regional Health Administrator – Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</li> </ul> <p>Summit Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tina J. Sang, MPH, MSW</b>, Regional Women’s Health Analyst – Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</li> </ul>
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## Community-Led Triumphs:

### How Community Advances Maternal Health and Wellbeing in New England

#### AGENDA

<b>9:15am-10:00am</b>	<p><b>Panel: Community-based participatory research</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ditra Edwards</b>, Co-Founder and Director of SISTA Fire</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Alexa Barriga</b>, Founding Member and Organizing Coordinator of SISTA Fire</li><li>• <b>Preetilata Hashemi</b>, Founding Member of SISTA Fire and Community Doula</li><li>• <b>Adria Marchetti</b>, Founding Member of SISTA Fire</li></ul>
<b>10:00am-10:15am</b>	<p><b>Presentation: National perspective on maternal health</b></p> <p>Speaker: <b>Caryn Marks, MPP</b>, Director of Strategic Partnerships in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, US Department of Health and Human Services</p>
<b>10:15am-10:45am</b>	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b> <i>Black Women and Maternal Health Disparities: Addressing the Role of Racism</i></p> <p>Keynote Speaker: <b>Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH</b> Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health, Associate Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, and Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Tufts University School of Medicine; Director and Founder of MOTHER Lab; Director and Founder of Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice at Tufts University</p>
<b>10:45am-11:00am</b>	<p><b>Break</b></p>

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<b>11:00am-12:15pm</b>	<p><b>Panel: Community-based maternal health care</b></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Katy Leffel, RN, BSN, IBCLC</b>, Perinatal Health Nurse Program Coordinator at Vermont Department of Health, Maternal Child Health Division</li></ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nashira Baril, MPH</b>, Project Director of Neighborhood Birth Center and Co-Founder &amp; Co-Director of Birth Center Equity</li><li>• <b>Amy Wenger, RN, IBCLC</b>, Clinical Nurse Manager at Franklin County Home Health Agency and Co-Executive Director of Vermont Donor Milk Center</li><li>• <b>Liz Remillard, MPH</b>, Program Manager of MaineMOM Program, Office of MaineCare Services</li><li>• <b>Christine Lens, RNC, MSN, MBA</b>, Manager of Integrated Care Management - Public Plans, Tufts Health Plan at Point32Health</li><li>• <b>Dianna Hahn, MA, DC (DONA)</b>, Associate Director and Doula, Accompany Doula Care</li></ul>
<b>12:15pm-12:45pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

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<p><b>12:45pm-2:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: State health departments' perspectives of maternal health in New England</b></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lolita A. McLean, DrPH, MPH</b>, Public Health Analyst/Project Officer - Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau</li></ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ilisa Stalberg, MSS, MLSP</b>, Maternal and Child Health Director at Vermont Department of Health</li><li>• <b>Marc Camardo, MPH</b>, Title V Maternal and Child Health Director &amp; State Systems Development Initiative Director at Connecticut Department of Public Health</li><li>• <b>Maryann Harakall, MPPM</b>, Maternal and Child Health Program Director at Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention</li><li>• <b>Deborah Garneau, MA</b>, Deputy Director of the Division of Community Health and Equity &amp; Title V Maternal and Child Health/Special Needs Director at Rhode Island Department of Health</li><li>• <b>Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA</b>, Title V Director &amp; Director of the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition at Massachusetts Department of Public Health</li><li>• <b>Lissa A. Sirois, MPH, RD, IBCLC</b>, Interim Bureau Chief of Population Health and Community Services at New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services</li></ul>
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<b>2:15pm- 3:15pm</b>	<p><b>Panel: Maternal health workforce</b></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trinidad Tellez, MD</b>, Principal, [Health] Equity Strategies, LLC</li></ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM</b>, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, women’s health care provider at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and Founder of Lucinda’s House</li><li>• <b>Sherry A. Stevens, CPM, NHCM</b>, Certified Professional Midwife, New Hampshire Certified Midwife, Owner of New Life Midwifery Service, and Chair of New Hampshire Midwifery Council</li><li>• <b>SciHonor Devotion, eCID, CLC</b>, Founding Director of Earth’s Natural Touch: Birth Care and Beyond, Labor Doula, Postpartum Doula, Childbirth Educator, Home birth Midwife Assistant, Certified Lactation Counselor, Maternal Child Health Specialist, Reproductive Health Advocate, Current Midwifery Student, and Doula Trainer</li></ul>
<b>3:15pm- 3:30pm</b>	<b>Break</b>

## Community-Led Triumphs:

### How Community Advances Maternal Health and Wellbeing in New England

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<p><b>3:30pm-4:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Concurrent workshops will be held for each of the following topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Diversifying maternal health workforce</i>  Facilitator: <b>Lolita A. McLean, DrPH, MPH</b>, Public Health Analyst/Project Officer - Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau</li> <li>• <i>Utilizing community-based research for systems change and advocacy</i>  Facilitator: <b>Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM</b>, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, women's health care provider at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and Founder of Lucinda's House</li> <li>• <i>Building partnerships and enhancing coordination</i>  Facilitator (Group I): <b>Georgia M. Simpson, MS</b>, Regional Minority Health Analyst - Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health  Facilitator (Group II): <b>Aidea Downie, MA</b>, Disparities Specialist for the Maternal and Child Health Program, Rhode Island Department of Health</li> <li>• <i>Funding and insurance coverage for community-based services</i>  Facilitator: <b>Adriana Jean Louis, CD (DP)</b>, Maternal Health Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Public Health</li></ul>
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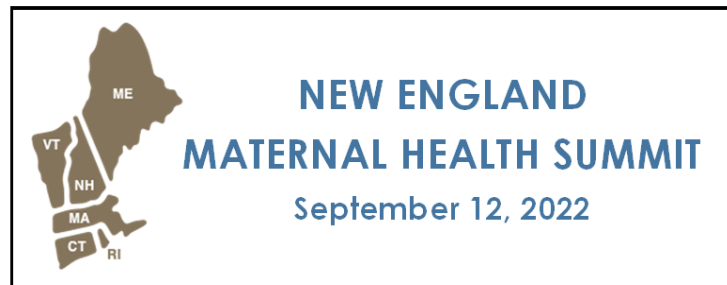
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<b>4:15pm- 4:30pm</b>	<p><b>Building on our Momentum</b> Summit follow-up activities Acknowledgements Thank You</p> <p>Summit Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tina J. Sang, MPH, MSW</b>, Regional Women’s Health Analyst – Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</li></ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Deborah Garneau, MA</b>, Deputy Director of the Division of Community Health and Equity &amp; Title V Maternal and Child Health/Special Needs Director at Rhode Island Department of Health; Region 1 Director at Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs</li><li>• <b>Betsy Rosenfeld, JD</b>, Regional Health Administrator – Region 1 (New England), US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</li></ul>
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## Community-Led Triumphs:

### How Community Advances Maternal Health and Wellbeing in New England

Speakers, Moderators, Facilitators, and Program Planning Sub-Committee

[Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH](#)

[Nashira Baril, MPH](#)

[Alexa Barriga](#)

[Marc Camardo, MPH](#)

[Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM](#)

[SciHonor Devotion, eCID, CLC](#)

[Aidea Downie, MA](#)

[Ditra Edwards](#)

[Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA](#)

[Deborah Garneau, MA](#)

[Natalia T. Guevara, MS](#)

[Dianna Hahn, MA, DC \(DONA\)](#)

[Everett L. Handford, MBA](#)

[Maryann Harakall, MPPM](#)

[Preetilata Hashemi](#)

[Adriana Jean Louis, CD \(DP\)](#)

[Katy Leffel, RN, BSN, IBCLC](#)

[Christine Lens, RNc, MSN, MBA](#)

[Adria Marchetti](#)

[Caryn Marks, MPP](#)

[Lolita A. McLean, DrPH, MPH](#)

[Liz Remillard, MPH](#)

[Betsy Rosenfeld, JD](#)

[Tina J. Sang, MPH, MSW](#)

[Georgia M. Simpson, MS](#)

[Lissa A. Sirois, MPH, RD, IBCLC](#)

[Ilisa Stalberg, MSS, MLSP](#)

[Sherry A. Stevens, CPM, NHCM](#)

[Trinidad Tellez, MD](#)

[Amy Wenger, RN, IBCLC](#)

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*(in order of appearance)*



**Tina Jui-Yu Sang, MPH, MSW**

Regional Women's Health Analyst - Region 1 (New England)  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Tina J. Sang is the Regional Women's Health Analyst for HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) in Region 1 - New England. At HHS OASH, Tina serves as the regional representative for the HHS Office on Women's Health which coordinates women's health efforts across HHS and addresses critical women's health issues by informing and advancing policies, educating health care professionals and consumers, and supporting innovative programs.

Prior to joining HHS OASH Region 1, Tina served as a Program Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Department of Mental Health's Office of Race, Equity, and Inclusion as well as the MassHealth Office of Long-Term Services and Supports. In 2013, she completed a three-year post-graduate fellowship at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tina received a Master in Public Health and Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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**Everett L. Handford, MBA**

Regional Director - Region 1 (New England)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Everett Handford is the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for New England. He previously served as the Deputy State Director for United States Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Everett oversaw Senator Warren's state operations, constituent services portfolio, and political outreach. Prior to working for Senator Elizabeth Warren, Everett was a brand management consultant for professional athletes. Everett received his Master's degree from the University of Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico in Public Health Administration, a Business Certificate from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and a BA of Science from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI.



**Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM**

Associate Professor  
Certified Nurse-Midwife  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Dr. Lucinda Canty is a certified nurse-midwife and an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She received her BSN from Columbia University, her MSN from Yale University, specializing in nurse-midwifery, and her PhD from the University of Connecticut. Her research interests include the prevention of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, reducing racial and ethnic health disparities in reproductive health, promoting diversity in nursing, and eliminating racism in nursing. She is an artist, poet, and historian. She provides women's health care at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. She is the founder of Lucinda's House, a Black Maternal Health Collective to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health through community collaboration and programs that provide support and education.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **Betsy F. Rosenfeld, JD**

Regional Health Administrator - Region 1 (New England)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

As the chief regional public health official for HHS/OASH, Betsy leads a team responsible for a broad portfolio of public health work organized around principles of health equity and systemic change. The HHS/OASH Region 1 team works on a range of health-related issues: COVID-19 vaccine and treatment equity; girls' and women's health; infectious disease and immunization; harm reduction in the context of substance use and mental health; the emergence and sustainability of the community health worker (CHW) workforce across New England; economic justice and an economy built on dignity; healthy aging; and climate change and environmental justice as they affect health equity.

Ms. Rosenfeld serves as the primary liaison for state and local public health officials as they interact with HHS/OASH, and her team regularly partners with other federal agencies, as well as community based organizations, academic public health and medical centers, health delivery systems, philanthropies, faith based organizations and a broad range of non-health partners to improve health outcomes across the New England states.

A native of Miami, FL, she graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

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#### **Ditra Edwards**

Co-Founder/Director  
SISTA Fire

Ditra Edwards is the Co-founder and Director for SISTA Fire. She is a Black woman born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island, with over 20 years of experience working on racial and economic justice issues. Throughout her career, she has carried the thread (and accent!) of her upbringing in Rhode Island and has woven it with lessons she learned everywhere from Boston to Washington, DC, and beyond. Her work's theme is making connections between people, their values and vision, and the change they want to bring about. Because of this, she believes in a people-centered approach to changing structural conditions and building community power.



#### **Alexa Barriga**

Founding Member, Organizing Coordinator  
SISTA Fire

Alexa Barriga (they | them) is a founding member and the Organizing Coordinator for SISTA Fire, a member driven organization building collective power with Black Indigenous women and nonbinary people of color for social, economic, and political transformation. Alexa has supported the development of SISTA Fire's Black Maternal Health Campaign, which seeks to change birth outcomes and patient experience for Black women and all birthing people of color in Rhode Island. They have held a leadership role in SISTA Fire's 3-year community accountability process with Women and Infants Hospital and in building a body of community data by and for women of color, through Participatory Action Research. Alexa is the facilitator for SISTA Fire's Mutual Aid Committee, which has been coordinating mutual aid during the COVID19 Pandemic for over two years. They are a second generation Colombian and Cuban American, and an eldest sister.

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#### **Preetilata Hashemi**

Founding Member & Community Doula  
SISTA Fire

Preetilata Hashemi (she/her) is a founding member of SISTA Fire, where she is building collective power with women and nonbinary folks of color in Rhode Island. As a SISTA Fire member-leader, she is part of the Black Maternal Health Campaign Committee, a facilitator for the Doulas of Color Network, and supported the passage of the RI Doula Reimbursement Act. Preetilata works at the Center for Youth and Community Leadership in Education, where she supports the Our Schools PVD Alliance to ensure that youth and community leadership are centered in the transformation of Providence Public Schools. She is also a community doula, honored to support pregnant and birthing families. Preetilata is a first generation Bangladeshi immigrant, and proud auntie.



#### **Adria Marchetti**

Founding Member  
SISTA Fire

Adria Marchetti (she/they) is a freelance essayist, content creator, community activist and poet. She is a founding member of SISTA Fire RI and has been a part of the Women & Infants Hospital campaign. Adria is a neurodivergent mother to two amazing neurodivergent children. Outside of SISTA Fire, she has participated in digital organizing online; fundraised for Black and brown moms through direct giving campaigns to provide mutual aid, community care, and hold space for and amplify the lived experiences of neurodivergent parents, Black and Indigenous womxn and non-binary folks of color.

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#### **Caryn Marks, MPP**

Stakeholder Lead

Office of Management and Budget

Caryn Marks serves as the Stakeholder Lead for the Customer Experience Executive Order that was issued to improve the experience of accessing Federal benefits and services. In this capacity, Caryn works on improving the experience of navigating health and social services, specifically for low-income individuals when giving birth. Caryn also serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs in the Department of Health and Human Services, where she directs public-private partnerships for the Department and focuses on stakeholder engagement on issues related to maternal health.

Caryn previously served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation as a social science analyst in the Office of Health Policy, assisting with Medicaid, CHIP, and health reform research and policy issues. Before coming to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Caryn focused on health reform implementation and Medicaid and CHIP policy at Booz Allen Hamilton, National Governors Association, and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Caryn earned a Master in Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor's degree from Emory University.

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#### **Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH, CHES**

Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health  
Associate Professor, Public Health and Community Medicine  
Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Director and Founder, Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice  
Director and Founder, MOTHER Lab  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Dr. Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha is the inaugural Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. She is also the inaugural Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs. Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is the Founder and Director of the Center of Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice, and of the Maternal Outcomes of Translational Health Equity Research (MOTHER) Lab.

Dr. Amutah-Onukagha's research investigates maternal health disparities, reproductive health and social justice, and HIV/AIDS as experienced by Black women. She is the Principal Investigator of two multi-year studies centered on maternal mortality and morbidity, an R01 funded by the National Institutes of Health, and an interdisciplinary grant on health equity funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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**Katy Leffel, RN, BSN, IBCLC**

Perinatal Health Nurse Program Coordinator  
Maternal Child Health Division  
Vermont Department of Health

Katy is a public health nurse focusing on perinatal health for the Maternal Child Health Division in the Vermont Department of Health. Prior to transitioning to state work this year, she worked in a variety of nursing settings and specialties. For over ten years she was in home health as a maternal child health nurse and supervisor, providing medical and lactation services as well as several evidence-based nurse home visiting programs. Katy earned her CLC certification in 2013, IBCLC certification in 2019 and her RN-MNN in 2021. She continues to work per diem in home health with perinatal people and children. She is a mother to three girls, partner to a public-school teacher and pet parent to a mutt.



**Nashira Baril, MPH**

Project Director, Neighborhood Birth Center  
Co-Founder & Co-Director, Birth Center Equity

Nashira (she/her) is a biracial Black woman, the daughter and great-granddaughter of midwives, who birthed both of her children at home and has experienced firsthand the transformative experience and liberation of midwifery support. Nashira is the founder of Boston's Neighborhood Birth Center, the city's first freestanding birth center start up. With a master's degree in Maternal and Child Health from Boston University School of Public Health and nearly 20 years of experience designing and implementing public health strategies to advance racial equity, Nashira brings a structural analysis and somatic practice to the design and implementation of public health strategies that advance justice and equity. She has worked at the Boston Public Health Commission, Harvard School of Public Health, and most recently Human Impact Partners, and she maintains a small consulting practice focused on facilitating organizational development for equity. Nashira currently lives on unceded Massa-adchu-es-et land, known as Mattapan, Boston with her husband and two kids.

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#### **Amy Wenger, RN, IBCLC**

Clinical Nurse Manager, Franklin County Home Health Agency  
Founder and Co-Executive Director, Vermont Donor Milk Center

Amy Wenger is a Registered Nurse and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Her passion for Maternal Child Health work began over twenty years ago as a doula and childbirth educator. As a nurse Amy deepened her work with birthing and lactating people working on Vermont's largest postpartum unit, in pediatric clinics, and in her current position as the maternal-child clinical nurse manager at a community home health agency. Amy is also the founder and co-executive director of the Vermont Donor Milk Center which provides outpatient pasteurized donor human milk to infants who require supplementation, along with crucial lactation supports and postpartum resources.

Amy is a believer in strong systems of care that support the best interest of the client that are both trauma-informed and family-centered. Dancing in the gray areas found during the vulnerable perinatal period; thinking of outside of the box solutions and breaking down barriers is what excites her the most about the work that she is lucky to be a part of.



#### **Liz Remillard, MPH**

Program Manager  
Office of MaineCare Services  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Liz Remillard is a Program Manager at the Office of MaineCare Services, Maine Department of Health and Human Services managing projects focused on the integration of physical and behavioral health services. Liz served as the Project Lead for MaineCare's MaineMOM Initiative, which aims to build comprehensive and connected substance use treatment services for pregnant and postpartum people in Maine. Liz earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Maine and a Master's degree of Public Health from the University of Southern Maine.

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**Christine Lens, RNc, MSN, MBA**

Manager, Integrated Care Management, Public Plans  
Tufts Health Plan at Point32Health

Christine holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Simmons College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Christine worked as a registered nurse in maternity nursing for most of her nursing career before obtaining her Women's Health NP degree. As an NP, Christine worked in several community health centers serving underserved populations. In addition, Christine has experience in start-up program development, such as the Perinatal Program at the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center and implementing the Patient-Centered Medical Home model of care at Harbor Health Services as the Director of Nursing. In Christine's current position at Tufts Health Plan, Christine is the Manager of Integrated Care Management in Public Plans and oversees the Obstetrical, Pediatric, and Community Partner Care Managers.



**Dianna Hahn, MA, CD (DONA)**

Associate Director and Doula  
Accompany Doula Care

Dianna holds an MA in International Education from the School for International Training, and a BA in Anthropology from Connecticut College. She began her doula training as a second career after 15 years directing organizations in the International Education field. Now a certified doula, she supports the leadership of Accompany Doula Care as the Associate Director, drawing from her background in nonprofit management and leadership development. Dianna's interest in maternal health and doula work sparked after the birth of her first child. In addition to working with Accompany Doula Care, she is a college instructor for gap year programming and continues to consult in the International Education field. Dianna received her doula certification from DONA International, is trained in Spinning Babies, and has been with Accompany Doula Care since its inception.

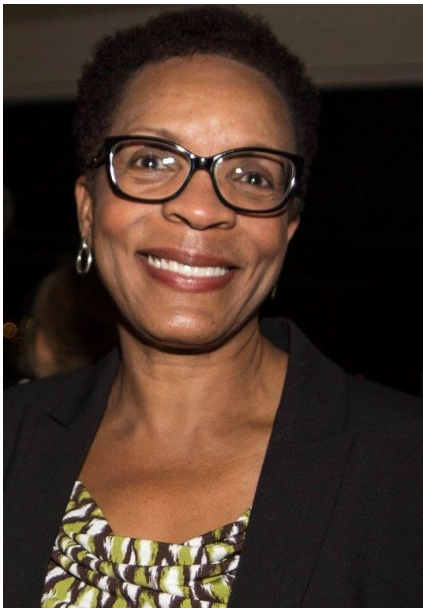
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*(in order of appearance)*



**Lolita A. McLean, DrPH, MPH**

Public Health Analyst/Project Officer, Region 1  
Division of State and Community Health (DSCH)  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Lolita McLean is a public health analyst for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)/Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) in Region 1 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont). At HRSA/MCHB, Lolita is a project officer in the Division of State and Community Health (DSCH) -Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program. As one of the largest federal block grant programs, Title V is a key source of support for promoting and improving the health and well-being of the nation's mothers, children, including children with special needs, and their families.



**Ilisa Stalberg, MSS, MLSP**

Maternal and Child Health Director  
Vermont Department of Health

Ilisa provider leadership and oversight of strategic planning, operations, MCH programming and policy development, budget, human resources, workforce development, and communications within the Division of Maternal and Child Health. Ilisa directs all statewide Title V activities and is a member of the Department's leadership team. Ilisa is a member of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Team (ECICT) and a voting member of the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Committee. Prior to her role as Director, Ilisa was MCH Deputy Director and Director of Preventive Reproductive Health at the Vermont Department of Health. Ilisa is originally from Philadelphia and spent many years working in direct service for an organization serving children and families. Ilisa has a Master's in Social Service and Law and Social Policy from Bryn Mawr College and has been working at the Vermont Department of Health since 2010.

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**Marc Camardo, MPH**

Supervising Epidemiologist

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Marc Camardo is a Supervising Epidemiologist and serves as the Title V Director and State Systems Development Initiative Director at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Mr. Camardo has a MPH with 14 years of experience at the Department and has dedicated his work to improving the health of women and infants, children and adolescents, and children with special health care needs. In this role, Mr. Camardo provides oversight and direction to the MCH Epidemiology Unit supervising epidemiologists and provides technical assistance in executing the work of the Unit, including surveillance activities, data analyses, and other emerging initiatives. Mr. Camardo also provides leadership by working vertically and cross-functionally with Department and Section management in supporting the coordination of the MCHBG.



**Maryann Harakall, MPPM**

Maternal and Child Health Program Director

Maine CDC

As the State of Maine Title V Director, Ms. Harakall directs the MCH Program at the Maine CDC which includes the management of the MCH Block Grant as well as the State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) grant. Ms. Harakall also serves as the Project Director for the MIECHV Grant. Prior to joining Maine CDC, Ms. Harakall led multiple projects to implement environmental strategies for substance abuse prevention, including youth advocacy efforts, trainings for police officers and retailers, and school substance abuse policy development. Maryann holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine and a master's degree in Public Policy and Management from the Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **Deborah Garneau, MA**

Maternal and Child Health Director  
Division of Community Health and Equity  
Rhode Island Department of Health

Deborah Garneau, MA is the Deputy Director of the Division of Community Health and Equity and Title V Maternal and Child Health / Special Needs Director at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). In this position she is responsible to advance RIDOH's health equity priorities, identify and address health disparities and advance equity in Rhode Island through strategic investments, technical assistance, engagement, messaging, and public policy. Ms. Garneau assists in administration of RIDOH's core public health programs in chronic care and disease management, drug overdose, tobacco control, violence and injury prevention, perinatal and early childhood health, immunization, oral health, and school health. She provides leadership to addressing the social, environmental, and economic determinants of health affecting vulnerable populations and ensuring health disparities are identified and systematically addressed throughout RIDOH programs including health equity zones and community health workforce. Ms. Garneau served as a mental health clinician and administrator within child welfare prior to state service.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA**

Title V Director and Director of Family Health and Nutrition Bureau

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis is the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Title V Director and Director of the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition. Prior to this role, she served as director for national technical assistance centers supporting Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and director for the Infant Mortality Collaborative for Improvement and Innovation (IM CoIIN). She led state and regional initiatives to improve MCH outcomes including the Massachusetts CHIPRA Medical Home Collaborative, Texas WIC Breastfeeding Learning Collaborative, a local breastfeeding collaborative to improve breastfeeding initiation and continuation among self-identified Black and Hispanic women involved with Boston Healthy Start Initiative, and a regional SAMHSA funded early childhood system of care in Southeastern Connecticut.

Dr. Fitzgerald Lewis received her DrPH in MCH from Boston University School of Public Health, her master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University with a focus on children's rights and economic development, and her Bachelor of Science in government from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She is a distinguished veteran and adjunct clinical assistant professor at Boston University School of Public Health.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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**Lissa A. Sirois, MPH, RD, IBCLC**

Interim Bureau Chief, Population Health and Community Services  
Division of Public Health Services  
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Lissa Sirois is the Interim Bureau Chief for the Population Health and Community Services Bureau at the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services. At the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, she provides oversight to Nutrition Services, Maternal and Child Health, and Chronic Disease and Tobacco Cessation. Lissa has been working in public health nutrition for over 22 years, with a fiery passion for maternal and child health topics.

Lissa graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor in Nutritional Sciences and soon after completed requirements to become a Registered Dietitian and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. She then went on to get her Master of Public Health at Dartmouth College. In addition to her role at Division of Public Health Services, she serves in multiple volunteer roles, including as the current Chair for the New Hampshire Breastfeeding Coalition and the Northeast Representative on the National WIC Association's board of directors; but her favorite volunteer role is coaching volleyball at her local Boys and Girls Club.



## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **Trinidad Tellez, MD**

Principal

[Health] Equity Strategies, LLC

Dr. Trinidad Tellez is a family physician, community-based health disparities researcher, educator, and public health / health policy professional with over 20 years' experience operationalizing equity, diversity & inclusion and organizational cultural effectiveness to address health disparities, improve access and quality, and advance health and equity for all. Dr. Tellez champions authentic community engagement, collaborative partnership building, and equitable participatory processes as important mechanisms for facilitating and leading community-driven approaches to co-creating equity.

Dr. Tellez graduated from Dartmouth Medical School, trained at the UCSF-affiliated Natividad Family Medicine Residency in Salinas, California, served as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellow at the University of California Los Angeles, and has worked in both the private and public sectors at the local, state and regional levels since moving back to New Hampshire in 2002. She is an adjunct instructor for the MPH Programs at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, and serves as an Equity subject matter expert for the Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network (NNEPQIN) where she collaborates on multiple MCH initiatives.



#### **Sherry A. Stevens, CPM, NHCM**

New Hampshire Certified Midwife

New Life Midwifery Service

Sherry A. Stevens, CPM, NHCM is a homebirth midwife serving the central New Hampshire region. A mother of four, (3 under midwifery care), Sherry has been attending home births since the late 1980s. She has served on the New Hampshire Midwives Associate board, New Hampshire Midwifery Council and many related committees in an effort to improve SUID, safe sleep and breastfeeding outcomes.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **SciHonor Devotion, eCID, CLC**

Founding Director

Earth's Natural Touch: Birth Care & Beyond

SciHonor Devotion is a Labor Doula, Postpartum Doula, Childbirth Educator, Home birth Midwife Assistant, Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), Maternal Child Health Specialist, Reproductive Health Advocate, Current Midwifery Student, and Doula Trainer.

She is the Founding Director of Earth's Natural Touch: Birth Care & Beyond, the largest Black owned Doula Training Organization and Collective in the New England and New York City Tri-State area, with doulas in several states across the country. SciHonor has been in the field of Reproductive Health for over 20 years, and has completed multiple trainings, and certification programs in various disciplines including Lactation and Bereavement. SciHonor is a published writer and has been invited to speak at universities, health institutions, and various other organizations on the historical and present-day impacts of the perinatal experiences of Black families, and their resulting birth outcomes. Her team of Earth's Natural Touch Interdisciplinary Doulas has been supporting families since 2016.

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#### **Georgia M. Simpson, MS**

Regional Minority Health Analyst, Region 1 - New England  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Georgia Simpson is the Regional Minority Health Analyst in the HHS Region 1 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. She coordinates efforts across New England to advance goals in a number of priority areas including environmental justice and community health workers. She has decades of leadership experience in public health addressing racial and ethnic health inequities and the social determinants of health and wellbeing designing and managing complex programs to meet population health needs.

Before joining HHS, Georgia directed the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity where she informed policy and program development and led efforts focused on the National CLAS Standards, health needs of people with disabilities, interpreter services, and vaccine and oral health equity. She also originated and co-chaired the department's racial equity leadership team. Georgia holds a BA in Biology and MS in Management from Brandeis University.



#### **Aidea Downie, MA**

Disparities Specialist for the Maternal and Child Health Program  
Rhode Island Department of Health

Aidea Downie is the Rhode Island Department of Health's Maternal Child Health Program Disparity Specialist. Her main role involves supporting the state implementation of Title V Grant priorities and strategies with a disparities focus. She received a B.A. in Anthropology and History and a M.A. in Urban Education Policy from Brown University.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### **Adriana Jean Louis, CD (DP)**

Maternal Mortality and Health Coordinator  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Adriana has practiced as a doula primarily in Massachusetts physically with virtual clients across different states and countries. Having attended hundreds births she recognizes the need for minority women in reproductive health. She founded Doula Philosophy and has been practicing since 2016. Adriana is passionate about addressing Black maternal mortality, the power of reproductive education, and empowering families to advocate for themselves to secure healthy outcomes for all. She has had the pleasure of speaking across several campuses on the importance of doula care and reproductive justice. She welcomes the opportunity to educate further whenever possible. Adriana finished up her degree in Public Health with a minor in Women's Studies and a concentration in Maternal Health from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She joined the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in their efforts to further combat maternal health issues as Maternal Mortality and Health Coordinator and supports equity in health care.

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#### **Natalia T. Guevara, MS**

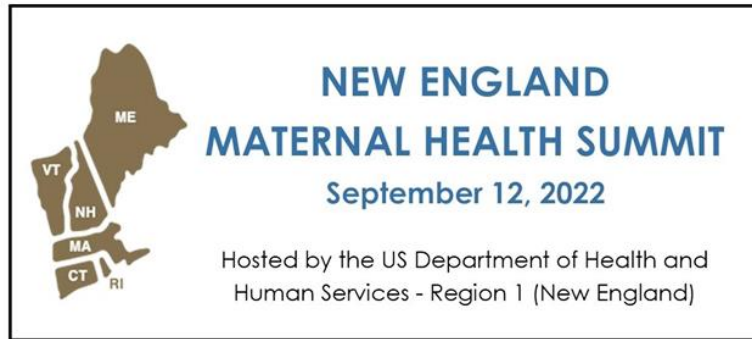
Senior Public Health Advisor – Region 1 (New England)  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Ms. Guevara provides programmatic, advisory, and technical leadership on national public health policies, programs, and activities related to reproductive health and justice, harm reduction, climate change and health, and nutrition. Prior to serving as the senior public health advisor in the region, Ms. Guevara oversaw the New England Title X family planning grant program. In that role, she provided technical assistance, leadership, and guidance to grantees in New England, assuring that all aspects of the program operated effectively and in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations to facilitate the delivery of high-quality reproductive health services, including basic reproductive health clinical services, services to males, and integrated HIV services.

Previously, Ms. Guevara served in various roles at the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (HHS/CMS), most recently in the Office of Legislation as a senior health insurance specialist and the special assistant to the director. At CMS, Ms. Guevara conducted legislative, economic, and policy analyses related to issues under the Medicare Fee-For-Service program, reviewed draft regulations, and provided technical assistance to staff of Congressional committees and individual members on legislation including the Affordable Care Act and related agency activities. Ms. Guevara was the recipient of various CMS awards, including the Chief Operating Officer's Award, the Administrator's Cornerstone Award, and the Administrator's Achievement Award.

Ms. Guevara began her career at HHS through the Emerging Leaders Program. She earned a BS in Political Science and Hispanic Studies, with a minor in Biology, and a MS in Public Policy and Management with a focus in Operations Research, both from Carnegie Mellon University.

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## Community-Led Triumphs:

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#### Planning Committee Members

Name	Organization/Community	Role/Job Title
<b>Adriana Jean Louis, CD (DP)*</b>	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Maternal Health Coordinator
<b>Aidea Downie, MA*</b>	Rhode Island Department of Health	Disparities Specialist for the Maternal and Child Health Program
<b>Alison Tyliszczak</b>	March of Dimes- Connecticut Chapter	Director of Maternal and Infant Health
<b>Ann Turner, MS, RN</b>	New England Rural Health Association	Board Member
<b>Beth Buxton, LCSW</b>	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Director of Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives
<b>Dara Fruchter, MS</b>	Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Project Manager, Infant and Maternal Substance Use Prevention Coordination
<b>Deborah Garneau, MA</b>	Rhode Island Department of Health	Maternal and Child Health Director; Deputy Director, Division of Community Health and Equity
<b>Ditra Edwards*</b>	SISTA Fire	Co-Founder and Director

\* Member of the Program Planning Subcommittee

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Community</b>	<b>Role/Job Title</b>
<b>Evelyn Kieltyka</b>	Maine Family Planning	Senior VP of Program Services
<b>Haley Johnston, MPH</b>	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Public Health Services	Sexual and Reproductive Health Program Administrator
<b>Karin Downs, RN, MPH</b>	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Director (retired), Division of Pregnancy, Infancy, and Early Childhood
<b>Katy Leffel, RN, BSN, IBCLC*</b>	Vermont Department of Health, Maternal Child Health Division	Perinatal Health Nurse Program Coordinator
<b>Elizabeth (Liz) Neptune</b>	Passamaquoddy Tribe; Neptune Advantage, Inc.	Tribal Council Member; President of Neptune Advantage, Inc.
<b>Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FACNM*</b>	University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Planned Parenthood of Southern New England	Associate Professor and Certified Nurse-Midwife
<b>Marc Camardo, MPH</b>	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Title V Maternal and Child Health Director & State Systems Development Initiative Director
<b>Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH</b>	Tufts University School of Medicine	Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health; Founder and Director of Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice; Founder and Director of Maternal Outcomes for Translational Health Equity Research (MOTHER Lab)
<b>Quatia Osorio, BSBA, CCHW, CLC, MCHS, MCCHW, CPE</b>	Our Journ3i, LLC	Director of Perinatal Workforce Development
<b>Renée Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD</b>	Boston University School of Medicine; Vital Village Community Engagement Network	Associate Professor; Founding Director of the Vital Village

\* Member of the Program Planning Subcommittee

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Community</b>	<b>Role/Job Title</b>
<b>Rhonda Siegel, MEd</b>	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Public Health Services	Administrator of Maternal and Child Health Section
<b>Trinidad Tellez, MD*</b>	Principal	[Health] Equity Strategies, LLC
<b>Federal Government Staff</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
<b>Betsy Rosenfeld, JD*</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	Regional Health Administrator - Region 1 (New England)
<b>Georgia M. Simpson, MS</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	Regional Minority Health Analyst- Region 1 (New England)
<b>Lolita A. McLean, DrPH, MPH*</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau	Public Health Analyst/Project Officer- Region 1 (New England)
<b>Natalia T. Guevara, MS*</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	Senior Public Health Advisor - Region 1 (New England)
<b>Paul Jacobsen</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Executive Officer - Region 1 (New England)
<b>Ryan Brinkey</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Public Affairs Specialist - Region 1 (New England)

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\* Member of the Program Planning Subcommittee



<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
<b>Sarah Foster, MPH</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health	Public Health Analyst
<b>Tina J. Sang, MPH, MSW*</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	Regional Women's Health Analyst-Region 1 (New England)

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\* Member of the Program Planning Subcommittee