SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES



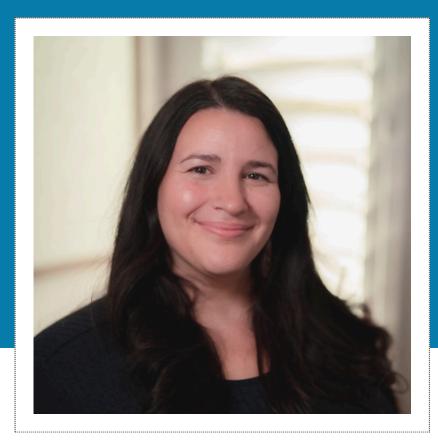
EMPOWERING CHANGE: ADVANCING MATERNAL HEALTH TOGETHER

Virtual Maternal Health Symposium Oct. 29-30, 2025



Anna Rodney

CERTIFIED CHILDBIRTH INTERNATIONAL BIRTH DOULA



Anna Rodney is a nationally recognized leader in the perinatal field and the founder of Chicago Family Doulas and Birth & Baby University. With a mission to ensure that every family feels supported, informed, and empowered through pregnancy, birth, and postpartum, Anna has built trusted organizations that serve thousands of families.

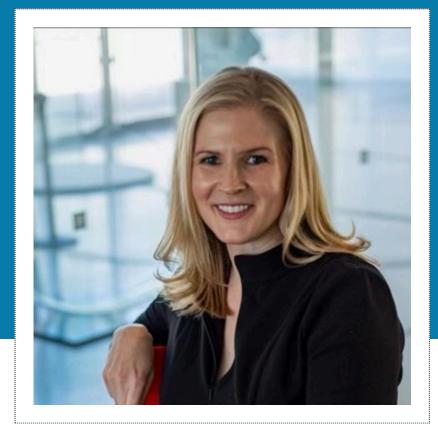
Through Birth & Baby University, Anna provides comprehensive doula and perinatal professional trainings designed to raise the standards of care and professionalism in the field. Her programs prepare doulas not only with evidence-based knowledge, but also with the skills to compassionately support families in every stage of the perinatal journey.

As a mentor, educator, and advocate, Anna works to strengthen collaboration between doulas, families, and medical providers ensuring better outcomes and more positive experiences. Her passion for elevating the doula profession has made her a respected voice in maternal health both locally and nationally.



Camie Berardi

VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTHCARE
AND BUSINESS DEVELOPEMENT



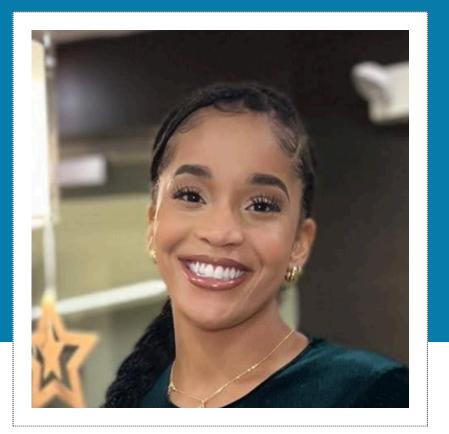
Camie Berardi, MPA, is the Vice President of Healthcare and Business Development at Tinyhood, the leading online learning platform for new and expecting parents, where she leads national partnerships across health plans, hospital systems, provider and doula networks, employers and community organizations to improve maternal-infant health outcomes. Her work centers on advancing equitable access to trusted education and support, particularly for families navigating barriers in underserved and rural communities.

At Tinyhood, Camie helps scale evidence-based, expert-led education that bridges the gap between clinical care and the realities families face at home. With more than 50,000 five-star reviews, Tinyhood has demonstrated strong demand for accessible, high-quality guidance that parents can trust and reinforcing the need for solutions that meet families where they are. By building on this foundation of consumer success, Tinyhood now partners with healthcare organizations to reimagine how support is delivered from pregnancy, postpartum through early parenthood. Because when parents are informed, confident, and supported, children are healthier, outcomes are stronger, and families thrive. Camie is leading this work at a time when health systems, payers, policymakers, and community advocates are united in rethinking prevention through education, reducing disparities, and empowering families with tools that drive measurable impact.

Camie brings fifteen years of experience driving maternal and child health initiatives nationally. Before joining Tinyhood, she directed the New York State Birth Equity Improvement Project at the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ), leading statewide efforts to improve hospital-based care experiences and outcomes for Black birthing people. She previously served at the Massachusetts Health Connector, co-leading implementation of the Affordable Care Act and building community-based access pathways, and spent four years in Washington, D.C., advancing national Medicaid policy on behalf of children's hospitals.



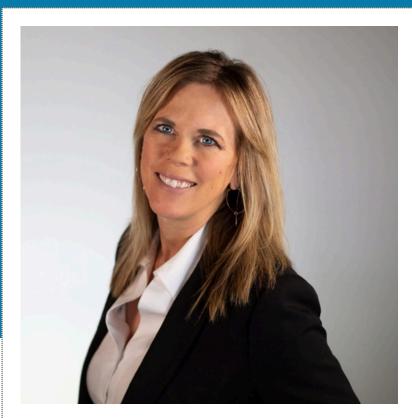
Neika Christalin



Neika Christalin is a doula, public health researcher, nutrition educator, and multidisciplinary artist committed to advancing maternal and reproductive health equity. She earned her Master of Public Health in Population Health Promotion and currently contributes to a manuscript exploring the relationship between maternal stress and autism outcomes. As a training manager and educator, Neika has developed and led community-based doula trainings and facilitated workshops on reproductive health, nutrition, and holistic care for diverse communities. Through both her public health research and her creative practice, she uplifts culturally rooted approaches to healing, resilience, and maternal wellness—ensuring families are empowered with knowledge, support, and advocacy throughout their reproductive journeys



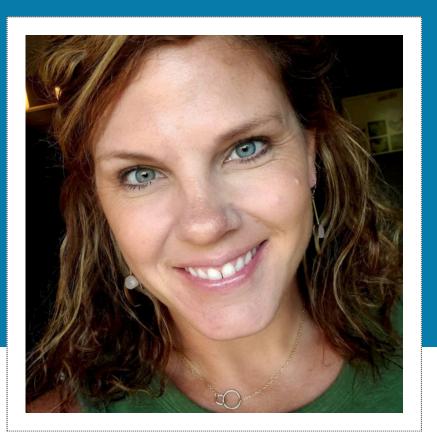




Jill White has served as the Coordinator for Young Parents Together for over ten years, supporting teen parents with access to education and essential resources. She also partners with local schools to connect students to YPT and other teen-friendly services. Before Jill's role with Together For Youth, she was a home visitor and a prevention and sexual assault advocate







Brooke Olson has been with Together For Youth for over 20 years, bringing extensive experience and dedication to supporting youth and young families. She currently serves as Assistant Director, overseeing funding coordination for both Together For Youth and Young Parents Together.





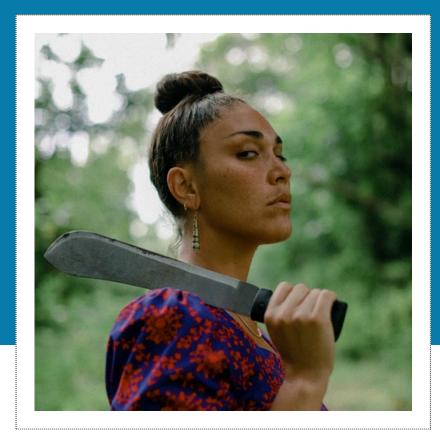


Audri Lu-Uhlken, LMSW, is a dedicated social worker and advocate from the Lao and Tai Dam communities. As a mother to two young daughters, she brings both personal insight and professional expertise to her work. With a deep passion for strengthening community health—especially maternal health—Audri is committed to creating more equitable and culturally responsive care for underserved families in lowa, particularly Asian and Pacific Islander communities.



Ruta Lauleva Lua'iufi Aiono

TRADITIONAL BIRTH
ATTENDANT

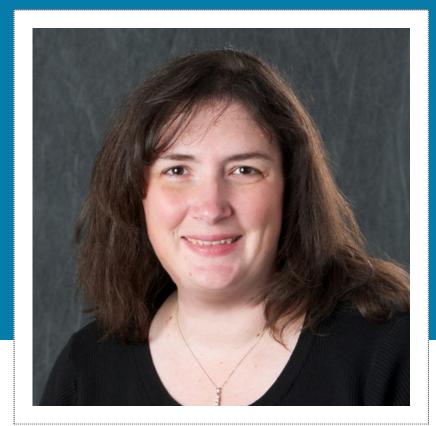


Ruta Lauleva Lua'iufi Aiono is a traditional birth attendant who deeply believes in the innate wisdom of the birthing process & the power of pregnancy/birth/postpartum to heal our relationships to ourselves / the land, especially for Pacific families living in diaspora. Her work is focused on supporting Pasefika families to navigate their pregnancy journeys with joy and dignity and she is particularly interested in the potential for holistic & traditional perinatal practices to positively affect Pacific Islander rates of chronic disease, mental illness & overall well-being.



Dr. Donna A. Santillan

RESEARCH PROFESSOR, VICE CHAIR OF RESEARCH



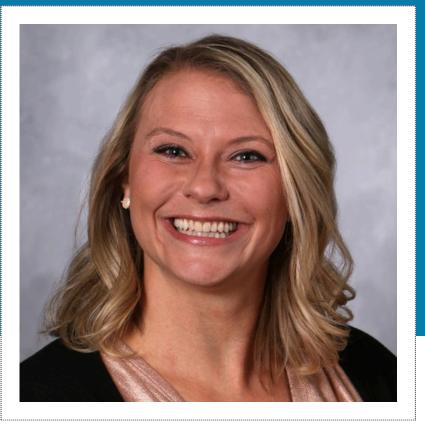
Dr. Donna A. Santillan, PhD, is a leading biomedical researcher dedicated to advancing women's health through translational science. Dr. Santillan earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Loyola University Chicago and performed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Iowa. As a Research Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa, she directs the Division of Reproductive Science Research and leads the Women's Health Tissue Repository (WHTR), which includes one of the nation's most comprehensive biobanks for maternal health research.

Dr. Santillan's research focuses on improving the health of women during and after pregnancy. Her work includes studying the long-term effects of hypertension in pregnancy on both mother and child, as well as investigating the effects of exposures during pregnancy on placental development and pregnancy outcomes. She has co-authored over 100 manuscripts and has been cited more than 3,300 times. In recognition of her contributions, Dr. Santillan received the 2024 Leadership in Research Award from the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research.

She is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists and has mentored over 100 students. Dr. Santillan is the Director of the Masters in Translational Biomedicine program and the Associate Director of Workforce Development in the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Iowa.





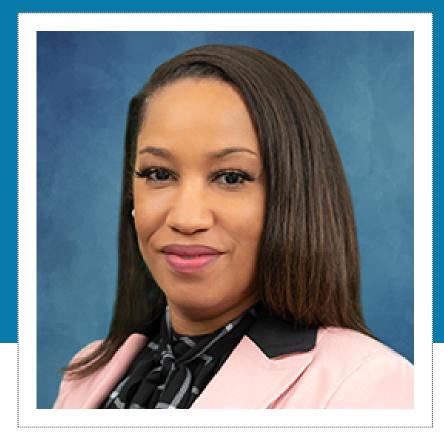


Lauren Sullivan is a Clinical Education Specialist for Maternity Services at Unity Point Health-Des Moines. With NCC certifications in Inpatient Obstetrics and Fetal Monitoring, Lauren is deeply committed to advocating for the well-being of women and their infants through comprehensive staff education and empowerment. Lauren has been instrumental in introducing new and innovative initiatives, such as quantitative blood loss measurement, enhanced recovery after cesarean procedures, and infection prevention algorithms. Lauren is an active member of the Iowa AWHONN Leadership team, serving as Iowa's legislative liaison. She is also an AWHONN Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Instructor, AWHONN OPS: Obstetric Emergency instructor, and an NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Program) instructor. Her multifaceted approach to healthcare improvement extends beyond the confines of her professional role, reflecting her passion for creating positive change within the healthcare landscape. Outside of her advocacy for women and infants, Lauren finds solace in reading and can often be found at a ball field, passionately supporting her boys.



Monique Amis

CHIEF OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH

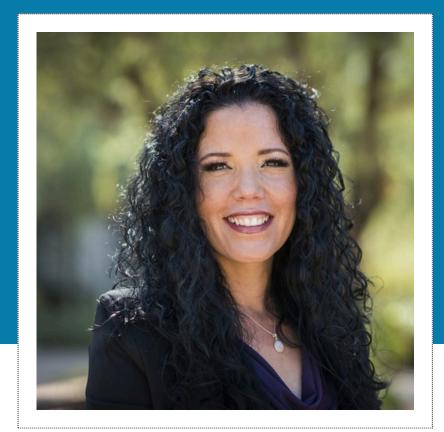


Monique Amis is the Chief of the Community and Family Health Division at the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and also serves as the local Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Director. Monique has been with the County since 2008, working initially with the County Administrative Office, and has since then moved to various leadership roles in other departments in the County. Monique has served in her current role since May of 2021, and holds a true passion for the programs within Community and Family Health as they aim to eliminate health disparities through health promotion and by providing supplemental services to underserved children and their families. As a Black woman whose family has deep roots in San Bernardino County, Monique knows it is her own loved ones who are often underserved and strives to impact the community through that lens. As a servant-leader, Monique is working with her management team to drive innovation, policy and systems change with a focus on equity in the Community and Family Health programs including Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health including the Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome programs, Black Infant Health, the Perinatal Equity Initiative, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Nutrition and Wellness, Child Lead Poisoning Prevention, California Children's Services, California Home Visiting, Foster Youth Nursing, and Smile SBC. Monique also currently serving as the President of the MCAH Action Committee and Executive Board Member of the San Bernardino County Gangs and Drugs Task Force. Monique's leadership extends outside of her professional career through service at New Life Christian Church of Fontana as Church Board Member and co-lead for the Single, Sold-Out, and Satisfied Singles Ministry. Monique's greatest joy is being mother to three amazing daughters, Kaya, Kaela, and Charlarose.



Dr. Angela Lober

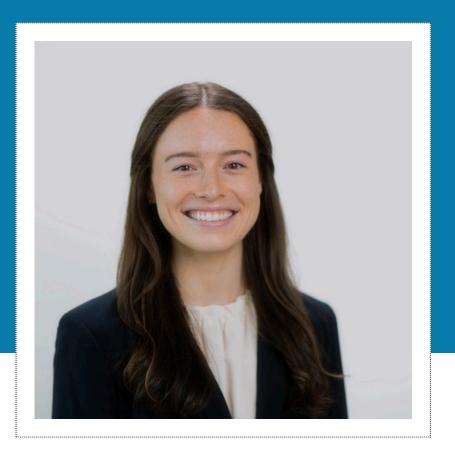
SENIOR MANAGER OF RESEARCH AND GRANTS



Dr. Angela Lober is the Senior Manager of Research and Grants at AWHONN. She is a registered nurse and an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. After earning a PhD, Angela was a Clinical Associate Professor and remains an active researcher. She is involved in multiple professional and community organizations supporting families. Angela is also committed to education and mentorship as a means of uplifting and uniting the maternal-child nursing profession.



Lauren Ronnfeldt MEDICAL STUDENT



Lauren Ronnfeldt grew up in lowa City, Iowa and is now a fourth-year medical student at Des Moines University. She has been a member of the Santillan research lab at the University of Iowa for the past 2 years. She is passionate about working to improve women's health through promoting greater representation in research, with the hope that this can elevate care to more specifically address the unique physiologic processes and health challenges women face. She is applying to obstetrics and gynecology residency this year.







Brittney Haskins is the Childbirth Education Coordinator for UnityPoint Health- Des Moines and has been the Chapter President of Postpartum Support International- Iowa for three years. She became passionate about educating patients about perinatal mental health when she was diagnosed with postpartum anxiety after the birth of her first child. Brittney graduated from The University of Iowa with a BA in Journalism and lives in Des Moines with her family.







Nafla Poff-Dainty is the Maternal Health Coordinator at Iowa HHS, a role she has held since 2023. With over a decade of experience in public health, Nafla has worked at both the state and county levels to improve outcomes for families across Iowa.



Helena (Lena) Jacobs

CO-CREATOR & DIRECTOR



Lena is the daughter of David Hoffman and the late Dee Olin, and the granddaughter of the late Lillian and Fred Olin, the late Lorraine and John Honea, and the late Helen and George Hoffman. Born in Fairbanks with ancestral ties to Ruby and Kokrines, and raised throughout seven different communities in Alaska, she now lives and works in Anchorage on Dena'ina land where she and her husband are raising their children.

Lena is a co-creator and director of the Alaska Native Birthworkers Community, an organization whose mission is to serve Native birthing families so that they feel supported, well cared for, and full of the information they need to make confident choices around reproductive health, birthing, and parenthood.





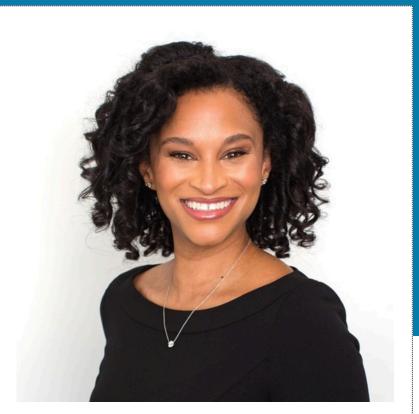


Becky Borgman is a seasoned Public Health Registered Nurse with over 15 years of experience in Maternal and Child Health, including more than 10 years in public health and 5 years in leadership and program management. A passionate advocate for equity in maternal care, she has led groundbreaking initiatives that have improved access, quality, and outcomes for underserved populations across lowa.

Currently serving as the Maternal & Reproductive Health Director at EveryStep in Des Moines, Becky oversees one of the largest service areas in Iowa, directing a multidisciplinary team across Family Planning, Maternal Health, and Child Health services. Her leadership was influential in the development of the state's first Black/African American Doula program for Iow-income pregnant individuals, as well as the nation's first home visitation program tied to Title X/Family Planning.



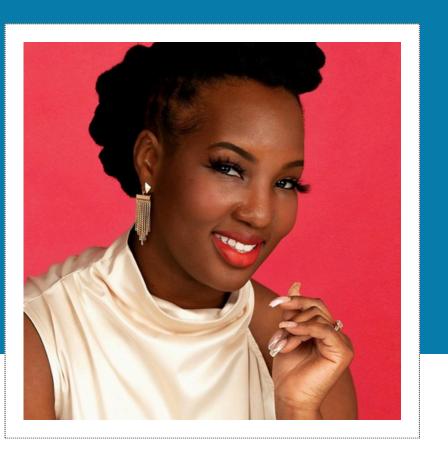




Maya Hardigan is the founder and CEO of Mae, a maternal health company transforming the pregnancy journey through trusted doula support and digital innovation. She has over 20 years of experience in digital healthcare, where her work focused on building and scaling technologies to engage, inform, and optimize care for patients, while driving financial and operational efficiencies for healthcare payers. Maya holds a dual Bachelors in Biology and Psychology from Duke University and an MBA from Columbia Business School. She is the proud mama of three little girls, and resides in Brooklyn, NY.



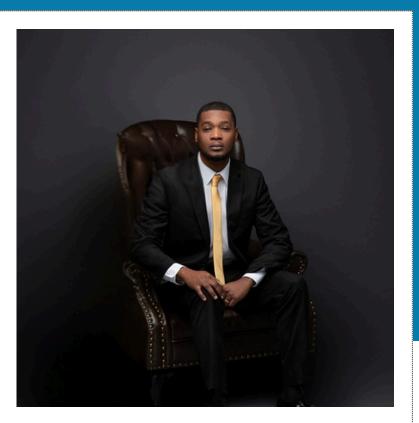




Tina Branch is the founder of Project Motherhood Iowa, a community-driven organization supporting primarily Black mothers and families navigating perinatal mental health, grief, loss, and infertility. With certifications in Black Maternal Mental Health through the Seleni Institute and peer support training from PSI-Iowa, Tina brings both expertise and lived experience to her work. She is passionate about creating safe spaces, resources, and education that empower parents to heal, thrive, and build stronger family foundations. Through Project Motherhood Iowa and its digital extension, The Mindful Nest, Tina is dedicated to uplifting communities, reducing stigma around maternal mental health, and inspiring families to embrace hope and resilience.





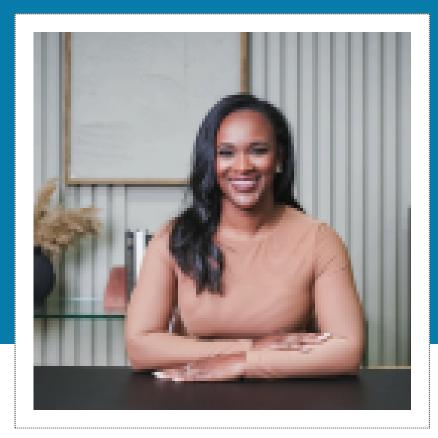


Nigel Branch is the husband of Tina Branch, and co-founder of Project Motherhood Iowa, where he works alongside his wife, Tina Branch, to support families navigating perinatal mental health, grief, and healing. With a deep commitment to faith, family, and community, he brings strength, compassion, and leadership to the mission of uplifting Black parents and creating spaces of resilience and hope. His role as both a partner in the organization and in life reflects his dedication to building a legacy of support and empowerment for families across Iowa.





CD(DONA), PPD, CLS, FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ebonie Bailey, CD(DONA), PPD, CLS is a powerhouse doula, mentor, and advocate transforming Black maternal health in Iowa. As founder of Naturally Ebonie Doula Services and Executive Director of the Iowa Black Doula Collective, she leads with purpose fighting for equitable care, culturally competent support, and dignity for every birthing person.

Since 2011, Ebonie has been a relentless force in maternal health advocacy, offering expert birth and postpartum care, virtual support, and mentorship for the next generation of doulas. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and graduate of UAPB and St. Ambrose University, she centers her work on serving BIPOC families with compassion and community.

Fueled by love for her husband and five children, Ebonie is building a future where Black mothers are seen, heard, and fully supported at every step of the journey.



Christine Young LISW PMH-C

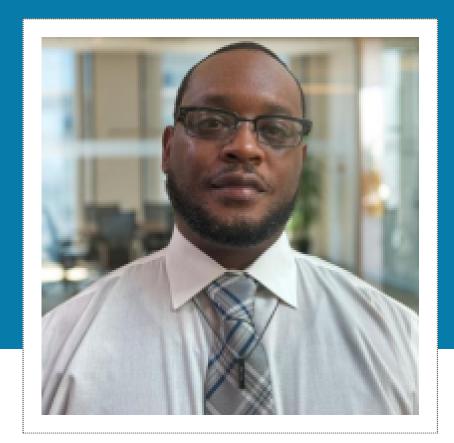


Christine Young is an experienced outpatient therapist specializing in behavioral health, with over 10 years of experience in psychotherapy—particularly with individuals in the perinatal population. She holds a Master's degree from Saint Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, and earned her undergraduate degree from Augustana College. Christine is a Certified Perinatal Mental Health Professional (PMH-C) with advanced training in evidence-based therapeutic modalities, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Interpersonal Therapy, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Family Therapy, and mindfulness-based interventions. Her clinical expertise includes treating postpartum depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and related mood disorders. With a warm, client-centered approach, Christine is deeply committed to supporting individuals and families through the emotional complexities of pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum experience.



La'Zette Smith

CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



La'Zette Smith is a multi-sector leader, fatherhood advocate, and Co-Founder & Executive Director of the LaSaaun Lives Foundation, dedicated to healing, advocacy, and wellness for families impacted by stillbirth and infant loss. Following the stillbirth of his son in 2020, he built an ecosystem that bridges father-inclusive prevention, mental health, policy advocacy, and economic empowerment. Through partnerships with Measure the Placenta, PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy, and the Star Legacy Foundation, his work challenges outdated standards and expands culturally rooted care. He has led Blessing Boxes for grieving families, secured citywide recognition of Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day in San Francisco, and created father-centered materials—including journals, eBooks, affirmation cards, and aromatherapy (Rude Bwoy Makes Scents). He also co-leads KD Captured It Media Group, supports Frisco Finest Fathers, and holds a B.A. in Sociology from San Francisco State University.



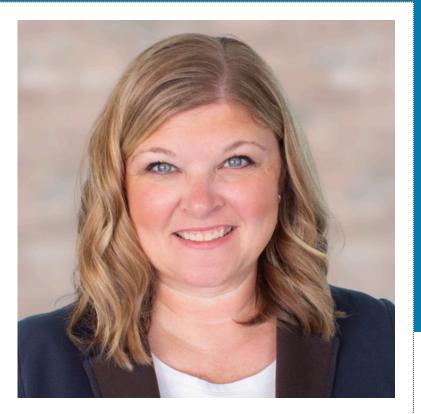




Arriving in the US in 2012, Muani faced the challenges of cultural shock and adapting to new parenting norms. These experiences fueled her passion for supporting other families navigating similar transitions through managing programs and creating valuable resources. As a program manager, Muani focuses on child development, parenting, and community-based support services for refugee parents to increase their knowledge of Western parenting norms.





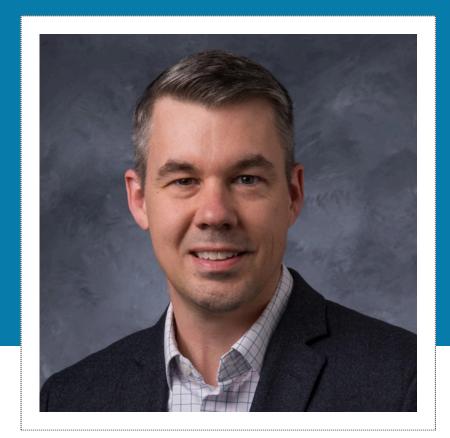


Katie Nyberg is a certified birth and postpartum doula, lactation educator, and owner of The Iowa Baby Ladies Doula Agency. Since 2010, she has supported hundreds of Central Iowa families, bringing a calm presence, confidence, and deep care to every stage of the journey—from pregnancy through the early weeks of parenting. Katie trains new doulas, speaks to communities and professionals, and leads with a passion for making support accessible and empowering. She also serves as a board member of the Perinatal Professionals Association and teaches as an instructor for Evidence Based Birth, continuing to advocate for informed, respectful care across the perinatal landscape. Whether she's teaching, doula-ing, or mentoring, her work is rooted in connection, trust, and the belief that every family deserves to be seen and supported.



Dr. William T. Story

PH.D., MPH, ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR OF COMMUNITY AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR



Dr. Story has over 25 years of experience in global public health focused on sexual, reproductive, maternal, and child health in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the U.S. Midwest. He is an interdisciplinary scholar with training in health services research, sociology, health behavior, and epidemiology whose work broadly addresses household- and community-level factors that are critical to improving access to health care and reducing health inequities and translating that research into improvements in policy and practice. In his current research, Dr. Story leads multi-cultural teams of interdisciplinary scientists to address critical public health issues by employing mixed-method and implementation science approaches to design, implement, and evaluate social and behavior change interventions. His research has been funded by over 20 grants and subcontracts from multiple agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the John Templeton Foundation, the lowa Bureau of Refugee Services, the lowa Department of Health and Human Services, and various international non-governmental organizations. In addition to external funding, Dr. Story's scholarly work has been published in nationally recognized journals, such as BMJ Global Health, Health Education and Behavior, Health Policy and Planning, and Social Science and Medicine.

In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Story serves as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health and the Director of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Public Health Catalyst Program in the College of Public Health. The MCH Public Health Catalyst Program is a federally-funded training program that aims to recruit and equip graduate students to enter the MCH public health workforce in lowa and the rural Midwest.







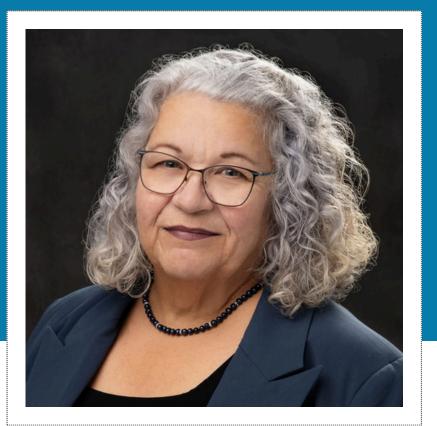
Gabrielle Albert is a strategic leader with over 20 years of executive experience at companies including Procter & Gamble, Kellogg, Bacardi, Hilton, and Kimberly-Clark. Her corporate background spans global roles in strategic sourcing, marketing, sales, and R&D across industries such as CPG, hospitality, and healthcare.

In 2024, Gabby transitioned from corporate leadership to full-time maternal health advocacy, joining 4Kira4Moms as Executive Director after serving on the board. Since then, she has implemented the organization's first strategic plan, launched the 4Kira4Dads Paternal Centers of Excellence, and created its inaugural fundraising campaign.

A proud graduate of Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry, Gabby is a passionate advocate for maternal health as a human rights issue. She currently lives in Atlanta, GA and enjoys traveling, mentoring, and spending time with loved ones. She is affiliated with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the FAMU National Alumni Association, and the Smithsonian 2015 Society.







Janet believes in the power of home visiting to transform and empower families. She is a national leader in the home visiting field and co-founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals and currently serves as the Executive Director. She is a founding board member for the Association for State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives and the creator of National Home Visiting Week.

Janet began her career in home visiting in 1989 as a home visitor. The families she was honored to serve taught her many life lessons that she still uses today. Janet has worked in many different evidence-based home visiting models and held many different positions within home visiting programs at a national, state and community level. She is honored to share the home visiting message across the country, internationally and at the U.S. Capitol. She is passionate about supporting home visitors to provide quality services to families. Janet is the mom of a blended family of 8 children and grandma to 15.



Amanda Staab

MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM



Amanda Staab, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM completed her master's degree at the University of lowa through the Clinical Nurse Leader program in 2010. She then started at UnityPoint Health- St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids and has remained there for the past 15 years- 13 years in the Birth Care Center and 5 years as House Supervisor. During her time in Birth Care, she held a variety of roles on the floor and in the operating room, as well as educator and simulation instructor. She currently serves as the AWHONN Chapter Leader for East Central Iowa and the Secretary/Treasurer for Iowa. Amanda completed AWHONN's Emerging Leaders program in 2023-2024. She currently works as a Clinical Nurse Improvement Coach for the Iowa Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, incorporating quality improvement and simulation in obstetrics for birthing hospitals, critical access EDs, and EMS crews. In her free time, Amanda spends time with her husband (a flight medic) and two children: Peyton (8) and Paislee (6).







Ashley is the Senior Project Coordinator for UpLift- The Central Iowa Basic Income Pilot. Before joining the UpLift team, Ezzio worked in both government and nonprofit roles. She managed the Iowa Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and coordinated the development and implementation of the Title V Community-Based Doula Project at the Iowa Department of Public Health. Ezzio has a bachelor's degree in child, Adult, and Family Services from Iowa State University and a master's degree in Public Health from Des Moines University.



Dr. Jennifer Moore

PHD, RN, FAAN, FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

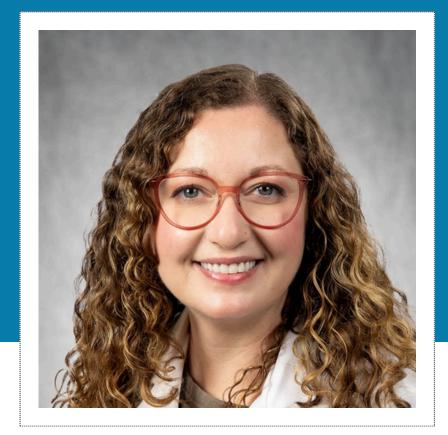


Jennifer E. Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN is an internationally recognized leader in Medicaid and maternal child health. With more than 30 years of experience, her work, at the intersection of clinical practice, research, and policy, positions her as a thought leader and a passionate advocate for the Medicaid program and the individuals, families, and communities it serves. This multifaceted emphasis makes her a respected participant in the national dialogue on these and other health care topics. As the founding executive director of the Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) and assistant research professor at the University of Michigan medical school's department of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Moore focuses her efforts on strategically bringing together payers, clinicians, researchers, and government to design and evaluate innovative approaches to address maternal health issues such as alternative payment models, inequities and disparities, social determinants of health, community voice and partnership, and a full range of perinatal specific topics.



Dr Stephanie Radke

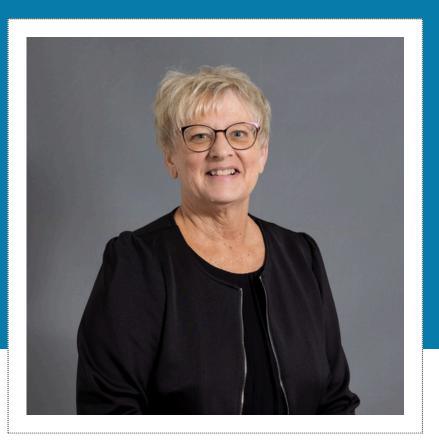
MD, MPH, FACOG, CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Stephanie Radke, MD, MPH, FACOG received her medical degree from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She completed residency training in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of California Davis Medical Center and spent 3 years in community practice in Sacramento, CA. She returned to the University of Iowa to join the faculty in 2016 and is currently a Clinical Associate Professor. She is active in departmental quality improvement leadership at the University of Iowa and is the Principal Investigator on the HRSA State Maternal Health Innovation and HRSA AIM Capacity awards, and Co-PI on the CDC State Perinatal Quality Collaborative grant. Through this work she led the efforts in forming the Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative and the Iowa AIM Program. She received her Master's in Public Health from the University of Iowa in 2022. Radke is the Director of the Iowa Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Program and Co-Director of the Iowa Statewide Perinatal Care Program







Lori Oetken is a Registered Nurse at Siouxland District Health Department. For 22 years she has served the residents of Woodbury County providing vaccinations, STI exams, treatment and case management along with home visits to ensure the safety and health of underinsured or uninsured residents. She works with the tuberculosis and lead programs, is a member of the STI coalition, serves as the Woodbury County Maternal and Perinatal HepB Coordinator, and assists with emergency preparedness and community engagement and outreach.



Michael Berger

PROJECT COORDINATOR

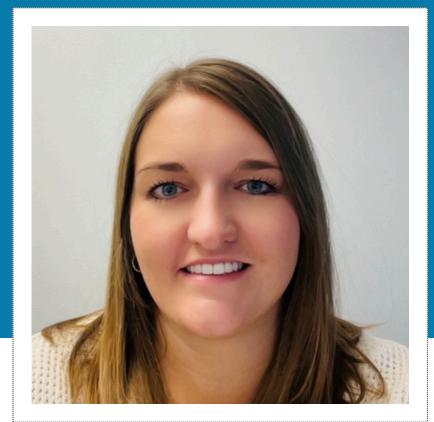


Michael joined The Harkin Institute in 2023 to coordinate UpLift – The Central Iowa Basic Income Project. The pilot will study the impacts of an unrestricted, no-strings-attached, \$500 basic income payment for 24 months. Previously, Michael completed a practicum project with Mid-Iowa Health Foundation focused on researching basic income projects across the nation and engaging central Iowa partners to inform how to design the local pilot model. Michael has a bachelor's degree in Public Health and a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Iowa.



Nicole Newman





Nicole Newman is a registered dietitian and Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) that has been serving as the State of Iowa WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services since 2016. Prior to taking on her current role, she worked as a State WIC Nutrition Consultant at Iowa HHS for two years. She started her career in community health as a dietitian serving WIC families at two different local WIC agencies, where she found her passion for educating and supporting breastfeeding families and assisting them in meeting their breastfeeding goals. She serves on the board of the Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition, has been greatly involved in the Iowa Breastfeeding Strategic Plan, and is a member of the planning committee for the Annual Iowa Breastfeeding Conference. Nicole and her husband have three children and a dog and love to spend their time traveling or at their family cabin whenever possible.



Lydia Amissah-Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lydia Amissah-Harris is a passionate birthworker and maternal health advocate based in the Quad Cities. She is a doula and certified lactation specialist. She holds a masters in public health from St. Ambrose University and a bachelors in biology from Evangel University. She serves as the Family Health Coordinator for the Scott County Health Department's Healthy Pregnancy Program and also chairs the Healthy Pregnancy Coalition. She is a member of the Iowa Black Doula Collective and offers compassionate birth and breastfeeding support to families. She is also the Executive Director of the Bloom Project. This is a nonprofit she created to provide curated postpartum care packages to BIPOC birthing families in need. She serves as the health chair for the Davenport Metrocom NAACP, board member for Her Voice Media, and on the board of directors for the Vera French Foundation. Lydia is also an author of her first children's book, Zara and Her Crown. A 2024 Quad City Business Journal Forty Under 40 honoree and 2025 NAACP President's Award Winner, Lydia is also active in faith-based and youth empowerment efforts. She is dedicated to creating a community where women can thrive, heal, and feel supported.





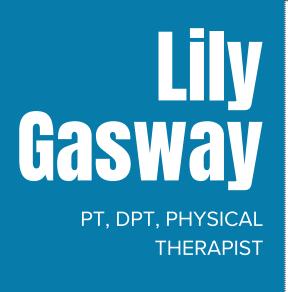


Teresa Hursey joined Wellpoint Iowa Inc. as President in August 2023. She is responsible for all aspects of the health plan's operations in Iowa, ensuring Wellpoint's Medicaid members receive access to health care and support services. Teresa has more than 30 years of experience in finance, planning and project management, law analysis, and policy development in a variety of environments.

Additionally, Teresa specializes in the health care and human services industry, having held leadership positions in healthcare, consulting, and finance in Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, New Jersey, and now lowa. Her experience prior to Wellpoint includes working for various state offices, including positions as state Medicaid Director in Illinois and Vice President of Finance at the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. She most recently served as President of Wellpoint New Jersey, where she was responsible for Medicaid growth strategies and development that focused on health plan retention and operations.

Teresa earned her undergraduate degree from Drury College in Springfield, MO, her CPA in 1986, and CFE in 1993.







She is passionate about normalizing perinatal physical therapy as a way to thrive through a monumental life change. She also enjoys educating on pelvic floor topics and empowering women to compassionately care for themselves.

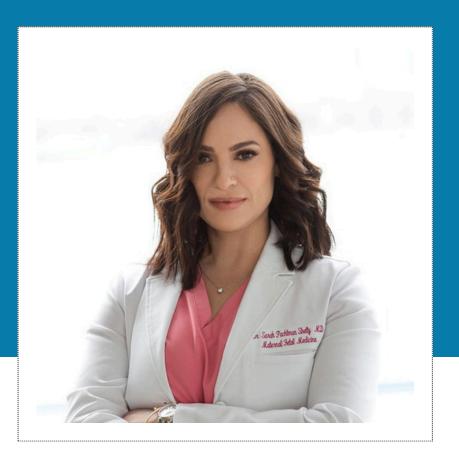
In addition to her extensive training in pelvic health, Lily has completed training in Medical Therapeutic Yoga - a training specifically for healthcare providers - and enjoys using this skill set to help patients feel strong and practice yoga without pain. Lily is passionate about the benefits of yoga, and about spreading the word that yoga is for anyone who is interested - not just highly-skilled or long-term practitioners.

She is known around the office for her laugh, and her adorable dog, Archie. You might just get a chance to meet him at your appointment!



Dr. Sarah Pachtman

MD, MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE AND OB-GYN.



Dr. Sarah Pachtman Shetty practices Maternal Fetal Medicine in maternity care deserts as part of telemedicine's best platform, Ouma Health. Originally from Paradise Valley, Arizona, she completed her Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Northwell Health Long Island Jewish Medical Center and North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York. She has a special interest in maternal medical conditions complicating pregnancy such as diabetes, hypertension and obstetrical critical care. When she is not practicing Maternal Fetal Medicine, she enjoys traveling, fashion, cooking, and spending time with her husband and son.



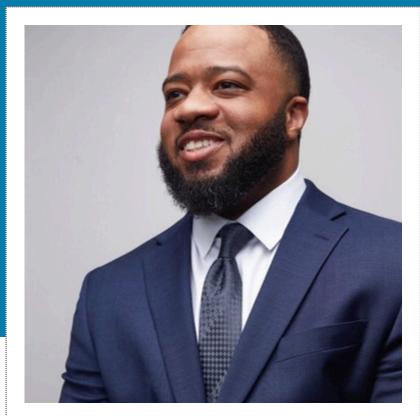




Aubrey Kitchel is the West Central Indiana Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Director at the Tippecanoe County Health Department in Lafayette, Indiana. She attended SUNY Alfred State College, in her home state of NY, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2015. In 2020, after moving to Indiana, she pursued her passion for maternal and child health by building the FIMR program from the ground up; a multidisciplinary team to review stillbirth and infant deaths. By the end of this year, she and her team will have reviewed nearly 150 cases; identifying contributing factors, service gaps, and implementing various prevention initiatives based on their findings. Since enacting these prevention strategies, like promoting fetal movement monitoring and safe infant sleep, the infant mortality rate in Tippecanoe County has gone from 10.9 in 2021 to 5.6 in 2023 (based on the most recent publicized data from the Indiana Department of Health). She is slowly working on expanding the program to surrounding rural counties too. Her goal is to see more women in Indiana achieve full term, live births and happy, healthy babies reach their first birthdays.







Brad M. Edwards is the visionary behind Dads To Doulas, a Dear Fathers initiative transforming how men support mothers through pregnancy and birth. As Director of Men's Programming for the Doula Lab, Brad leads national efforts to engage fathers as advocates for maternal and infant health. Through partnerships with organizations like Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and innovative programming rooted in community care, he empowers men to be protectors, partners, and pillars during the birthing journey—building stronger families and healthier futures nationwide.





RN, IBCLC & OB COORDINATOR

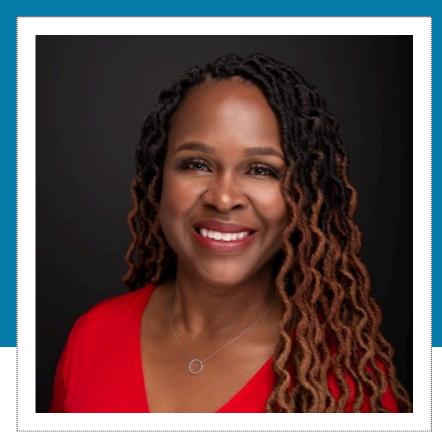


Bethany Hanson RN, IBCLC and OB coordinator for Emplify Health. 27 years in my role as nurse and 20 as a board-certified lactation consultant. 23 years as a mom to 4 beautiful children. I serve Northeast Iowa in a critical access hospital and have a passion for providing evidenced based care and policy changes for our moms and their families that ensures they not only have great outcomes but a good experience as well.



Rose Horton

MSN, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, FAAN, FOUNDER & CEO



Rose L. Horton, MSM, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, FAAN, is the <u>Founder & CEO</u> of NotOnMyWatch Consulting Partners, an LLC she created 3 years after coining the hashtag #notonmywatch. She created the hashtag out of her frustration at the rising rate of maternal morbidity and mortality. As a nurse she believed that nurses, as the largest healthcare employee contingent, have the power to change the trajectory of morbidity and mortality. The hashtag is a call to action for all nurses to use their collective voices to support, listen to, advocate for, and follow evidence-based practices in caring for all birthing people.

Rose is a Women & Infant healthcare executive leader working as a Specialty Director at <u>Emory</u> Decatur Hospital. She is passionate about safe and equitable care for all women. Rose speaks on the topic of maternal and infant mortality, resilience, joy, leadership, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) locally, regionally, and nationally. She is leading a DEI Health & Wellness committee at her hospital.

Rose served as the 2012 President of the Association Women's Health Obstetrics & Neonatal Nursing (AWHONN), a 25,000-nurse member association that is pivotal in creating, supporting, legislating, researching best practices, and evidence-based care of women and newborns. In this esteemed role she led the association, in collaboration with the CEO, in strategic planning, financial management, forging collegial partnerships, and speaking on behalf of the association at numerous events. One event to note was Joining Forces, hosted by the first lady Michelle Obama, an initiative focusing on mental health and well-being of American veterans.

She was part of the Advisory Board of the Obstetrics COVID Innovation Collaborative with Ariadne Labs and contributed to the white paper published by Ariadne Labs in June 2020. Rose serves on the Board of Directors at Synova Associates, a nurse leader company committed to providing education, leadership development and creating community among perinatal and neonatal nurse leaders. Rose joined the Healthy Birth Day, Inc. Board of Directors in 2023, and previously served on the Medical Advisory Board for the organization.

In 2021 Rose was tapped for the national Black Maternal Task Force for the Biden Administration. As one of the 36 members, she will contribute to actionable solutions to mitigate the rising rates of maternal morbidity and mortality.

On October 28, 2022, Rose was inducted as Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the profession's highest honor.





to be supported in achieving wellness.



Naya Thomas is the Community Impact Manager at Healthy Birth Day, Inc. and the Count the Kicks program. She has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit sectors such as higher education, reproductive health, and youth cultural programming. Her journey in maternal health began in 2020 as a birth doula, where she witnessed firsthand the resilience and joy of families, particularly Black families, navigating pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care.

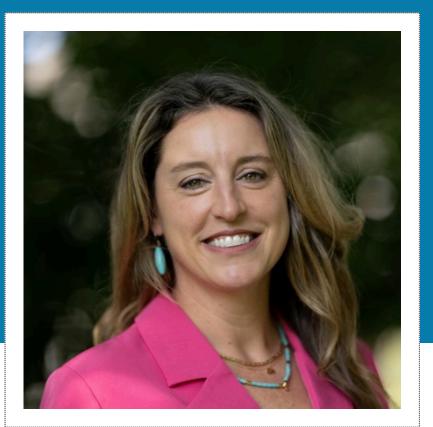
Through her work as both a doula and a licensed prenatal massage therapist, and now at Healthy Birth Day, Inc., she is committed to supporting the aspirations of families for healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, and thriving futures. Her approach emphasizes self-determination in health choices and the need for families

Naya also worked on a global project that expanded access to reproductive health education, connecting individuals in 42 countries to essential fertility awareness resources. This experience broadened her understanding of global health challenges and reinforced her belief in the collective responsibility to address access to healthcare in maternal and infant health.

Before focusing on maternal health, Naya spent more than 10 years as a cultural-based teaching artist, using movement and storytelling to help youth express themselves. She believes in the transformative power of creativity and community in healing, which continues to shape her approach to health equity. As the Community Impact Manager Naya collaborates with state partners to implement strategies aimed at reducing stillbirth rates and improving maternal and infant health outcomes. She also works closely with community members and organizations to tailor Count the Kicks initiatives to local values and needs, ensuring they effectively reach those most at risk.







Sarah Hybels joined Healthy Birth Day Inc., and Count the Kicks in April of 2023 as the State Expansion Coordinator, and became the State Expansion Project Administrator in 2024. She currently serves as the Program and Product Administrator, a role she began in May 2025.

She is a 2000 graduate of the University of Denver where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Women's Studies. After earning her degree, she worked as a victim advocate helping women and children affected by domestic violence and served as the Victim/Witness Coordinator for the Grand County District Attorney's Office. She attended the Colorado Victim Assistance Academy and was the Advocates Victim Assistance Team Grand County Employee of the Year.

Sarah is a Licensed Massage Therapist, Registered Yoga Teacher, and Reiki practitioner who has operated her own business for 14 years prior to coming to Count the Kicks. She has been active in the Des Moines maternal health community through education, empowerment and bodywork. Sarah taught Prenatal and Infant Massage at Body Wisdom Massage Therapy School, which included training on Count the Kicks and has served as Volunteer Coordinator for school events and extracurricular groups.

Sarah's mission is to "Assist others in reaching their full potential through connection, education, and kindness." She is honored to join the Healthy Birth Day Inc. team and continue her passion of serving others by helping to save babies and grow families in all 50 states through Count the Kicks.







Megan Aucutt is the Program Director with Healthy Birth Day, Inc. – the non-profit that created the evidence-based Count the Kicks stillbirth prevention program. Megan is a University of Northern Iowa graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in History and an emphasis in Global Health. She has over 15 years of experience with nonprofits and governmental work, focusing on grant writing and reviewing, coalition building, and educational program development.

Her true passion is maternal and child health. As Program Director, Megan oversees the organization's research and programmatic outreach. She also manages the free Count the Kicks app and works closely with the medical community on system and policy changes.

Megan believes that knowledge truly is power. She used the Count the Kicks App during her pregnancies and has three healthy and rambunctious children. She is proud to be part of such an important organization with a powerful mission of saving babies.







Jen Rowray joined Healthy Birth Day, Inc. and Count the Kicks in February of 2018 as the Program Coordinator, and became the Director of Advocacy and Engagement in 2022. Jen is a graduate of Simpson College with a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science. She began her career as a high school educator and spent many years serving in leadership roles for an array of local non-profit organizations as she raised her children. Jen believes in the power of education and the need to serve in one's community.

As the Director of Advocacy and Engagement, she is dedicated to sounding the alarm on the silent epidemic of stillbirth in the U.S. In her role, Jen helps rally and support the work of national volunteer advocates as they work together to save babies through Count the Kicks education and national stillbirth prevention legislation. She also collaborates on growing our partnerships with aligned organizations, provides educational training on Count the Kicks and attends national conferences and events to raise awareness about our mission.

