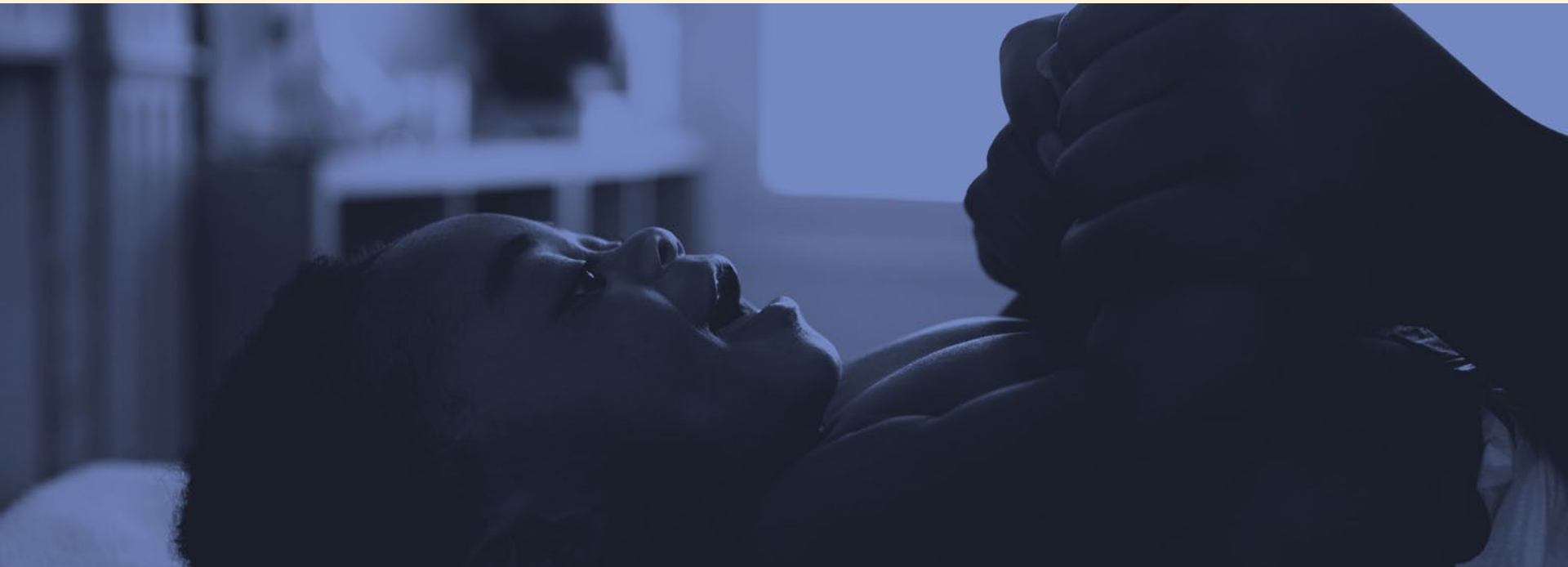


NATIONAL BIRTH EQUITY COLLABORATIVE



The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine:  
Advancing Maternal Health Equity and Reducing Maternal Mortality  
**Dawn Godbolt, PhD**

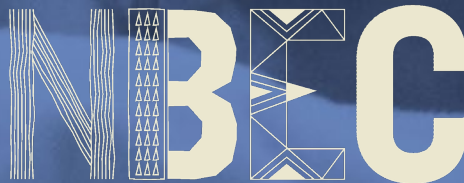


# Mission

NBEC creates solutions that optimize Black maternal and infant health through training, policy advocacy, research and community centered collaboration.

# Vision

All Black mothers and babies thrive.



NATIONAL BIRTH EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

*Core Values:*

*Leadership, Freedom, Wellness,  
Black Lives, Sisterhood*



## birth equity (*noun*):

1. The assurance of the conditions of optimal births for all people with a willingness to address racial and social inequities in a sustained effort.

Joia Crear-Perry, MD  
*National Birth Equity Collaborative*



# Birth Equity Agenda

**Five critical measures for ensuring that the United States has the proper infrastructure and resources in place to achieve equitable maternal health outcomes.**

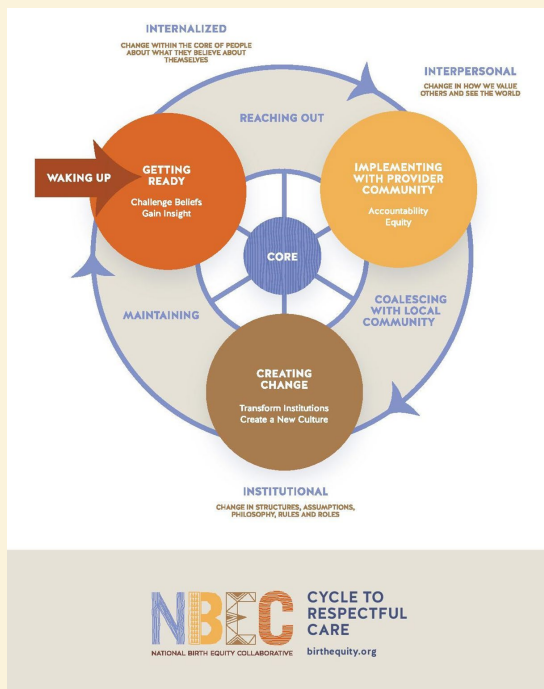
1. Reproductive health and autonomy are promoted and protected at the highest levels of government.
2. Health is a government priority and a recognized right.
3. Individual and institutions are held accountable for discrimination that leads to disparate health impacts.
4. No maternal death goes unnoticed or uncounted.
5. Government involvement in reproductive health may not intrude on reproductive freedom, agency, and autonomy.

A close-up photograph of a woman smiling warmly while holding a baby. Another person is visible in the background, looking down at the baby. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# NBEC Maternal Health Advocacy Efforts



# Models of Respectful Care



International Journal of  
Environmental Research  
and Public Health



Article

## The Cycle to Respectful Care: A Qualitative Approach to the Creation of an Actionable Framework to Address Maternal Outcome Disparities

Carmen L. Green <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Susan L. Perez <sup>1,3,\*</sup>, Ashlee Walker <sup>1,4</sup>, Tracey Estriplet <sup>1</sup>, S. Michelle Ogunwole <sup>5</sup>,  
Tamika C. Auguste <sup>6</sup> and Joia A. Crear-Perry <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Birth Equity Collaborative, New Orleans, LA 20026, USA; awalker@birthequity.org (A.W.);  
testrip1@birthequity.org (T.E.)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143, USA

<sup>3</sup> Department of Public Health, California State University, Sacramento, CA 95819, USA

<sup>4</sup> School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118, USA

<sup>5</sup> Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA;

soanwo1@jhmi.edu

<sup>6</sup> MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care, ACOG,

Washington, DC 20010, USA; Tamika.C.Auguste@medstar.net

\* Correspondence: cgreen@birthequity.org (C.L.G.); sperez@birthequity.org (S.L.P.);

drjoia@birthequity.org (J.A.C.-P.)



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**Abstract:** Despite persistent disparities in maternity care outcomes, there are limited resources to guide clinical practice and clinician behavior to dismantle biased practices and beliefs, structural and institutional racism, and the policies that perpetuate racism. Focus groups and interviews were held in communities in the United States identified as having higher density of Black births. Focus group and interview themes and codes illuminated Black birthing individual's experience with labor and delivery in the hospital setting. Using an iterative process to refine and incorporate qualitative themes, we created a framework in close collaboration with birth equity stakeholders. This is an actionable, cyclical framework for training on anti-racist maternity care. The Cycle to Respectful Care acknowledges the development and perpetuation of biased healthcare delivery, while providing a solution for dismantling healthcare providers' socialization that results in biased and discriminatory care. The Cycle to Respectful Care is an actionable tool to liberate patients, by way of their healthcare providers, from biased practices and beliefs, structural and institutional racism, and the policies that perpetuate racism.

# Community Based Advocacy through the (CARES)Act

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated \$15 million to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance telehealth and care services for maternal health
- The Maternal Telehealth Access Project (MTAP) was funded through a one-year grant of \$4 million from the CARES award, disbursed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)
- Through this collaboration, NBEC allocated almost \$200K to Community-Based Organizations to improve access to telehealth services

# HHS-Led Public-Private Partnership

- Collaborative Partners: NBEC, March of Dimes, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with financial support from UnitedHealthcare Community & State.
- Goal: to hear ideas from participants on the specific quality improvement interventions that can be implemented during the birth episode that will reduce the Black-white gap in maternal health outcomes as measured by Severe Maternal Mortality and Nulliparous, Term, Singleton Vertex (NTSV) Cesarean rates.



# White House Office of Sexual and Reproductive Health

- If established, the office will:
  - Develop a National SRHW Strategy, including a framework for integrating sexual and reproductive health equity into federal processes.
  - Direct and oversee the work of a Federal Interagency Workgroup on SRHW
  - Identify areas of improvement in federal rulemaking and guidance and provide recommendations.
  - Lead public engagement activities, including a White House conference on SRHW and public listening sessions.
- Cross-sector support through sign-on letters
  - Senate letter led by Senators Booker, Gillibrand, and Warren
  - House letter led by Reps. Robin Kelly, Barbara Lee, and Dianna DeGette
  - Maternal and Child Health Stakeholders
    - Over 150 organizations in support

# Thank you



Policy Director  
[dawn@birthequity.org](mailto:dawn@birthequity.org)

