

## Partnering to Support Healthy Moms and Babies in Baltimore and Beyond

### Celebrating 10 Years of B'More for Healthy Babies: Speaker Bios

In the decade since its creation, [B'more for Healthy Babies](#) (BHB) has impacted the lives of many families in Baltimore. The initiative brings together policymakers, service providers, community organizations, and residents to strategically allocate resources and streamline communication at all levels of the maternal and child health system so that every baby might have the best possible start.

[This virtual event series](#) will review the success of B'more for Healthy Babies, outline the goals for the program moving forward, and gather strategies and enhance momentum for building organizational capacity to implement community-based research to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

## Enhancing Local Partnerships: Community Engagement and Impact

October 7, 2020

5 - 6:30 p.m. ET



### **Pamela Bohrer Brown**

Director, Maternal and Child Health and Multicultural Programs  
Baltimore Medical System

Pamela Bohrer Brown a resident of Baltimore, MD, resided in Venezuela for 17 years, and is a member of a bilingual/bicultural family. She has been active in the Latinx community of Baltimore for over 20 years and worked in a number of health education programs. Cultural competency in health care and access to health care for immigrants are areas of particular interest. As the Prenatal Coordinator of Planned Parenthood of Maryland from 1999 through 2002, she had the opportunity to accompany many immigrant women through labor and delivery as a doula. Pamela has worked on increasing access to health care for immigrants with Baltimore HealthCare Access and Baltimore Medical System. For the past 18 years, Ms. Bohrer Brown has worked with Baltimore Medical System (BMS), the largest FQHC in Maryland. She currently is Director of Maternal and Child Health and Multicultural Programs for BMS. In this role, she coordinates the activities for B'more for Healthy Babies, the Baltimore City-wide initiative to reduce infant mortality, in the neighborhoods of Patterson Park North and East.



**Quant'e Boulware**

Barber  
Cut Styles Unisex Barbershop

Quant'e Boulware is a licensed barber at Cut Styles Unisex Barbershop in the community of Druid Heights in Baltimore, Maryland. As a community barber, Mr. Boulware is involved in encouraging and celebrating the successes of Black men and helping Black men overcome the challenges they face living in West Baltimore. He has partnered with B'more for Healthy Babies Upton and Druid Heights program over the past several years. He along with Mr. Antoine Dow, owner of Cut Styles, are safe sleep champions for the initiative. As a community activist and safe sleep champion, Mr. Boulware shares safe sleep and breastfeeding materials with his customers and he encourages fathers to start reading early with their children. Mr. Boulware was featured in a New York Times article and appears in two fatherhood videos by Johns Hopkins Center for Communications which highlight the critical role of fathers in improving health outcomes in the community. A graduate of Long Reach High School, Mr. Boulware is the husband of Sana Moody-Boulware, a father of two boys, and is expecting a baby girl soon.



**Lucia Islas**

President, Comité Latino de Baltimore

As president of Comité Latino de Baltimore, Lucia Islas says her hobby is helping her community. The nonprofit was created to help single mothers and their children, and the group provides resources within the Hispanic community - regardless of one's immigration status or ability to speak English.

Before the pandemic, monthly meetings were held at Gallery Church in Highlandtown; now they are taking place on Zoom. The Comité Latino Facebook group connects more than 3,000 members with food drives, housing, free COVID-19 testing and more. On an average day, Islas receives 20 calls and requests for help from all over the region.

Her activism started 12 years ago with Mis Raíces, a Spanish-speaking mothers' group at Patterson Park Public Charter School. Islas, who owns a cleaning company, has also been working since June at Centro SOL as a community outreach specialist. The center offers support, mentoring, health services and more for the Latino community.



**Tisha Edwards, MSW, JD**

Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success  
City of Baltimore



For 20 years, Tisha has leveraged executive government and private sector roles to advance the wellbeing of Baltimore's most marginalized communities, especially its children and youth. In 2019, she brought that breadth of experience to bear as Executive Director of the newly launched Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success, where she leads the city's strategy for investing in and radically improving the lives of children and families.

In her decade at Baltimore City Public Schools—as high school principal, Chief of Staff and Interim CEO—Tisha guided 11,000 employees through a series of bold academic, structural and operational reforms. These, with a cultural shift that placed students at the center of district decision making, have been core to student achievement gains in the last decade and an ongoing and unprecedented well of community, institutional and corporate support for the district.



**Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C**

Director, B'more for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights  
University of Maryland School of Social Work



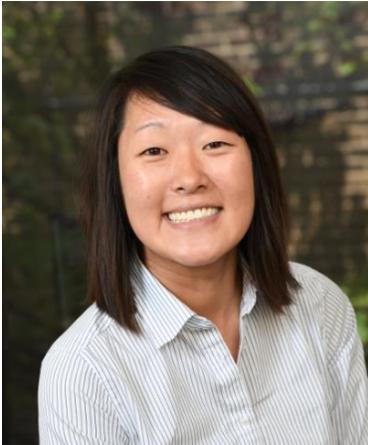
Stacey B. Stephens LCSW-C is the Director of the B'more for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights Program at the University of Maryland School of Social Work's Promise Heights Initiative. She has over 26 years of experience in assisting underserved women and children gain access to medical and mental health services throughout Baltimore and the D.C. Metropolitan area. Mrs. Stephens is a Clinical Instructor at the University of Maryland School Of Social Work and an Adjunct Professor at Morgan State University School of Social Work.. She was a governor appointed member of Maryland's taskforce to study perinatal mental health.

Her areas of research interest are: health and well-being of women, children and families in the areas of maternal and child health, achieving health equity, deepening authentic community engagement, training future and current practitioners on understanding the strengths of individuals, families and communities in urban settings and changing the deficit narrative of expectant and parenting families of color.

## A Decade of Progress: Examining B'More for Healthy Babies Program Outcomes

October 14, 2020

5 - 6:30 p.m. ET



### **Amy Bopp, MSW**

Project Director, Professional Development  
Family League of Baltimore



With Family League of Baltimore, Amy Bopp supports early childhood initiatives with their data and reporting requirements. She is also a member of the City-wide initiative B'more for Healthy Babies, which works to decrease infant and maternal mortality. Prior to her work in maternal and child health, Amy worked as an interviewer for Big Brothers Big Sisters and a case manager serving people with disabilities. She holds a BS in Business Administration and an MSW from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



### **Cathy L. Costa, MSW, MPH**

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Maternal and Child Health  
Baltimore City Health Department



Cathy Costa is Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health at the Baltimore City Health Department, where she leads strategy for the city's B'more for Healthy Babies initiative and the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review projects. She has expertise in community needs assessment, program design, community mobilization, evaluation, racial and socioeconomic disparities in infant mortality, and maternal mental health. She holds Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and School of Medicine.



**Traci Kodeck, MPH**  
 CEO  
 HealthCare Access Maryland



Traci Kodeck has been with HCAM since 2000, originally serving as an Ombudsman/Perinatal Liaison helping pregnant and postpartum women navigate the complex Medicaid system. Traci came on board as interim CEO in December 2015 and was unanimously appointed by the Board of Directors after a national search. Over the past years, she served as Director of Maternal and Child Health Programs and then Chief of Program Operations before being promoted to Vice President of Programs in January 2011. Kodeck served for two years in the United States Peace Corps in the Eastern Caribbean as a community development worker, educating parents and teachers in a local pre-school. She earned her bachelor's degree in Community and Family Studies from the University of Delaware. She completed her Master's in Public Health at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ, where she focused on Health Education/Promotion with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health. In 2018, Traci received the University of Arizona Alumna of the year award from the School of Public Health and in 2019 was named one of The Daily Record's Top 100 Women. Traci is a Towson resident and lives with her seven year old daughter and partner, Dr. Rob Atlas.



**Wendy Gwartzman Lane, MD, MPH**  
 Clinical Associate Professor  
 Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Department of Pediatrics  
 University of Maryland School of Medicine

Wendy Lane is a clinician and researcher at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She is board certified in General Pediatrics, Child Abuse Pediatrics, and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Lane's research focuses on child maltreatment and maternal and child health. She serves as the Principal Investigator for B'more for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights, a community-based and community-engaged intervention to improve birth outcomes. She also examines outcomes of maltreatment for children, and development and evaluation of maltreatment prevention programs. She examines professional issues such as disparities in the medical evaluation, identification and reporting of maltreatment.



**Amber C. Summers, PhD, RDN, CHES**  
Senior Program Officer  
Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs



Dr. Summers is a Senior Program Officer II at the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs where she leads the social and behavior change communication efforts on Baltimore-based initiatives, including B'more for Healthy Babies. Throughout her public health career, she has partnered with numerous community organizations, universities, and government agencies on community health initiatives, especially in efforts to improve health equity. Dr. Summers received her Master of Health Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and a PhD in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## Social Mobilization to Drive Change

October 21, 2020

5 - 6:30 p.m. ET

### **Keyonna Green**

Community Advisory Board  
B'more for Healthy Babies

Keyonna Green is Baltimore resident and a member of the Community Advisory Board for B'more for Healthy Babies.



### **Giselle Joseph**

Community Outreach Worker, Promise Heights  
B'More for Healthy Babies Upton-Druid Heights

Giselle Joseph is a Community Health Outreach Worker/ Resource Mom and a Certified Lactation Consultant with Promise Heights B'more for Healthy Babies Upton-Druid Heights. She helps individuals and families of the community develop their capacity and access to resources, including health insurance, food, housing, quality care, and health information.

Giselle earned her Legal Assistant Associate of Applied Science with honors at Baltimore City Community College. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Legal Studies with a Minor in Psychology.

When Giselle is not at work fulfilling the needs of others, she is busy being a mother to her three children.



**Tina Suliman, MSPH**

Communications Associate

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs



Tina Suliman is a Communications Associate at the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP). Since 2011, she has developed, implemented, and managed strategic behavior change communications for CCP's Baltimore-based programs, with an emphasis on family planning, breastfeeding, early literacy, teen pregnancy prevention, and other infant and maternal health topics. In this role, she utilizes theoretical frameworks to develop effective digital and print communications and provides strategic planning and capacity building to government and community-based partners. Her approach combines qualitative and quantitative research with elements of human-centered design to produce communication solutions that are developed in partnership with, and are affirming to, their audience.

She holds an MSPH in health education and health communication from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



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## The Path Forward: Sustainability for Future Impact

October 28, 2020

5 - 6:30 p.m. ET



### **M. Celeste Amato**

President  
Maryland Philanthropy Network

Celeste joined the philanthropic community in 2012 after 18 years invested in public service and issues including housing, economic development, public works and environmental initiatives. Her wide and varied background in business development, marketing, communications, management and leadership led her to her role with Maryland Philanthropy Network. Celeste loves many things about her job but a few things stand out including the support she has received to elevate racial equity learning and action; that advocacy is now a routine part of funder conversations; and that she gets to work every day with colleagues who care so deeply about Maryland communities.

Celeste is an active volunteer and currently serves on the board of the MDSPCA. Her past board service includes Cleaner Greener Baltimore, Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Baltimore International College and the Southeast Community Development Corporation.

Celeste earned a Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University in Maryland. Go Greyhounds! She is a Baltimore City resident living in North Harford/Parkville with her partner, her stepsons, and two pugs.



**Alison G. Brown, MPH, BSN**

Interim President, UMMC Downtown Campus  
President, UMMC Midtown Campus



Alison G. Brown is Interim President of the University of Maryland Medical Center Downtown Campus and she also serves as President of UMMC's Midtown Campus. Prior to assuming the role as President of UMMC Midtown Campus in March 2018, she served as Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer for the University of Maryland Medical System's 13 hospital regional health care system. In this role she led strategic planning, marketing & brand strategy, corporate communications & media relations, community health and telemedicine services. Recognizing UMMC's role as an anchor institution serving Baltimore City, Alison also leads efforts to assure active and effective community engagement, health improvement and workforce development.

Alison holds a B.S. degree in Nursing from the University of Vermont. She earned a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University where she has served as an adjunct faculty preceptor for MHA students.



**Shelly Choo, MD, MPH**

Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
Maryland Department of Health



Dr. Choo serves as the Director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. She is a Public Health and General Preventive Medicine physician. She previously served as Chief Medical Officer for the Baltimore City Health Department, where she worked on various population and behavioral health initiatives including Accountable Health Communities and the Levels of Care for Hospitals responding to the Opioid Epidemic. She also served as Senior Medical Advisor with B'more for Healthy Babies, where she oversaw provider outreach efforts and infant safe sleep initiatives.



**Demaune Millard**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Family League of Baltimore



Demaune served over two years as Family League's Chief Operating Officer before assuming the role of CEO in July 2017. In addition to his core responsibilities, Millard is a member of the Mayor's Cabinet, Greater Baltimore Committee's (GBC) Presidential Advisory Council, and the Johns Hopkins University Center on Adolescent Health Community Advisory Board. Additionally, he serves as Chair of GBC's Education and Workforce Committee and Co-Chair of Baltimore City's Community Schools Steering Committee. He previously served on the United Way's Baltimore City Community Partnership Board and the Department of Recreation & Parks #REC2025 Steering Committee. Demaune's professional career spans over 15 years, influencing policy and operations management at the local, state, and federal levels.

A proud Baltimore native, Demaune and his wife, Terrylynn, reside in the city with their daughter, Asa.



**Terry Staudenmaier**  
 Senior Program Officer for Health & Human Services  
 Abell Foundation

Terry Staudenmaier is the Senior Program Officer for Health and Human Services at the Abell Foundation, where she oversees a portfolio of grants valued at over two-and-a-half million dollars. She guides the foundation's grantmaking in the health and human service fields, identifying areas of need and opportunities to positively impact the health and well-being of Baltimore residents. Terry works with grantees across a variety of programmatic areas, including: access to health care; homeless services; teen pregnancy prevention; child welfare; and basic human needs. She enjoys working with grantees to ensure that they are able to achieve their objectives and providing advice and guidance to organizations that want to apply for funding to help them shape a compelling grant request. She has served on the boards of directors of several Baltimore nonprofit organizations, and currently serves on the B'More for Healthy Babies Steering Committee, and the advisory board of the Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care.



**Christopher Thomaskutty**  
Senior Vice President, Physician Enterprise  
Mercy Health Services



Mr. Thomaskutty joined Mercy in 2012 and is responsible for strategic, financial and operational management for Mercy's primary care network, known as Maryland Family Care, and Mercy's surgical and medical Centers of Excellence. Mercy's 70 primary care providers care for over 120,000 unique lives in the Baltimore region. Mercy's Centers of Excellence include more than 110 surgeons and medical specialists who see patients in 33 different locations across 13 counties including 9 other hospitals in multiple states. Mercy's Centers of Excellence produce more than 28,000 procedures per year. Mr. Thomaskutty also oversees Mercy's Business and Employee Health Services which provide occupational health management for employees of Mercy Health Services and more than 20,000 public employees in Baltimore City and Baltimore County government. Mr. Thomaskutty serves as co-chair of the City's B'More for Healthy Babies coalition, on the board of Health Care for the Homeless, as a Sunday school teacher at Shrine of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and as a leader of a local Cub Scout den.



**Maria Harris Tildon, JD**  
Executive Vice President for Marketing, Government Affairs  
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield



Maria Harris Tildon is Executive Vice President for Marketing, Government Affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, the largest health care insurer in the Mid-Atlantic region, serving nearly 3.2 million members with more than 5,100 employees in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. As Executive Vice President Ms. Tildon is responsible for managing all matters related to marketing, internal and external communications, product development and lifecycle, public policy and government relations. Ms. Tildon joined CareFirst in September of 2006.

Ms. Tildon also serves on several not-for-profit boards including Healthcare for the Homeless, Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, and DC Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee.