

# 2026 Maternal Health Conference

Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 8:30am – 4:00pm

## AGENDA

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**8:30-9:00 AM — Check In, Networking, Sponsor & Community Partner Expo, Continental Breakfast**

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**9:00-9:25 AM — Welcome, Opening Remarks & Raffle Drawing**

**Ramona Holloway**, Conference Master of Ceremonies

Media Professional, Community Advocate, and Motivational Speaker

**Andrea Wages**

Care Ring Board Chair

**Tchernavia Montgomery, MSW, LCSW**

Chief Executive Officer, Care Ring

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**9:25-9:45 AM — The State of Maternal Health: National Legislative Perspectives**

**U.S. Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, PhD**

U.S. House of Representatives

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**9:45-10:05 AM — The State of Maternal Health in North Carolina**

**Tara Owens Shuler, MEd**

Branch Head, Maternal Health Branch

Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section

Division of Public Health, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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**10:05-10:25 AM — The State of Maternal Health in Mecklenburg County**

**Kimberly N. Scott, DrPH, MPH, CHES**

Interim Director of Public Health

Mecklenburg County

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**10:25-10:30 AM — Sponsor Remarks**

**10:30-10:45 AM — Break & Transition**

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**10:45-11:45 AM — Morning Breakout Sessions**

1. **Postpartum Is the Systemic Blind Spot: Why the First 14 Days Matter and How We Can Fix It**
  2. **Beyond the Birth Chart: Leveraging Narrative Data & Innovation to Improve Equitable Birthing Experiences**
  3. **Heart-Related Maternal Health Risk Factors and the Built Environment: Addressing Disparities and Promoting Healthy Pregnancies**
  4. **More Than a Form: Creating Supportive Screening Environments**
  5. **Addressing Geographic Disparities in Care During the Fourth Trimester**
  6. **Supporting Women Experiencing Domestic Violence Before, During, and After Pregnancy**
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**11:45 AM–12:30 PM — Lunch, Sponsor & Community Expo, Touch Therapy Demonstrations**

**12:30–12:40 PM — Sponsor Remarks & Raffle Drawings**

**12:40–12:55 PM — Special Remarks**  
**Senator Natalie Murdock**, North Carolina

**12:55–1:00 PM — Raffle Drawings**

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**1:00–2:00 PM — Panel Discussion**  
**How Smart Philanthropy and Investment Are Driving Maternal Health Innovation**

**Moderator:**

- **J. Hill**, CEO, The BrandUScript Agency

**Panelists:**

- **Tchernavia Montgomery, MSW, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer, Care Ring**
  - **Nicole Campbell, EdD**, Chief Impact Officer, Smart Start of Mecklenburg County
  - **Whitney Feld**, President, Bissell Ballantyne Legacy Foundation
  - **Jonisha Brown, MD, MPH, FAAFP**, WEBE – The Women’s Empowerment & Birth Equity Institute
  - **Racquel Washington, MA**, Reproductive Justice Birthworker; Atrium Health, Community Doula Program
  - **Heather Robertson White, MD**, Novant Health
  - **Special Remarks (Pre-recorded):**
    - The Duke Endowment
    - The Leon Levine Foundation
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**2:00–2:15 PM — Break & Transition**

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**2:15–3:15 PM — Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

1. **The Missing Link:** How Fathers Support Maternal Health Through the First 1,000 Days
  2. **Beyond the Hospital Walls:** Extending Maternal Care into Homes, Communities, and Everyday Life
  3. **Congenital Syphilis Prevention:** Partnerships for Prevention
  4. **More Than Burnout:** How Maternal Mental Health Is Driving Women Out of the Workforce
  5. **It’s All in Your Head:** Moving Beyond Platitudes When Breastfeeding Is Painful and We Can’t Fix It
  6. **Maternal Health Innovation:** Strengthening Postpartum Care Through Education, Collaboration, and Action
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**3:15–3:30 PM — Break & Transition**

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**3:30–4:00 PM — Closing Remarks & Call to Action**  
**Ramona Holloway**, Conference Master of Ceremonies  
**IMPACT Awards**  
**Tchernavia Montgomery, MSW, LCSW**, Chief Executive Officer, Care Ring