

2026 Maternal Health Conference

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

AGENDA

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

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

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

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

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

10:25-10:30 AM — Sponsor Remarks

10:30-10:45 AM — Break & Transition

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

12:30–1:00 PM — IMPACT Awards, Sponsor Remarks & Raffle Drawings

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
 - **TBD**, Novant Health
 - **Special Remarks (Pre-recorded):**
 - The Duke Endowment
 - The Leon Levine Foundation
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2:00–2:15 PM — Break & Transition

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

3:30–4:00 PM — Closing Remarks & Call to Action

Ramona Holloway, Conference Master of Ceremonies

Senator Natalie Murdock, North Carolina

Tchernavia Montgomery, MSW, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer, Care Ring