

## Doula Roundtable Speaker Bios



**Dr. Michele Benoit-Wilson** - Michele Benoit-Wilson is a board-certified OBGYN who has spent 23 years taking care of women with high-risk pregnancies. She currently serves as a Medical Director at WellCare of NC where she represents the organization in various maternal health spaces that work to improve access and provide quality care to vulnerable populations. Dr. Benoit-Wilson is passionate about community service, social justice, and promoting health equity. She is an avid writer and has been published in the North Carolina Medical Journal describing her work with a volunteer team led by 6 Black female physicians that provided Covid-19 vaccination to over 7,000 people in underserved communities of color in Wake County. She and her colleagues continue to advance their work around health equity by working in collaboration with local organizations like the Wake County Department of Health and, regionally, with Fair Count in Georgia. She is a proud, 30-year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, an international, public service sisterhood



**Belinda Pettiford** - Belinda has over 30 years of experience in public health. She has been with the Title V Program within the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health since November 1995. Belinda is the Chief for the Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section and in this capacity, provides oversight to the state's maternal health, reproductive health, preconception health, teen pregnancy prevention, sickle cell, and numerous programs focused on equity in birth outcomes.

Belinda received her master's degree in public health (MPH) from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and undergraduate degrees from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro in Community Health Education and Psychology. She co-chairs the Perinatal Health Committee of the NC Child Fatality Task Force and also serves on the HHS Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (SACIMM). She is the 2020 recipient of the Ron Levine Public Health Leadership Award, recognizing outstanding public health leadership, in North Carolina. Belinda is the current President of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and serves on the Board of the National Healthy Start Association.



**Danielle Little** - Danielle Little has served her community as a Birth and Postpartum Doula, Childbirth Educator, and Lactation Counselor for over 12 years. Her work centers health equity, health literacy, advocacy, and the overall being of the growing family. She is passionate about the 4-Ps of Maternal Child Health - Preconception, Pregnancy, Postpartum, and Parenting and dedicated to supporting families in transition from pregnant to parent. In her current role, she serves as the Project Manager of the Pediatrics Supporting Parents national initiative with the Durham Children's Initiative.

As a Maternal Child Health Professional, Little holds an undergraduate degree in Child Development and Health Education from Peace College in Raleigh and a graduate degree in Adult Education and Health Professional Education from East Carolina University. Little serves on the board of Postpartum Support International North Carolina Chapter as well as the North Carolina Perinatal Association.

As a wife and mother of four, she is well acquainted with the dynamics of a growing family and the need for a strong supportive village. Little is a native North Carolinian who enjoys trips to the beach in the summer and scenic travels to the mountains in the fall. She also enjoys meeting new people, cultivating wholesome relationships, and spending time with family.



**Amelia Muse** - Dr. Amelia Muse is the Director of the Center of Excellence for Integrated Care for the Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation. In her role, she helps systems of all sizes and configurations make the clinical, operational, and financial changes necessary to deliver whole person care. Dr. Muse provides training to equip providers and leadership with the skills to implement and deliver integrated care services as well as leads research and advocacy activities to improve quality and access for behavioral health care in North Carolina. Prior to joining the Center of Excellence, she worked as a behavioral health clinician in a variety of medical settings serving underserved populations in eastern North Carolina. Dr. Muse received her doctorate degree in Medical Family Therapy and her master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from East Carolina University.



**Tara Owens Shuler, M.Ed., LCCE, FACCE, CD(DONA)**, has 30 years of public health work experience, ranging from maternal and child health programming to health professions workforce development programs. Tara currently is the Maternal Health Branch Head in the Women, Infant, and Children Wellness Section in the NC Division of Public Health. Tara is also a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE) and a DONA certified Birth Doula. Tara received an undergraduate degree in Health Education and Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1992 and a graduate degree in Community Health from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1997.

Tara serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Perinatal Association (NCPA), which is a statewide maternal and child health education and advocacy organization comprised of NC perinatal and neonatal professionals. Tara also serves as the Board President for a Raleigh-based non-profit organization, Addis Jemari, Inc., which creates sustainable solutions to end the orphan crisis in Ethiopia. In addition to this service work, Tara serves her broader community as a member of a national service organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



**Dr. Rachel Peragallo Urrutia** is an obstetrician gynecologist and researcher at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is one of the principal investigators of the Accountability for Care through Undoing Racism and Equity for Moms (ACURE4Moms) Study. The study will be randomizing 40 prenatal practices around NC to receive interventions designed to reduce disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes. One of the interventions they are testing is providing Community-Based Doula support for individuals at high risk of low birth weight as well as fostering relationships between CBDs and the prenatal practices including Maternal Health Equity Education and Training.



**Natasha Turner** is a Doula Program Analyst, for the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). She is responsible for the implementation of the Virginia Medicaid doula benefit program and helping to improve member health. Natasha has 20 years of experience in program administration, child health/child protection, and contract management. Her previous roles include work with the Virginia Departments of Health (VDH), and Social Services (VDSS), and the City of Norfolk. Natasha has a degree in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University, and she enjoys reading, gardening and martial arts outside of work.



**Consuelo Staton** is currently the Virginia Resource Mothers Program Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Office of Family Health Services where she administers the statewide program that provides intensive home visiting services, contract management, and technical assistance to improve birth outcomes and decrease infant mortality for pregnant and parenting teens and infants. Consuelo is currently serving as the VDH SME for the doula initiative and is a doula in training with a Black women-run doula collective. Consuelo is a strong believer of social justice as it relates to the underserved and has had the opportunity to implement many quality programs for the many faces of these population segments by providing leadership that excels in linking the community with educational, business, civic, public health, and social services resources.

Ms. Staton received her Master's in Industrial Counseling (Organizational Development) from Northeastern University, Boston, MA and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.