



# NURTURENJ

## Leadership Summit



**United for Change.  
Centered in Community.**

December 10, 2025

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

East Brunswick, NJ

**NURTURENJ**

Dear Nurture NJ Partners,

Thank you for joining us for the 8<sup>th</sup> Nurture NJ Leadership Summit of the Murphy Administration! Each year, this gathering has served as a catalyst for ideas, collaboration and meaningful action. Today is no different. A summit of this scope only comes to life because of the dedication of so many, and I am deeply grateful for everyone who helped make it possible.

Since 2018, we have brought together maternal and infant health leaders from across New Jersey and the nation to confront one of the most urgent crises of our time. This year, as we reflect on all we have accomplished together, we also look ahead to sustaining this momentum through deeper community engagement, stronger cross-sector partnerships, and a commitment to breaking down the silos that too often hinder progress. Our network has grown from a small coalition to a powerful national community, united by a shared mission to protect and uplift mothers, babies and families.

Over the past seven-plus years, we have made transformational strides. New Jersey has moved from 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation in maternal mortality to 25<sup>th</sup> – a testament to what is possible when government, health care providers, advocates, and communities work together with urgency and purpose.

Through Nurture NJ, we set out to make New Jersey the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby. Guided by the Nurture NJ Maternal and Infant Health Strategic Plan released in 2021, we have advanced or completed more than half of its 80-plus recommendations, including:

- Covering doula care through Medicaid and becoming the first state to require community doula training for reimbursement;
- Expanding Medicaid coverage to 365 days postpartum, one of the first states to do so;
- Launching Family Connects NJ, the nation's most robust universal nurse home visiting program; and
- Establishing the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority—the first and only of its kind in the country.

These efforts build upon more than 70 pieces of maternal and infant health legislation signed into law, hundreds of millions in state investment, and statewide community-centric programs like our Family Festivals, which ensure services meet families where they are.

Rutgers School of Public Health's ongoing evaluation of the impact of Nurture NJ reinforces the significance of this work: declines in low-risk Cesarean rates, a dramatic increase in paid family leave use, and fivefold growth in resource connections for families. Importantly, stakeholders consistently report that Nurture NJ has strengthened partnerships, validated community-led solutions, and created a lasting cultural shift in how we approach maternal and infant health.

As we gather today, our focus is on the heart of this progress: community engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and the power of a united national network. Throughout the day, I encourage you to listen closely, share openly, challenge assumptions, and bring forward the insights only you – our leaders, community members, clinicians, policymakers, advocates, and innovators – can offer. Your voices will shape the next chapter of this movement.

Ending where I began, thank you for being part of the Nurture NJ family. Our administration may be nearing its close, but the work ahead is bigger than any single office or term. Together, we will continue the momentum to ensure that every mother and every baby – no matter their race, ZIP code, or circumstance – has the chance to thrive and New Jersey truly becomes the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.

With warmest holiday wishes to you and your families,



Tammy Snyder Murphy

*First Lady of New Jersey*

# Agenda

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<b>8:00 - 8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST</b>
<b>8:45 - 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>MENTIMETER ICEBREAKER</b> with Tiffany Clarke, Director at Afton Bloom
<b>9:00 - 9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b> from First Lady Tammy Murphy
<b>9:15 - 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>REMARKS</b> from Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill
<b>9:30 - 10:20 a.m.</b>	<b>KEYNOTE</b> by Latham Thomas, Founder, Mama Glow & Mama Glow Foundation
<b>10:20 - 10:35 a.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>10:35 - 11:40 a.m.</b>	<b>LISTENING TO FAMILIES: CENTERING COMMUNITY IN MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY</b>  <i>Dr. Ndidiama Amutah-Onukagha, Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine</i>  <i>Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD, Senior Fellow, National Partnership for Women &amp; Families</i>  <i>Jaye Wilson, President &amp; CEO, Melinated Moms</i>  <i>Moderator: Lisa Asare, President &amp; CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority</i>
<b>11:40 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.</b>	<b>BREAK AND GATHER LUNCH</b>
<b>12:25 - 1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 1 Breakout Discussions &amp; Readout</b>  <i>Moderator: Barbara George Johnson, Chair of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, and Vice President of External Affairs and Urban Policy and Research and Executive Director of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University</i>
<b>1:15 - 2:20 p.m.</b>	<b>FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN NEW JERSEY FAMILIES</b>  <i>Kenn L. Harris, Co-Founder and CEO, The League of Voices for Mothers, Babies, Fathers and Families</i>  <i>Christy Turlington Burns, Founder and President, Every Mother Counts</i>  <i>Shakira Williams-Linzey, Director, Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives, March of Dimes</i>  <i>Moderator: First Lady Tammy Murphy</i>
<b>2:20 - 2:35 p.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>2:35 - 3:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 2 Breakout Discussions &amp; Readout</b>  <i>Moderator: Barbara George Johnson, Chair of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, and Vice President of External Affairs and Urban Policy and Research and Executive Director of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University</i>
<b>3:25 - 3:40 p.m.</b>	<b>CLOSING KEYNOTE</b> by Lisa Asare, President and CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority
<b>3:40 - 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> by First Lady Tammy Murphy

## Speakers

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### DR. NDIDIAMAKA AMUTAH-ONUKAGHA

Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine  
<https://blackmaternalhealth.tufts.edu/>

Dr. Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha is the Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is the Founder and Director of the Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice (CBMHRJ), and of the Maternal Outcomes of Translational Health Equity Research (MOTHER) Lab. In addition, she is the founder of the largest conference on Black maternal health in the United States held annually in April. In its 8th year, the conference has recently attracted participants from over 46 states and 10 countries. An active scholar, Dr. Amutah-Onukagha's research investigates maternal health disparities, infant mortality, reproductive health and social justice, and HIV/AIDS as experienced by Black women. She also serves as the inaugural Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the university's Public Health and Professional Degree Programs.

A well-published author, Dr. Amutah-Onukagha's research has been presented in over 85 manuscripts, 8 book chapters, a best-selling book on Amazon, and a textbook on culturally responsive evaluation. Her research has also been featured across a series of platforms, including, The Lancet, TedX, USA Today, MSNBC and most recently in the New York Times. She also serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Women's Health Issues. Currently, Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is the Principal Investigator of two multi-year studies on maternal mortality and morbidity. She is an active co-investigator on several other research studies with collaborators across the country.

In 2023, she received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the March of Dimes and the Academic Excellence in Maternal Health award from the IRTH app. In 2022 she received the John MacQueen lecture award from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Dr. Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha was an honoree of the 2020 Top 40 under 40 Minority Leaders in Healthcare, as presented by the National Minority Quality Forum.

She also holds federal and international appointments and was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Advisory Council on Infant and Maternal Mortality for a 4-year term. In 2024, she was appointed to serve as the Inaugural Health Equity Think Tank Director for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, an international organization with over 125,000 members.

A community engaged leader, she is a founding member of Birth Equity Justice MA, a board member for the Neighborhood Birth Center in Boston, and a board member for Dr. Shalons' Maternal Action Project. Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is also the President and Founder of Amaka Consulting and Evaluation Services, LLC, a minority and women owned public health research and evaluation firm.

Dr. Amutah-Onukagha received her Master of Public Health from The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services before completing her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Maryland. She also completed the Kellogg Health Scholars postdoctoral fellowship with an emphasis on community based participatory research and health disparities.



### LISA ASARE

President and CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
<https://www.nj.gov/njmihia/>

In March 2024, Lisa Asare was appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, the first and only such state authority in the nation, established to address maternal and infant health with a specific focus on addressing disparities. In this role, she serves as a member of Phil Murphy's cabinet.

With over 25 years of service within state government, she has served in senior leadership roles within the Departments of Health and Human Services, where she provided oversight of the state Medicaid program, mental health and addiction services and family health services. She also served as the Department lead on First Lady Murphy's Nurture NJ maternal health initiative, where she contributed to the NurtureNJ strategic plan, addressed the social determinants of health through multi-sector collaboration, and leveraged additional state, federal, and philanthropic funding to address emerging issues.

She serves as the Immediate Past President of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Board and received the 2023 HRSA Maternal and Child Bureau (MCHB) Director's award.

# Speakers

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## **BARBARA GEORGE JOHNSON**

Vice President of External Affairs and Urban Policy and Executive Director of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University

<https://www.kean.edu/watson-institute>

Barbara George Johnson is the Vice President of External Affairs and Urban Policy and Executive Director of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University. She is also co-host of Kean's Urban Impact podcast.

VP Johnson has over 30 years of experience as a public policy professional in New Jersey, with an extensive background in health care, public health and public policy. Early in her career, she spearheaded the development of the Newark Kids Initiative for the Newark Health Department, which focused on health care and social services for children impacted by domestic violence. She also served on the CDC-funded Newark Prevention Marketing Initiative and other task forces on HIV/AIDS. Her health care experience includes serving as a public health advisor for the Maternal Child Health Division of the New York City Department of Health, and later as the director for the Family Life Institute of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey. She was also the legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and a Senior Lobbyist on health care issues for MBI-GluckShaw. VP Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology and technology from Cornell University, a Master of Public Health from Columbia University, and a law degree from Rutgers-Newark Law School.



## **KENN L. HARRIS**

Co-Founder and CEO, The League of Voices for Mothers, Babies, Fathers and Families

Kenn Harris is a 2024 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow and recipient of the 2024 APHA Martha May Eliot Award. He is the principal consultant of The Emu Consultants, LLC, and Co-Founder and CEO of The League of Voices for Mothers, Babies, Fathers and Families. What drives him every day is his hope for better outcomes for all.

His immediate past job was as Vice President for Engagement and Community Partnerships at the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) in Boston, MA where he was also the Director and Principal Investigator of the Healthy Start TA & Support Center, funded by the HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau. His professional career in MCH and public health spans almost 35 years.

While at NICHQ, Kenn established an innovative and responsive Healthy Start TA & Support Center to serve over 100 grantees across the country. He enhanced and strengthened the work of Healthy Start communities across the country committed to the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities in birth outcomes. In addition to addressing infant and maternal mortality, Kenn partnered with the MCH community to ensure fatherhood and men's health was included in MCH services. He continues to build on his experience with the federal Healthy Start program which began in 1991. He is co-creator of the Core Adaptive Model for Fatherhood (CAM©), an evidenced-informed model for fatherhood/male involvement programs. He is a senior consultant with the National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL) on the Fatherhood Learning Academy and Responsible Fatherhood Mentoring Academy. Kenn co-authored and published an article "The Health of Young African American Men" in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, 2015). Kenn is also a master storyteller, integrating storytelling in his work.

## Speakers

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### **SINSI HERNÁNDEZ-CANCIO, JD**

Senior Fellow for Health Equity at the National Partnership for Women & Families

<https://nationalpartnership.org/>

Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD, is the inaugural Senior Fellow for Health Equity at the National Partnership for Women & Families. She is a national health and health care equity policy and advocacy thought leader with almost 25 years advocating for increased health care access and improved quality of care for underserved communities. Sinsi is deeply committed to transforming our health care system to meet the needs of our rapidly evolving nation so we can all thrive together. She believes that our future prosperity depends on ensuring our health care system routinely provides excellent, comprehensive, culturally centered and affordable care for every single person, family and community, and that this requires the dismantling of structural inequities including racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia and religious bigotry.

Sinsi is a recognized leader in the national health equity movement, a sought-after strategic advisor and a dynamic, inspiring speaker. Sinsi's extensive experience in health and health equity policy and advocacy spans the state government, labor and non-profit arenas, including working on the development and passage of the Affordable Care Act. Having barely made it out of childbirth alive, she is a passionate advocate for improving maternal health for women of color, reproductive justice, and marrying data and storytelling to achieve policy improvements.

She has presented at national events across the country and served on numerous advisory committees for organizations including the National Academy of Medicine, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs and the American Association of Pediatrics. She has published extensively and has appeared in national and state level English and Spanish television, radio and print media.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sinsi is bilingual and bicultural. She earned an A.B. from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and a J.D. from New York University School of Law. She lives in Fairfax with her husband, teenage son and three rescue dogs. She loves sci-fi, board games, growing food, and expressing her love for family and friends by cooking for them.



### **MIKIE SHERRILL**

Governor-elect, State of New Jersey

<https://www.nj.gov/govelect/about/governor-elect/>

U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Navy helicopter pilot, former federal prosecutor, wife, and mother of four kids – Mikie Sherrill proudly serves New Jersey in Congress and ran for governor to make life easier and more affordable for Garden State families. Her career has been defined by service to her country and New Jersey.

Mikie was inspired to join the military by her grandfather, a World War II veteran. From a young age, she knew she wanted to fly and do big things. After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1994 – the first class of women eligible for combat roles on ships and aircraft – Mikie spent almost 10 years on active duty in the United States Navy. As a Sea King Helicopter pilot, she led missions throughout Europe and the Middle East. She worked on the Battle Watch Floor in the European Theater during the Iraq War, served as a Flag Aide to the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and was a Russian policy officer aiding in the implementation of our nuclear treaty obligations and oversaw the relationship between the U.S. Navy and Russian Federation Navy.

Following her service in the Navy, Mikie attended and graduated from law school. She worked in private practice and then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey. As an Outreach and Reentry Coordinator, Mikie established programs to develop trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve and helped people leaving prison to gain employment, housing, and education to restart their lives. Then as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she prosecuted federal cases to keep our communities safe and worked to take illegal guns off the streets of New Jersey.

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### TAMMY SNYDER MURPHY

New Jersey First Lady

[nj.gov/firstlady](http://nj.gov/firstlady)

Born in 1965, Tammy Snyder Murphy is a native of Virginia and a graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A., English and Communications, 1987). She and her family reside in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Tammy and New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy have been married for 30 years and together have four children: Josh, Emma, Charlie, and Sam. A transformative experience for the Murphy family was proudly representing the United States in the Federal Republic of Germany from 2009 to 2013. Tammy, individually and together with her husband, spoke and led on behalf of the United States of America. She chaired meetings, gave speeches, and hosted meals and receptions, strengthening our nation's relationship with a critical ally while impacting the lives of thousands of Germans and Americans.

Upon returning to New Jersey, Tammy and Phil realized that the incredible state they call home needed bold new leadership. Together, they founded a think tank to explore ways to help grow the middle class and jumpstart New Jersey's economy. During the campaign, transition, and now as First Lady, Tammy has been energized and inspired traveling the state and meeting New Jerseyans to hear their concerns, utilizing her experience in the private and nonprofit sectors to work through policy ideas and solutions.

Over the years, Tammy has worked with non-profits, a think-tank, and other organizations focused on the environment, education, health care, youth and family services, as well as the arts and trans-Atlantic relations. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and charter member of The Climate Reality Action Fund, an organization founded by former Vice-President Al Gore.

Tammy previously worked in finance in the United States and Europe and has traveled extensively throughout the world living overseas in each of London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, and Berlin. She speaks German and some Italian.

As First Lady, Tammy's policy initiatives focus on infant and maternal health, climate change education, and fostering women-owned businesses throughout New Jersey. She has worked to create Family Festivals across the state to increase access to resources for mothers, children, and families; worked with the New Jersey Department of Education to incorporate climate change throughout the K-12 state education guidelines to better prepare our students for the future economy; and partnered with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to increase angel investing in women-led businesses. She continues to be a partner to Phil as he works with Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way to tackle the formidable challenges facing New Jersey and its incredible residents.



### LATHAM THOMAS

Co-Founder, Mama Glow, Founder, Mama Glow Foundation

<https://mamaglowfoundation.org/>

LATHAM THOMAS is a distinguished women's health expert, Black maternal health advocate, entrepreneur, Ivy League professor, speaker, and best-selling author. Most notably, she is the visionary founder of Mama Glow and the Mama Glow Foundation. Established in 2011, Mama Glow is a global maternal health and premiere education platform serving birthing people along the childbearing continuum. Its global community is home to over 3,000 doulas spread across the entire USA and 6 continents. Mama Glow supports families during the fertility period, pregnancy, birth and postpartum offering handholding through their bespoke doula services and works with leading insurance companies and hospital systems to improve the experience of maternal health care.

Four years ago, Latham founded the Mama Glow Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit committed to advancing reproductive justice and birth equity through education, advocacy and the arts, as well as research and scholarship. She serves on the Kate Spade New York Social Impact Council, where she helps to increase access to mental health support for women and girls. Latham serves on the Community Advisory Board for The Maternal OutcoMes (MOMs) Program implemented at Northwell Health, the largest healthcare provider in New York state. Through the partnership with Northwell Health and through grant funding through the NIH, Mama Glow trains nursing staff in the Mama Glow Professional Doula Training Program and ensures clients needs are being met by hospital administrators.

In fall of 2022, Latham was appointed Visiting Professor of the Practice of Gender and Sexuality Studies for the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University. There, the Mama Glow Professional Doula Training program is embedded as a

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course at Brown, a historic first at an Ivy League University. The Mama Glow Doula Homeschool Professional Training Program provides education and empowers birth workers around the world through workforce development. Mama Glow launched the inaugural Doula Expo in 2021, celebrated by Good Morning America as the "Coachella for Birth Workers". The culture-shifting event is a first-of-its-kind festival for birth workers, caregivers and families, centering education, networking, business development and economic empowerment.

Recognized as one of Oprah Winfrey's Super Soul 100, Latham has served as a doula for celebrity clients including Alicia Keys, Anne Hathaway, Ashley Graham, Karlie Kloss, DJ Khaled, Rebecca Minkoff, Tamera Mowry, and more. A Columbia University alumna, she is the author of two best-selling books; *Own Your Glow: A Soulful Guide to Luminous Living And Crowning The Queen Within* and *Mama Glow: A Hip Guide to Your Fabulous Abundant Pregnancy*.

With over 20 years of experience in the women's health advocacy arena, she is a sought-after speaker having recently participated in the esteemed Milken Institute Global Conference and is the recipient of Black Girls Rock 2024 Community Change Agent Award.



### **CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS**

Founder & President, Every Mother Counts

<https://everymothercounts.org/>

Christy Turlington Burns is the Founder and President of Every Mother Counts. Christy's work in maternal health began after she experienced a childbirth-related complication in 2003—an experience that inspired her to direct and produce the documentary feature film, *No Woman, No Cry*, about the challenges women face throughout pregnancy and childbirth around the world. Under Christy's leadership, over the past 15 years Every Mother Counts has invested nearly \$50 million to support awareness raising, community-led solutions, and advocacy for systems change, with the goal of ensuring that the maternal health journey before, during, and after childbirth is safe, respectful, and equitable for everyone, everywhere. Before founding EMC, Christy received international acclaim as a model representing the world's biggest fashion and beauty brands which she leveraged to become a health and wellness advocate. She authored a book about yoga, *Living Yoga: Creating A Life Practice* (Hyperion 2002), edited the book, *Arrival Stories: Women Share Their Experiences of Becoming Mothers* (Random House 2022) with Amy Schumer, and served as an executive producer for the 2023 Apple TV documentary series, *The Super Models*. In 2025, Christy was named to the inaugural TIME100 Philanthropy list as one of the most influential people shaping the future of giving and received The DVF Award which recognizes, supports, and amplifies the voices of extraordinary women who are dedicated to improving the lives of other women. Christy graduated Cum Laude from NYU's Gallatin School of Independent Studies where she received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2023 and studied Public Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She has completed 10 Marathons on behalf of Team EMC and resides in New York City.



### **SHAKIRA WILLIAMS-LINZEY, MPH, IFA E®**

Director, Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives, March of Dimes

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/>

For more than two decades, Shakira has been committed to improving maternal and infant/child health outcomes, with a focus on reducing racial, ethnic, and economic disparities. She is the Director of Maternal Infant Health in the New York/New Jersey market with March of Dimes, a national organization whose mission is to lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies. The goals are to end the preventable maternal health risks and deaths, end preventable preterm birth and infant death, and close the health equity gap.

Prior to this position, Shakira was the Director of Reproductive Health and Childhood Initiatives and Regional Manager for Family Support with NJ Early Intervention System with Central Jersey Family Health Consortium. She began her career in health administration at Cigna Healthcare, working with the company in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey in the company's Human Resources, Sales and Provider Relations sectors.

Shakira earned her Master of Science in Public Health from Temple University in Philadelphia and her Bachelor of Science in Health Science from William Paterson University in New Jersey. She also holds a certificate in Women's Entrepreneurship from Cornell University

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and is a graduate of the Rockwood Leadership Institute Fellowship.

She currently serves on several boards and coalitions, including the Newborn Screening Advisory Review Committee, the New Jersey Maternal Experience Survey Advisory Board, the Power of NJ Birth Stories (PNJBS) Advisory Committee, the Leadership Council for the Alliance for Diversity Education, Practice, and Transformation (ADEPT), and the Board of Trustees for the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium.

Shakira is also actively involved in community service organizations, including the New Brunswick Area Branch of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Mocha Moms, Inc. of Middlesex County, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She resides in New Jersey with her husband and their three children.



### JAYE WILSON

President & CEO, Melinated Moms

<https://www.melinatedmoms.com/>

Jaye Wilson is a nationally recognized maternal health equity leader, public health licensed practical nurse, community strategist, and the Founder & CEO of **Melinated Moms®**, a global collective dedicated to empowering women and families across the Melinated spectrum. With over twenty years of experience spanning nursing, public health, and community systems design, Jaye has become a leading voice in transforming maternal health outcomes for Black and Brown families.

She also serves as the **Executive Director of Connecting Our Communities for NJ**, where she leads statewide initiatives that strengthen family support networks, advance community-centered solutions, and bridge critical gaps in health, housing, and resource equity.

Drawing from her clinical background in nursing and her lived experience as a mother navigating inequities firsthand, Jaye built Melinated Moms® as a **value-based, culturally responsive ecosystem of transformational support**. Central to this ecosystem is the **Melinated Moms Membership**, a community-driven model that offers tools, education, advocacy training, and wraparound support to moms at **every wage, stage, and phase of life**. Through membership, families access a continuum of care—from perinatal concierge services and parent coaching to leadership development and community wellness initiatives—that honors their cultural identity, autonomy, and lived experience.

Jaye is also the creator of the groundbreaking **Find Your ROAR™ Advocacy Training**, a program that equips mothers, caregivers, and professionals with the skills to advocate boldly within healthcare settings, navigate bias, and create lasting change. Her training has empowered thousands of advocates nationwide and continues to redefine what equitable, culturally grounded advocacy looks like with the community as the primary stakeholder.

A dynamic and deeply rooted speaker, Jaye brings compassion, expertise, and transformational vision to every stage, inspiring audiences to reimagine maternal health equity, community care, and generational healing. Of everything she's been able to accomplish, her greatest inspiration is grounded in the legacy evolving through her children, Nadiyah and Alix.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

The 2025 Summit will offer 5.5 Ethical or Cultural Competency Contact Hours of Continuing Education (CE) for Social Workers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licensed Professional Counselors.

Stockton University is authorized to offer continuing education credits for social workers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, and Massachusetts for licensure and certification renewal by the licensure boards in those states. Stockton's undergraduate and graduate programs in social work are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Stockton University is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0635.

Stockton University is a recognized NJDOE Professional Development provider (NJDOE Provider ID #229).

**Certificates will be e-mailed and available for download upon submission of the conference evaluation.**

## LACTATION ROOM

Please visit the registration table and someone will direct you to the Boardroom II Room.

## WIFI ACCESS

Username: **NurtureNJ**

Password: **SUMMIT25**

## CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Your feedback is important in helping us shape future events. An email will be sent with a link to the conference evaluation at the conclusion of the event. Continuing Education/Proof of Attendance certificates are available via download upon completion of the evaluation.

## Get to know the Nurture NJ community!

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### NURTURE NJ DIGITAL BROCHURE

Scan the QR code to access a digital brochure of maternal and infant health programs and initiatives supported by our community of Nurture NJ partners!



### VENDOR INFORMATION

Be sure to check out our vendors, community partner resources, and self-care opportunities throughout the Ballroom, Brunswick, and Woodbridge Piscataway Rooms!

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### SUMMIT HOST



Nurture NJ was launched in 2019 by First Lady Tammy Murphy to make New Jersey the safest, most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby. Nurture NJ encompasses the entirety of the Murphy Administration's work on maternal and infant health, including over 70 pieces of maternal and infant health legislation signed by Governor Murphy, funding for groundbreaking programs and policies, an annual Nurture NJ Leadership Summit, a statewide Family Festival event series, and the development of a first-of-its-kind Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority to continue the work beyond this administration.

Visit [nj.gov/nurturenj](http://nj.gov/nurturenj) for more information.



The Child Welfare Education Institute (CWEI) at Stockton University is facilitating logistics for this event. The mission of CWEI is to support the ongoing transformation of the public child welfare system through social work education and professional training. Our vision is safety and well-being for the children and families of New Jersey.



CHILD WELFARE  
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