



2023 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Applying the Healthy Families America Program Model to Empower African American & Black Women and Improve Health Outcomes

Dr. Angelique Anderson, Social Worker

Dr. Angelique Anderson is a social worker by trade, having earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Sacramento with a concentration in Child Welfare through the Title IV-E Initiative. Angelique earned her Doctorate Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Her Capstone Project focused on addressing the issues disparate treatment of Black children and families before and during Child Welfare Services (CWS) intervention, which is reflected in their disproportionate representation and outcomes within CWS, through unique, compounded innovative strategies. She currently serves as a Social Worker and Perinatal Mental Health Professional at the Solano County Black Infant Health Program, provides technical assistance training related to case management strategies and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging for the Healthy Families of America (Solano County chapter), and is a co-facilitator for a perinatal, maternal and infant health equity initiative known as Solano Health Equity for African American/Black Lives, or Solano HEALS. Her favorite quote is, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" by Frederick Douglass.

Robyn Smith, LCSW, Licensed Mental Health Clinical Supervisor

Robyn Smith, LCSW, is a Licensed Mental Health Clinical Supervisor for the Healthy Families America Program in Solano County with the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau, Public Health Division. Healthy Families America is a home visitation program that offers services to families that are pregnant and parenting with the intent of promoting family empowerment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. Her role consists of providing supervisory support to the Family Support Specialists, monitoring caseloads, observing home visits, and providing reflective supervision to ensure we are providing family services that are strength-based, family-centered, and culturally appropriate. Robyn is also a part of the Perinatal Mental Health team where she provides supervision, clinical support, and oversight to their team of Social Workers and Mental Health Clinicians. Robyn began her career in Child Welfare and has since obtained extensive experience working with perinatal home visiting programs including Black Infant Health, Adolescent Family Life Program, and the Nurse Family Partnership. Robyn obtained a bachelor's degree in Human Development from the University of California at Davis, and master's degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento.

Shandi Fuller, Medical Director

Shandi Fuller is the Medical Director for Solano Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Bureau. She graduated from Howard University Medical School in Washington, D.C. and completed residency in pediatrics at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children in Orlando, Florida. After residency, she went on to become Chief of Pediatrics at Cherokee Indian Hospital in Cherokee, North Carolina. It was during this time her advocacy work for equity, especially in women and children, gained momentum. Dr. Fuller then moved to pursue her passion for serving the needs of the community by completing her master's degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. Currently, she provides leadership and guidance for the MCAH Bureau, as well as facilitates the Solano Health Equity for African American/Black Lives, or Solano HEALS, a community group

whose goal is to decrease black maternal and infant mortality rates. Dr. Fuller's mission is to give voice to racial inequities in healthcare by developing strategies to end health disparities and creating safe spaces.

Deborah Espinoza, Senior Health Services Program Manager

Deborah Espinoza is the Senior Health Services Program Manager for Solano Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau and is a Healthy Families America (HFA) national Peer Reviewer and conducts accreditation site visits for HFA sites across the United States. Deborah's career began after obtaining her bachelor's degree in Economics at the University of California, Berkeley with developing volunteer and mentorship programs for under-resourced, historically underserved youth. Deborah then went on to create a secondary school-based health clinic in Richmond, CA. This center strived to address health inequities for communities of color by providing comprehensive health and development resources directly to youth. From inception until her departure, Deborah cultivated the school-based health clinic from a small room to a fully functional, licensed satellite clinic of a Federally Qualified Health Center. Deborah then joined Solano Public Health as a Project Manager administering contracts and coordinating perinatal home visiting programs. Deborah then promoted into the Health Services Manager position and after four years, advanced into Senior Health Services Program Manager. Deborah provides oversight for the Healthy Families Solano home visiting programs, Black Infant Health, and the Perinatal Mental Health program. These programs support MCAH's goals to provide services to families to ensure that all children are born with optimal health outcomes to healthy mothers by reducing health status disparities among marginalized groups, providing a safe and healthy environment, and providing equal access to care for all women, children, and families. Deborah possesses vast experience developing, administering, and evaluating programs that serve historically underserved and under-resourced youth and families. Through these experiences, Deborah deepened her values and commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and collaboration for her teams and the communities she serves. Maya Angelou once said, "in diversity there is beauty and there is strength." Deborah guides her staff by this philosophy, and encourages them to build and nurture healthy, positive relationships with each other and the families they serve as the foundation of their work.