

Our Speakers

The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law—What It Means for the Cape & Commonwealth

Elizabeth “Liz” Miranda. State Senator, Massachusetts State Senate

Elizabeth Miranda is a re-elected state senator representing the MA Senate's 2nd Suffolk District and has previously served as State Representative for the Fifth Suffolk district comprising parts of the Dorchester and Roxbury. She is a member of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. Miranda earned her Bachelor's Degree from Wellesley College in Africana studies and urban studies. She has championed legislation to improve pregnancy outcomes for Black women—including the recently signed Maternal Health/Midwifery Law—and advocated for the Racial Inequities in Maternal Health Commission's recommendations for equity and reforms in women's healthcare.

Hafsatou Fifi Diop, MD, MPH. Assistant Commissioner for Health Equity, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
Dr. Diop is the Dept. of Public Health's first Assistant Commissioner of Health Equity, and a founding member of the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts. As the former Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health Research and Analysis at DPH, her new role will be helping to bring a health- and racial-equity lens to DPH priorities, to reduce disparities across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, and to use data to inform resources, and policies to improve health outcomes. Dr. Diop received her MD degree from the University of Conakry, Guinea, studied epidemiology at the Center for Research (INSERM) in Paris, and received her MPH degree with concentration in maternal and child health from the University of Hawaii.

William Agel, MD, MPH. Chief Medical Officer, CCHC and Cape Cod Hospital

Dr. Agel, the CMO of Cape Cod Healthcare, has more than 35 years of experience in OB/GYN health care for high risk/underserved populations and currently provides leadership of CCHC's 600+ member medical staff, including community health equity, medical affairs, key initiatives, and physician recruitment and credentialing. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a graduate of Rutgers/NJ Medical School, Newark, NJ, with a residency at Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston, MA in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He holds an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Katherine Rushfirth, CNM, FACNM. Policy Director, Neighborhood Birth Center.

Katherine is a certified nurse midwife with a long-held commitment to health equity and social justice. She is the Policy Director for the Neighborhood Birth Center, working to open Boston's first birth center and increase access to midwifery care in the state. Previously, Katherine was the Associate Chief of **Midwifery** at Massachusetts General Hospital leading programs to address the social determinants of health and expanding family planning, including abortion services, to community health centers. Katherine was among the first midwives to be appointed to the teaching faculty at Harvard Medical School. She is a past president of the Massachusetts Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives and currently serves as its Legislative Co-Chair. Katherine completed midwifery education at Yale University and her BA in Women's Studies/Anthropology at Barnard College. In 2022, she was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Nurse Midwives for her contributions to the field of midwifery.

Jodi Schwartz Belson, CNM. Program Medical Director for Women's Health Services, Outer Cape Health Services

Ms. Belson is a board-certified nurse midwife with more than 25 years' experience in her profession. She has previously practiced in both private and hospital-based settings, most recently with Cape Cod Hospital. Ms. Belson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Nurse-Midwifery from New York University. She provides prenatal and postpartum care to women with low health risks as well as family planning and gynecological care at three locations in the Outer Cape, an underserved area for medical services.

Erinn Bray, BA. Owner, By Your Side Doula

Erinn Bray is a DONA International-certified birth doula and a CAPPA certified postpartum doula. Erinn is compassionate and committed to supporting families through every step of the birth and postpartum journey. Erinn graduated from Bridgewater State with a degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. Her services include educational, emotional, and practical assistance post-delivery. Her goal is to ensure that her families have the knowledge to make informed decisions and to provide personalized attention at such a special time in life. Erinn lives on the Cape with her husband and two young adult children.