



Moving from Data to Action: Reducing Inequities in Fetal and Infant Mortality



THE
FOUNDATION FOR
DELAWARE
COUNTY

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Baby's 1st Project

Collective Impact

approach to reducing
disparities in birth
outcomes

60+ organizations,
alongside community
residents

Backbone support
Steering committee
Coalitions



For Serena Williams, Childbirth Was a Harrowing Ordeal. She's Not Alone.



Beyoncé, Serena Williams bring attention to risks of childbirth for black women

By **Jacqueline Howard**, CNN

Updated 4:52 PM ET, Mon August 6, 2018



RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION FEATURE MARCH 6, 2017, ISSUE

What's Killing America's Black Infants?

Racism is fueling a national health crisis.

By **Zoë Carpenter**

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

The Atlantic Popular Latest Sections Magazine More Sub

A Mother's Zip Code Could Signal Whether Her Baby Will Be Born Too Early

Every year, more than 400,000 women in America have babies who are preterm, low birthweight, or who die before their first birthday.



Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis

The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

By **LINDA VILLAROSA** APRIL 11, 2018



“The elegance underpinning this approach, in our opinion, is the social-justice lens by which risk categories are prioritized...with the overall goal of actionable change and improved infant health.”

-PAMELA XAVERIUS, 2014, BIOMED RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

Reduce inequities in Delaware County by reducing VLBW births

Disparity

Af-Am/Black women 3x more likely to have fetal or infant death than white women in Del. Co.

Risk

78% of excess mortality risk occurs among babies weighing less than 1500g

Driver

Birthweight distribution (too many small babies) is root cause

Focus

Reduce the rate of VLBW births among all black births

Risk Factors

1. **Women's Health across lifecourse**
2. **Stress and Mental Health**
3. **Pregnancy Spacing**
4. **Prior Poor Outcomes**
5. **Prenatal Care + the Health System**
6. **Housing**



Strategic Planning



Community Action Plan, 2017-2022



Strengthen Baby's 1st Project



**Improve Health Care and
Social Service Delivery Access**



Build Provider Capacity



**Bolster Community-Based
Support**



**Develop Programs for Targeted
Populations**



**Improve Access to Quality
Housing**



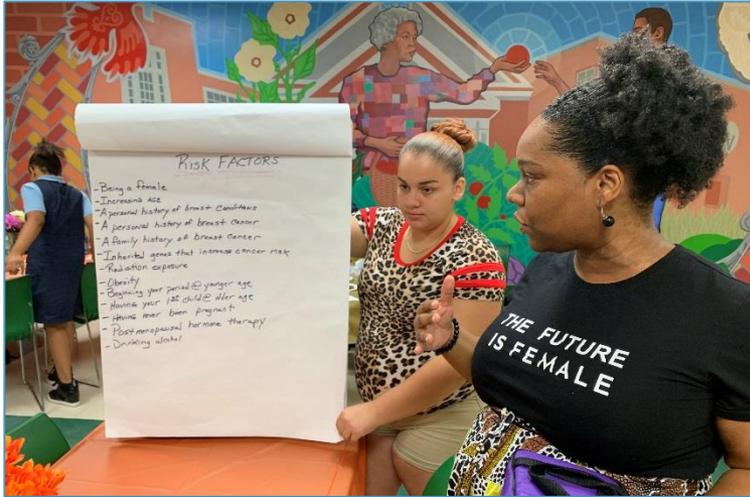
Guiding Principles

1. **Racism and trauma are prominent stressors and determinants of health, including preterm birth.**
2. **Chronic stress affects all aspects of the lives of women and families.**
3. **Reproductive life planning is an essential aspect of women's health.**

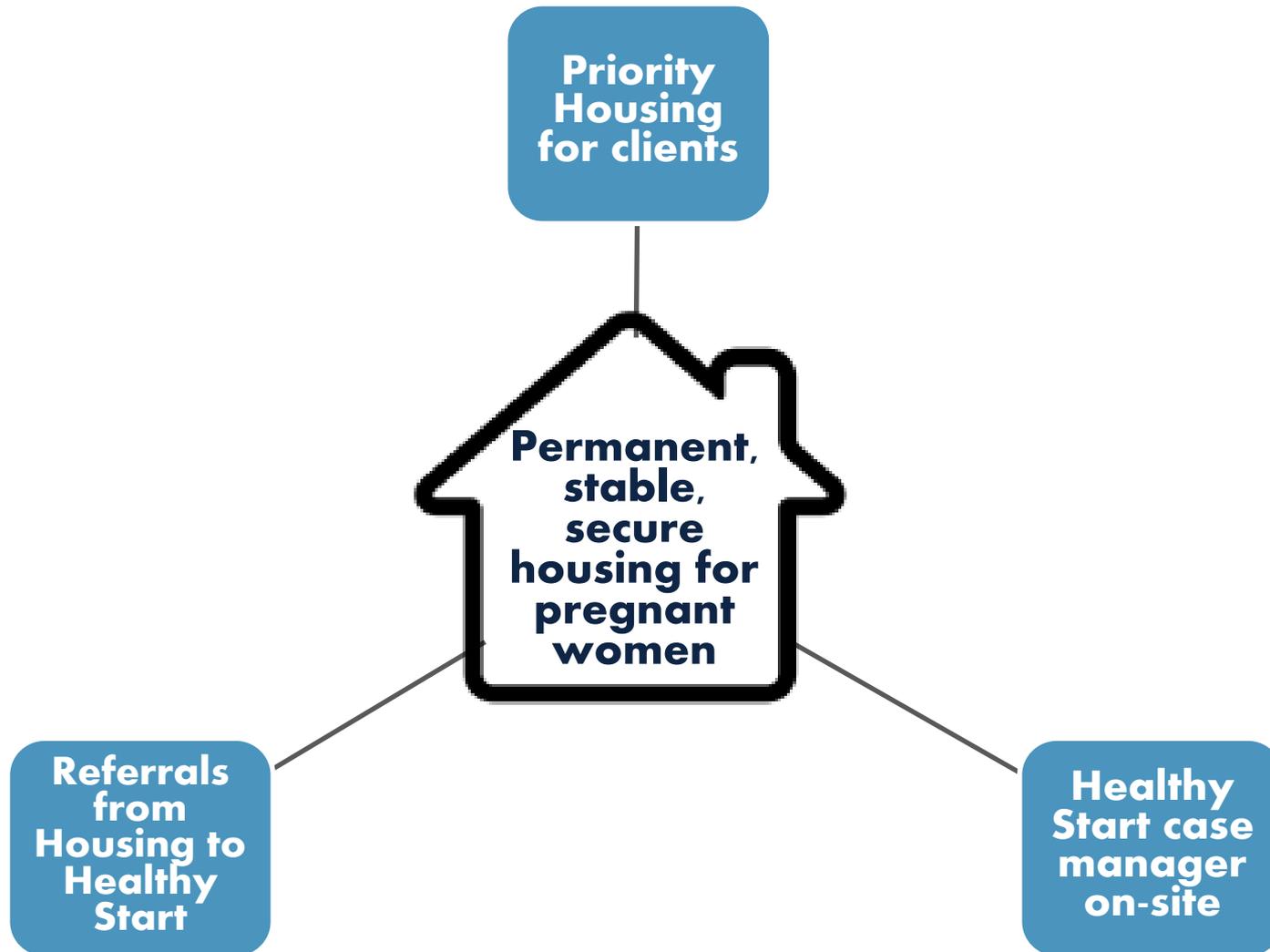
“Change happens at the speed of trust”



New Family Dinner Club



Chester Healthy Start in Housing: Addressing a Stressor and a Determinant



Racial Equity & Implicit Bias Training

- **Cultivating Awareness of Racial Microaggressions and Implicit Bias in Maternal-Child Health**
 - **Access Matters**
- **Challenging Institutional Racism in the Maternal-Child Health Context**
 - **Access Matters**
- **Maternal and Infant Health; #Racism Not Race**
 - **Dr. Joia Crear Perry, Delaware County Breastfeeding Coalition Conference**

Alignment

- **Colocation and coordination of services**
- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition launched (PCCY)**
- **Partnership on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Delaware County**
- **New programs funded through foundation's grant-making cycles**
- **Health system focus on breastfeeding**

Lessons Learned



**Denise V. Rodgers,
MD, FAAFP, Vice
Chancellor**

Interprofessional Programs at
Rutgers Biomedical and
Health Sciences

**“I will no longer talk
about health
disparities without
talking about
racism.”**

Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of
Norther New Jersey
June 2017 Conference

Lessons Learned



International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*

Article

“Look at the Whole Me”: A Mixed-Methods Examination of Black Infant Mortality in the US through Women’s Lived Experiences and Community Context

Maeve E. Wallace ^{1,2,*}, Carmen Green ², Lisa Richardson ^{2,3}, Katherine Theall ^{1,2}
and Joia Crear-Perry ²

2017 Jul 5;14(7)

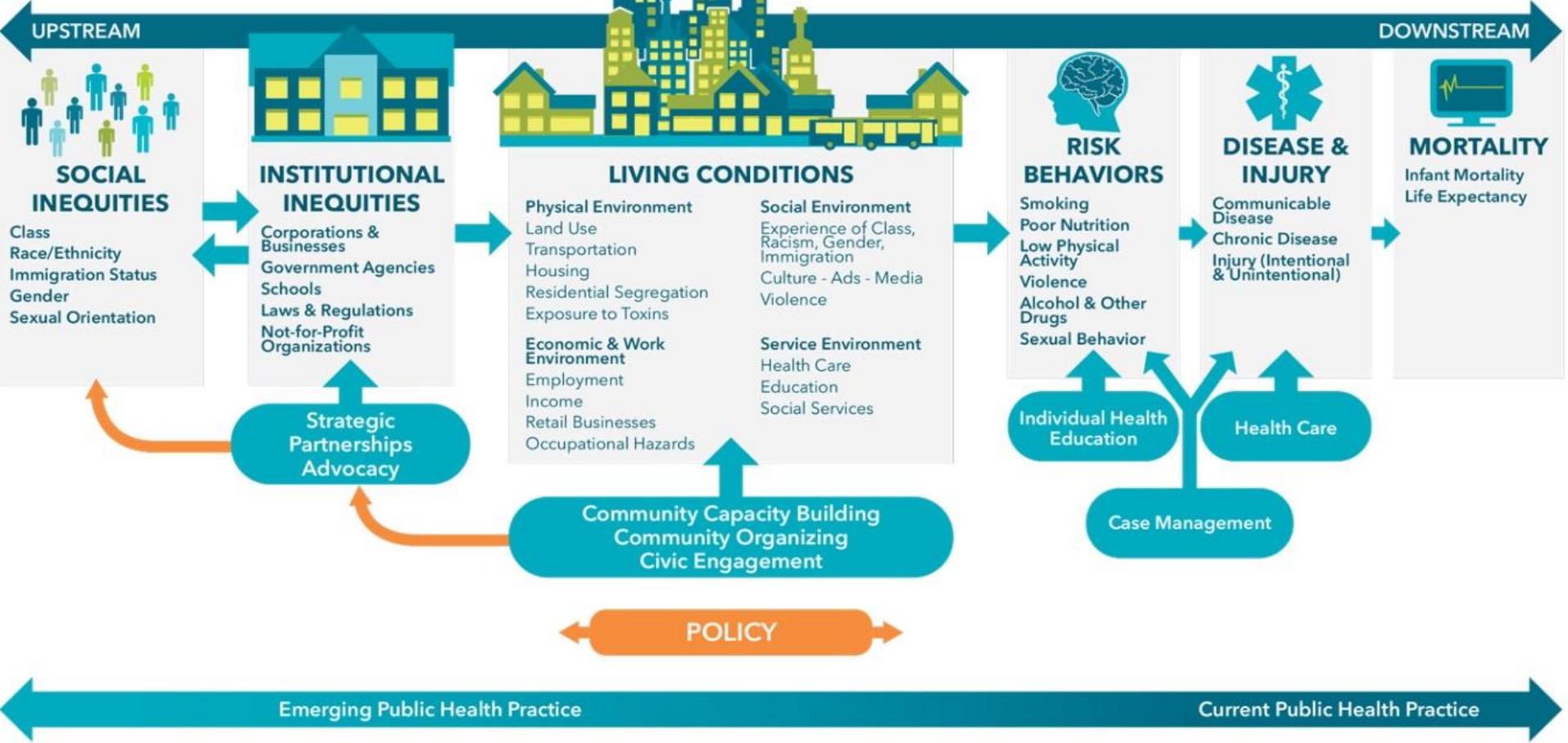


**Joia Adele Crear-Perry, MD,
FACOG**

Founder & President
National Birth Equity
Collaborative

Lessons Learned

A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES
 BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE



Thank you to Baby's 1st Project & PA Health Equity Summit

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