

Welcome

Shané Darby, Founder



Who We Are

We are a group of dedicated Black mothers, aspiring blacks mothers and change agents driving the statewide campaign to build awareness, create community programming, and promote regulations and policies to improve Black Maternal Care in Delaware.



Black Mothers in Power

- Delaware 41st in the nation for infant mortality rate.
- In 2014-2018, the Black Infant Mortality Rate was more than two times higher than the white infant mortality rate of 4.5 per 1,000 live births.
- The highest infant mortality rate in Delaware is for Black women in the City of Wilmington, whose babies die at a rate of 16.3 per 1,000 live births.
- Black Women made up just 1 out of 4 of every woman giving birth between 2011 and 2018 in the state, they made 50 percent of the mothers who died.

Sources: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/IMR/state/DE>; Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center;
<https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/incredible-racial-disparities-maternal-and-infant-health-persist-delaware#:~:text=The%20highest%20infant%20mortality%20rate,deaths%20per%201%2C000%20live%20births.;>
<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2019/04/18/black-women-face-maternal-mortality-crisis-opinion/3505736002/>

*Successful Grassroots
Organizing in Black
Maternal Healthcare*



What is Grassroots Community Organizing?

Grassroot: the ORDINARY people in a society or an organization

Community Organizing:

- ❖ Listening to the people to identify an issue
- ❖ Organize the people who identify with the issue
 - Deep Canvassing: Relational/Relationship Building, recruit people directly from the community
- ❖ Empower the people (developing skills and provide opportunity/access)

Why is Community Organizing a MUST?

There must be community organizing, advocacy, and grassroots effort to any public health response.

Why?

- Pointless Research, Knowledge for knowledge's sake
- Understand cultural differences
- Get more participations from the community

Steps to Successful Grassroot Organizing for BMHC

- ❖ Starts with You!
- ❖ Be Intentional
- ❖ Community In Every Step
- ❖ Part Science, Part Art
- ❖ Have a framework centering Black Women
- ❖ Education can not happen ALONE

Starts with YOU!

You have to be aware of your:

1. Bias
2. Racism
3. Privileges
4. Your story: Morals, Values, What makes you, YOU!
5. Be uncomfortable, stay in your lane

EMPOWERING BLACK WOMEN!

BE Intentional!

- Intersectionality
- Centering the most marginalized
- Understanding power systems and your role in them

EMPOWERING BLACK WOMEN!

Community In Every Step

- Budgeting
- Development
- Planning
- Decision making

EMPOWERING BLACK WOMEN!

Need to be Part Science, Part Art

Research is vital!

- Because nobody believes Black Women at face value!
 - Apply to grant, get funding, etc.

Theory Framework: Reproductive Justice, Black Feminism, Womanism, and Africana Womanism.

Professional intuition & experience:

- Everything can not be explained through data/stats/research
 - Doesn't need research to be true
 - Experience trumps research

Experiences create the research, research enhances the experiences, the experiences validates the research.

Have a Framework that centers Black Women

Feminism: is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to define, establish, and achieve the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes.

Black feminism holds that the experience of Black women gives rise to a particular understanding of their position in relation to sexism, class oppression, and racism.

Making sense of how white supremacy and patriarchy interacted to inform the particular experiences of Black women.

BF: Kimberley Crenshaw, Audre Lorde

Womanism: is a social theory based on the history and everyday experiences of women of color, especially black women.

W: Alice Walker

Africana Womanism: It is grounded in African culture and Afrocentrism and focuses on the experiences, struggles, needs, and desires of Africana women of the African diaspora. It distinguishes itself from feminism, or Alice Walker's womanism. Africana womanism pays more attention to and gives more focus on the realities and the injustices in society in regard to race.^[2] Africana Womanism is geared to be absolutely African-centered.

AW: Clenora Hudson -Weems

Education can not happen alone, you will FAIL!

Black Women are dying because of racism & implicit bias!

First priority, you have to collaborate and challenge the healthcare system.

Get social with us!



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***Next Event:
Public Meetings every 1st
Wednesday of the Month***

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/join-the-black-mothers-in-power-email-list/>