



# Convening on Pregnancy in Correctional Settings

Presented by The Pregnancy in Prison  
Statistics project (PIPS)

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Santa Clara Marriott

# Welcome Note

## **Welcome and thank you for joining this Convening on Pregnancy in Correctional Settings!**

We are thrilled that you have traveled to be part of today's conversation and, we hope, ongoing collaborative action to address the health and human rights of incarcerated pregnant people and their families.

There are nearly 219,000 women in jails, prisons, and juvenile and immigration detention centers in the U.S. We know that most of these women are of childbearing age, that a majority are already mothers, and that some will be pregnant at the time of their incarceration. But there are no systematic data to tell us just how many pregnant people there are behind bars, and what happens to those pregnancies. That lack of data tells us that pregnant incarcerated people are largely forgotten.

All of us here today have not forgotten about people who experience pregnancies behind bars. Some people here have themselves been pregnant while in custody. The people in the room around you come from different personal and professional backgrounds, from previously incarcerated people to administrators at prisons and jails, from community-based advocates to people who provide important supportive programs inside, from researchers to policy-makers, to other community members.

Despite these different experiences and positions, we all are here because we care about what happens to incarcerated pregnant people, their children, families, and communities. In fact, this diversity of perspectives is sure to generate lively discussion and creative ideas for action items to challenge the status quo and improve care for pregnant incarcerated people.

Throughout today's activities and beyond, it is our intention to center the experiences of those who are affected the most, those who are pregnant while incarcerated. While currently incarcerated women cannot be physically present today, we will remember to keep our conversations focused on their experiences, their needs, and their goals. The guidance of presenters and attendees today who were previously incarcerated is crucial as we work towards catalyzing change for people who are barred from physically representing themselves.

Today is not just about the conversations. It is about generating future collaborations and actionable insights that can push for improvements at multiple levels in the conditions of confinement and in how criminal legal system policies approach pregnant people. Together we can continue to promote justice for, and the human rights of, pregnant people behind bars.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Sufrin and Lauren Beal  
PIPS Project and Convening Co-organizers

## Join the Conversation

Share your thoughts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram using **#IncarceratedandPregnant**

Follow us at:

**Twitter:** PIPS\_Data

**Facebook:** PIPSdata

**Web:** [www.pipsdata.org](http://www.pipsdata.org)

# Agenda

- 11:00 am** Opening Remarks
- 11:10 am** Keynote  
*We Testify Storyteller*
- 11:20 am** Keynote  
*Miyhosi Benton*
- 11:45 am** PIPS Data and its Uses  
*Carolyn Sufrin*
- 12:30 pm** Networking Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm** Update on “No Shackling Convening” and  
Incarcerated Pregnant Persons Bill of Rights  
*Harriette Davis*
- 1:30 pm** Doula and Breastfeeding Support Programs in  
Prisons and Jails  
*Moderated by Monica McLemore*  
*Kenzie Johnson*  
*Erica Gerrity*  
*Maria Ramos Bracamontes*
- 3:00 pm** Breakout discussion sessions to develop Policy  
Recommendations and Best Practices for the  
Care of Incarcerated Pregnant Patients
- 4:45 pm** Closing Remarks  
*Alisha Coleman*

## **Thank You to Our Breakout Group Facilitators:**

Ellen Barry  
Phyllida Burlingame  
Alisha Coleman  
Harriette Davis  
Sedrena Guy  
Tonja Honsey  
Marisa Pizii  
Maria Ramos Bracamontes  
Karen Shain  
Rebecca Shlafer  
Rachna Vanjani  
Pamela Winn

**#INCARCERATEDandPREGNANT**



# **PIPS**

Pregnancy In Prison Statistics

# Keynote Speakers

## **Miyhosi Benton**

Miyhosi is the Associate at the Women & Justice Project (WJP), a non-profit organization dedicated to centering the leadership of women directly impacted by incarceration in its work to end mass incarceration and criminalization in the U.S. Miyhosi plays a lead role in creating and carrying out WJP's advocacy, organizing, public education, leadership development and culture change work, and she serves as a lead spokesperson for the organization in the public and the press. Prior to joining WJP in April 2016, Miyhosi worked at the Osborne Association's NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents, and at Hour Children, a reentry program that supports families uniting after incarceration. Miyhosi was a leader in the successful campaign to pass the 2015 Anti-Shackling law banning the barbaric practice of shackling incarcerated pregnant women in New York State, the most progressive law of its kind in the nation. Miyhosi resides in Long Island City with her two children, and is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Communications. Miyhosi is a recipient of the 2015 Susan B. Anthony Award from the National Organization for Women-NYC and the 2016 Hour Children Mother of the Year Award.

## **We Testify Storyteller**

An abortion storyteller with We Testify based in Cleveland, Ohio. She participated in Patients to Advocates, a leadership program of Preterm, a Cleveland abortion clinic. She has shared her story of being a mother who had an abortion, and speaks out about pregnancy healthcare access and abortion access for incarcerated women.

# Speakers

## **Alicia Walters**

Alicia Walters is consultant supporting organizations in facilitation, collaboration, and strategic communications. Her work in social justice movements is rooted in reproductive justice where she is an expert in the impacts and strategies to address the rampant criminalization of communities of color. She has led coalitions and movement building efforts that center the experiences of women and families of color, authored legislation to prohibit the shackling of pregnant people in California jails and prisons, and co-led and authored the Who Pays research project and report on the family impacts of incarceration. She has facilitated numerous retreats and convenings for networks and organizations, including the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Center for Community Change, and National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. She believes in creating transformative environments where people can be vulnerable, powerful, and productive. She is a mother who lives and believes in her community of Oakland, California.

## **Carolyn Sufrin**

Carolyn Sufrin is an Ob/Gyn and a medical anthropologist who has worked extensively on reproductive health issues affecting incarcerated women. She has provided clinical care to women in jail, conducted clinical and ethnographic research, established a rotation for Ob/Gyn residents in jail, and done advocacy work in this area.

Dr. Sufrin is assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University. Her book, "Jailcare: Finding the Safety Net for Women Behind Bars," was published June 2017.

# Moderator & Panelists

## **Monica McLemore**

Monica R. McLemore is an assistant professor in the Family Health Care Nursing Department, a Clinician-Scientist at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health and a member of the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health all at the University of California, San Francisco.

## **Maria Ramos Bracamontes**

Maria Ramos Bracamontes is a newly graduated Certified Nurse Midwife and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner from UCSF. She grew up between rural Jalisco, México and Santa Cruz, California. She is also a Methadone Dosing Nurse and a RN at Janus Perinatal Recovery House. She has 15 years of experience as a substance abuse counselor, social worker and home visitor primarily working with underserved and marginalized youth, pregnant and parenting people who interact with the Child Welfare, the Criminal Justice System and Immigration and Naturalization Services. She is the founder of Collective Wings Perinatal Project, a people of color bilingual doula program rooted in birth and reproductive justice for people in recovery from addiction, in treatment centers, formally incarcerated, undocumented, teens, low income and all marginalized people in need of support. They provide around the clock prenatal and labor support, team birth support, advocacy, pregnancy loss support, health and childbirth education and postpartum wellness groups, belly casting, pregnancy photography, massage, herbal medicines, postpartum sealing ceremonies, placenta rituals, encapsulation and much more for everyone free of cost, 100% volunteer run.

# Panelists

## **Erica Gerrity**

Erica Gerrity, is a Doula, Clinical Social Worker, Psychotherapist, and the Director of the Minnesota Prison Doula Project. Ms. Gerrity's experiences include disaster mental health relief, mental health care for families affected by incarceration, 12 years of community doula care, and systems change organizing, policy development, and advocacy. Her passion in life is working in partnership with incarcerated people to develop innovative, audacious goals for systems change that bring to life equitable opportunities for the health and well-being of all people.

## **Kenzie Johnson**

Kenzie Johnson is a formerly incarcerated woman and mother of six.

She co-organized the campaign to pass anti-shackling legislation in Mass after delivering her son Titus, while incarcerated in a county jail. She is an advocate of Breastfeeding on the inside. She is on the leadership circle of The Prison Birth Project and is a doula in her community. She is a certified doula, licensed massage therapist and a certified nurse assistant.

Kenzie is dedicated to working with and for those most affected by issues of incarceration and poverty. She is a graduate of the Women's Fund of Western Mass LIPPI leadership program and the Gloria and Wilma School for Organizers at Smith College, along with many other mini certified courses around her reproductive work. She currently lives in the Berkshires of Western Mass.



## NOTES



## NOTES

## Advisory Committee

Alisha Coleman, California Coalition for Women Prisoners

Gretchen Retka, Collective Wings Perinatal Project

Harriette Davis, Family Unity Project Coordinator at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Hilary Runion, Correctional Program Specialist in Community Services Division at National Institute of Corrections

Lisa Andrews, Co-director of the Prison Birth Project

Marisa Pizii, Co-director of the Prison Birth Project

Phyllida Burlingame, Reproductive Justice Policy Director at the ACLU of Northern California

Rebecca Schlafer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota

Alicia Walters, Consultant

## Thanks to our Sponsors:



Office of the Provost, Johns Hopkins University