



MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH NOW
supporting the well-being of growing families

A Project of Community Partners

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 20 | 6:00 - 7:30PM

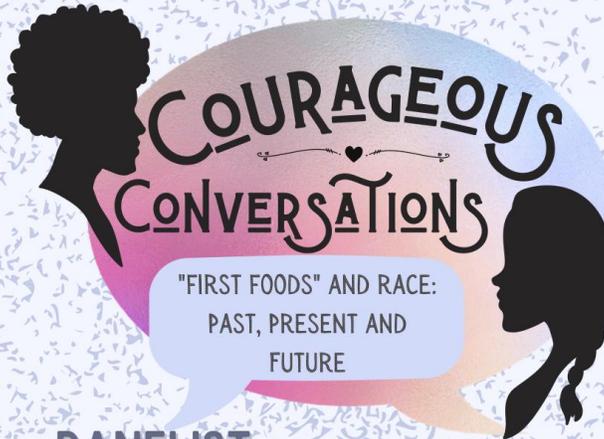
www.maternalmentalhealthnow.com

A CONVERSATION INSPIRED BY THE BOOK:
SKIMMED: BREASTFEEDING, RACE, AND INJUSTICE

AUTHOR



ANDREA
FREEMAN, J.D.



PANELIST



SHAMIESHA
EBHOTEMEN, RN
CLC

PANELIST



ADJOA
JONES, MBA

PANELIST



WENONAH
VALENTINE, MBA

Shamiesha Ebhotemen is a Registered Nurse and Certified Lactation Educator, with nearly 10 years of nursing experience in Pediatrics, Adult Cardiology, Nursing Education, and Community Health. She spent more than 7 years as a travel nurse, which gave her the knowledge and skill set to interact with people from all walks of life. She currently resides in Anaheim, CA with her husband and 3-year-old daughter.

During her pregnancy, she began searching for a Lactation Consultant of color in the area. She was only able to locate one in the entire county of nearly 3.2 million people. This lit a fire underneath her and pushed her to get her certifications in both Lactation Education and

Consultation. She is currently working towards becoming an IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant), preparing to enter Midwifery school, and eventually open her own free-standing birth center; and be the kind of support for women that she sought.

September 2019, NURSEMilk was born. The mission of NURSEMilk is to educate, teach families how to advocate for themselves, and empower women to breastfeed without fear, and erase the stigma that is still associated with breastfeeding.

Currently, Shamiesha works with multiple medical centers, providing care in the Progressive Care Unit. She also teaches virtual prenatal lactation classes and provides lactation support as well to new parents and families.

Andrea Freeman is a Professor of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Law. She is the author of *Skimmed: Breastfeeding, Race, and Injustice* and the recipient of the 2020-21 Fulbright King's College London US Scholar Award. Professor Freeman writes and researches at the intersection of critical race theory and food policy, health, and consumer credit. Much of her work explores food oppression, which examines how partnerships between corporations and government contribute to racial health disparities. She was a Visiting Professor at UC Berkeley School of Law and the Distinguished Scholar of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School. She is the author of two book chapters and her law review articles appear in the California Law Review, Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, UC Davis Law Review, Fordham Law Review, UC Irvine Law Review, Hastings Law Journal, North Carolina Law Review, and more. Professor Freeman is the chair-elect of the AALS Constitutional Law section, a member of the ACLU of Hawaii Litigation Committee, co-chair of the Law and Society Collaborative Research Network for Critical Race and the Law, and a Founding Member of the Academy of Food Law and Policy. She received her Honors B.A. from the University of Toronto and her J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law. After graduating from Berkeley Law, Professor Freeman clerked for Judge Jon O. Newman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and former chief Judge José A. Fusté of the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. After earning an Honors BA in History and Women's Studies from the University of Toronto, she worked as a counselor in domestic violence shelters and in theatre.

Adjoa Jones began her career in public health with the L.A. County Department of Health Services (DHS), as a Student Professional Worker. While working with the Immunization Program, a fellow colleague recommended her for a Community Health Worker position with Great Beginnings for Black Babies, which subsequently led to the beginning of her work with women and children. Simultaneously, she received her BS in Health Science-Health Care Administration from CSU Dominguez Hills, and most recently completed her MBA in Nonprofit Management at the American Jewish University, as well trainings to become a Certified Lactation Education Specialist and Doula.

Adjoa Jones currently serves as the Associate Director of Regional Collaboration for Service Planning Area 6 with the Whole Person Care Program of the L.A. County Department of Health Services (DHS). She is the visionary, founding lead of the first

AAIMM CAT in L.A. County and the co-lead of the SLA/SB AAIMM CAT. Ms. Jones has worked within Department of Public Health and DHS for the past 24 years, serving in various programs to improve the health and wellness of women, men, children and their families throughout the County. She recently completed the Women's Policy Institute fellowship 2019-2020 with the Women's Foundation of California on the L.A. County Health Justice Team, and co-developed a Doula Board motion to improve the health and birth outcomes of Black women and babies, locally, regionally with plans for statewide. She has received numerous service awards, some of which include the Stratiscope 2021 Impact Makers to Watch Award, the 2021 Sister Circle honor from Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager and the L.A. County Department of Mental Health Service Area 6 Clergy 2021 Outstanding Community Service Award.

Wenonah Valentine, MBA stands out as a cultural humility practitioner in healthcare by reframing the narrative from death and dying to healing and hope for Black birthing families. She is the founder of i.D.R.E.A.M. for Racial Health Equity, a project of Community Partners® with a social justice-led 26-year storied mission.