

Community Food Systems, Maternal Health and Justice

Thursday, March 24, 2022

10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern

Panelist Biographies

Tonni Oberly, MPH, CHES, CLC

Research Scholar

National Birth Equity Collaborative

Tonni Oberly is a research scholar at the National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC). Tonni is pursuing her PhD in City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University with a focus on the intersectional impact of place, racism, and gender on maternal and infant health outcomes in the Black community. Tonni also holds a Master's in Public Health with a specialization in health behavior and health promotion from the Ohio State University along with Bachelors degrees in biology and women's, gender, and sexuality studies from Emory University. Tonni is also a trained doula, supporting Black women and women of color through pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period. She is a Certified Lactation Counselor as well as a Certified Health Education Specialist with expertise in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. She has professional experience managing public health programs and research projects at the city and state levels. As a new venture, Tonni and her husband have started a farm using regenerative agricultural principles with the goal of producing socially and environmentally responsible food and agricultural products as part of the local food and economic system.



India Hinton, MS, CNS, LDN

Maternal and Child Health Advocate

India Hinton is an innovative and driven public health professional and maternal and child health advocate. She has a wide range of experience in health communications, program planning, implementation, and analysis of public health issues that impact community health outcomes.

India's former background is in cancer research where she worked in the Analytical Pharmacology Core via the Department of Oncology at Johns Hopkins University. India has grassroots advocacy experience through her work with The American Cancer Society and has gained additional public service experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA. At D.C Hunger Solutions, a food policy and anti-hunger non-profit organization, India assisted in the development and implementation of programmatic strategies. These strategies were put in place to increase participation, improve the effectiveness, and build the capacity of WIC and other federal child nutrition programs in the District of Columbia. In her previous role as the Health and Wellness Coordinator at Mamatoto Village, India facilitated health and wellness support services through the Mother's Rising program. Here she was able to identify disparities such as food accessibility and food insecurity through an equitable lens and define how these disparities played a role in the health outcomes of the mothers that were served.

India's current goal is to understand food policy and the role it plays in influencing food equity within the black community. Her life-long mission is to continue to uplift food justice as a key driver of health and prove that food equity will dictate the future health outcomes of women, infants, children, and families. She is committed to advancing health equity and strives to address health disparities of marginalized communities through public health policies, programs, and practices.

India is a board-certified licensed Dietician Nutritionist with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Cellular Biology from FloridaA&M University, a Master of Science in Nutrition and Integrative Health from Maryland University of Integrative Health and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health in Maternal Child Health from The George Washington University. She also serves as the VP of Operations for the Maternal and



Child Health Student Network and is an active member of The Black Public Health Student Network at George Washington University.

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

Director of National Partnerships

Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroit native dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources.

Ronda joins us from the United Way for

Southeastern Michigan where she served as the

Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways

team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to

help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and

educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage

resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative

of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While

at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional

Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives.

In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple

communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.

