

Midwifery Working Group 2024 Guest Speaker Bios

Amy Romano

Amy Romano, MBA, MSN, CNM, FACNM is a nationally recognized perinatal leader whose pathbreaking work has spanned clinical practice, research, quality improvement, policy, advocacy, payment reform, and care delivery transformation.

With a clinical background as a nurse and midwife, Amy has spent her career working to improve maternity care and has particular expertise in primary prevention of cesarean and preterm birth, midwife-led and team-based care models, shared decision making, and integrating clinical, social, and public health programs. She founded Primary Maternity Care (PMC) in 2020 to help rapidly open an emergency birth center in Manhattan in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since this time, PMC has grown to an interdisciplinary team of consultants working across the system to strengthen community-based care and public health systems for pregnancy, birth, and beyond. PMC's clients and partners include health plans and purchasers, health systems, start-ups, advocacy groups, and community-based organizations and clinics. Amy also developed and oversees PMC's Step Up Together program, a national patient safety program focused on community-based perinatal care and community-to-hospital transfer.

Prior to founding Primary Maternity Care, Amy led the development and implementation of clinical, wellness, and quality management programs at Baby+Company, a multi-state network of freestanding birth centers integrated with regional health systems. In this role, she led a complete redesign of the Baby+Co. Prenatal Care Model across 6 practice sites, integrating childbirth education, group visits, structured care planning visits, health coaching, point-of-care ultrasound, and other innovations.

Throughout her career, Amy has developed direction-setting resources including quality improvement toolkits, advocacy programs, and clinical practice resources with organizations including the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American Association of Birth Centers, the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement, the National Partnership for Women and Families, the Institute for Medicaid Innovation, Jacaranda Health, Lamaze International, and the Purchaser Business Group on Health. Since 2020, Amy has served on the Board of Directors of Health Equity Solutions, a non-profit organization with a mission to promote policies, programs, and practices that result in equitable health care access, delivery, and outcomes for all people in Connecticut.

Author of many peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, Amy also co-authored *Optimal Care in Childbirth: The Case for a Physiologic Approach*, which was named Book of the Year by the American College of Nurse-Midwives in 2013. She also served on the editorial team and authored three chapters for the ninth edition of the landmark women's health book, *OurBodies, Ourselves*.

Amy received her Masters of Science Degree in Nurse-Midwifery from the Yale School of Nursing and a Masters of Business Administration in Healthcare Leadership from the Yale School of Management. She lives in Milford, Connecticut.

Katherine Rushfirth

Katherine (she/her) is a Certified Nurse Midwife with a long-held commitment to health equity and social justice. She is the Policy Director for the Neighborhood Birth Center, working to open Boston's first birth center and increase access to midwifery care in the state.

Prior to that, Katherine was the Associate Chief of Midwifery at Massachusetts General Hospital successfully leading programs to address the social determinants of health and expanding family planning, including abortion services, to community health centers.

Katherine was among the first midwives to be appointed as teaching faculty at Harvard Medical School.

Katherine is a past-president of the Massachusetts Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives and currently serves as the Legislative Co-Chair. Katherine completed her midwifery education at Yale University and her BA in Women's Studies/Anthropology at Barnard College.

In 2022, she was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Nurse Midwives for her contributions to the field of midwifery.

Katherine lives in Lynn with her husband and their two small children.

Joyce Kimball

Joyce has been caring for birthing families since 1998. She has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business, a certificate in the DONA birth doula training program, a certificate from the WomanCraft Midwifery Program, an Associate's Degree in Nursing as well as hundreds of hours of CEUs and peer review/grievance adjudication.

Joyce is a NARM Certified Professional Midwife through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), in solo practice in Massachusetts, a Licensed Midwife in Vermont and a Registered Nurse in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Joyce lives in Worcester County with her husband, Mike. Her grown children visit regularly. When Joyce isn't attending births or caring for families, she is visiting with friends, reading, dancing and eating dark chocolate.

Quatia Osorio

Quatia Osorio, BSBA, BS HSM, SPM, CCHW, CLC, MCHS, CMCHW, CPE, CHC Doula is a Rhode Island native state born and raised. A Mother of 5, married for 14 years, she is a Bryant University graduate in Business Management and Jefferson University graduate in Health Services Management. Currently, she is enrolled at the National School of Midwifery pursuing her Midwifery degree. She is a certified community health worker, certified lactation counselor, community birth and postpartum doula, maternal child health specialist, maternal certified community health worker, certified perinatal educator, and certified health She is the Founder of Our Journ3i, a perinatal community-led, based wellness center focusing on eliminating health determinants of communities of color through maternal support, education, advocacy, and awareness. She has hosted several intentional Black and BIPOC workforce development perinatal doula trainings, as a Certified Trainer. She is the founder and agency director of the RI Perinatal Doula Agency. She is the Le Facilitator of Chocolate Milk Cafe RI, a Black breastfeeding support group. She is a HealthConnectOne Birth Equity Leader and CityMatCH CityLeader in Rhode Island. A Maternal Child

Health Advocate she currently continues her studies to become a Certified Midwife. She currently is the RIDOH Perinatal Community Consultant. She has been a member of the following RI associations/organizations: Doulas of Rhode Island, RI Birth Worker Cooperative, and National Certified Professional Midwives - RI Chapter. In the past she has served on the Black Maternal Health Taskforce, Pregnancy Postpartum Death Review Committee, the Perinatal Quality Collaborative of RI, MomsPRN Echo Learning Series, and the RI Community Health Worker Sustainability and Payment Committee.

Mrs. Osorio was a major force in the creation and passage of the RI Doula Reimbursement Act of 2021 that mandated RI based public and private insurance to cover doula services. She also helped to form equitable Certified Perinatal Doula (CPD) certification standards in collaboration with other workforce profession the RI Certifying Board, and Doulas of Rhode Island. Her work includes being one of the Founding Directors of the RI Birth Worker Cooperative, a doula owned and led shared billing cooperative to navigate doulas through the insurance reimbursement process; RI Perinatal Doula Agency, the first MCO-based doula agency in RI.

In 2022, she opened up the Urban Perinatal Education Center (UPEC) in Pawtucket. The Urban Perinatal Education Center is RI's first Black and BIPOC maternal medical home for perinatal education and service. She opened the Easy Access Clinic, an AMCHP replication innovation based on the JJWAY model, for episodic care prenatally and postpartum with a traditional Midwifery care model for episodic gap care weeks 4-11 in early pregnancy. UPEC teaches a 6 series childbirth education program throughout the week in the evenings. The organization, UPEC, is the owner and creator of the doula referral hotline to support families, agencies, and providers seeking to connect with a Black and BIPOC doula in RI at 1833 RIDOULA.

Her most recent endeavors include the promotion and creation in expansion of the Certified Community Health Worker specialty for Perinatal Mental Health Specialist Advocates with the RI Certification Board which will be concluded by the end of 2024, and the recent passage of the Certified Lactation Counsel Licensure Act of 2024, which provides inclusion of Certified Lactation Counselors (CLC) in RI licensure in hopes of insurance coverage to promote lactation professional education and services to all families, along with appropriate compensation to CLCs. Additionally, her nonprofit has been a partnered recipient the 2023 HRSA HHS State Maternal Health Innovative Grant for 5 years building out the Certified Professional Midwifery Equity Initiative to promote community-based practitioners as Licensed Midwives through a collaborative satellite hybrid MEAC accredited school. This initiative is the first of its kind creating pathways and partnerships to meet the practitioner shortage gap, specifically in perinatal and women's health.

Lastly, she recently began her journey as a Midwifery student with a student clinical position at Agrotterra Midwifery in East Providence and continues to provide care alongside her preceptor in the community of Rhode Island. When she is not providing care, training professionals, presenting, building systems of equity, or hosting conferences, or workshops you can find her working in one of her two USDA-registered urban farmers, growing food for the community.