

Rural Access to Care for Improving Maternal and Infant Health Taskforce Chair:

Dr. Lisa Waddell, MD, MPH, FACPM



Dr. Lisa Waddell is a board-certified preventive medicine and public health physician with over 30 years of local, state and national public health leadership experience. She is the former chief medical officer (CMO) of the CDC Foundation. Having recently retired from full-time employment, Dr. Waddell founded and is the Chief Executive Officer of LFW Public Health Connections LLC; where she provides public health consultative services centered around leadership, mentorship and partnerships. She also serves as a senior advisor to the Office of the Dean at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

Keynote Speaker:

Velma Taormina, MD, MSE, FACOG



Dr. Velma Taormina is an expert in the maternal and infant health field. Dr. Taormina works in North Carolina and has experience practicing in the private sector before she moved into public health. Currently Dr. Taormina serves as a Medical Director at the Mecklenburg County Health Department and a consultant to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Benefits.

SC Data Highlights Presenter:

Sarah Gareau, DrPH, Med, MCHES



Dr. Sarah Gareau serves as an Assistant Professor and the Maternal and Child Health & Health Equity Evaluation Projects Team Lead at the University of South Carolina's Institute for Families in Society. Dr. Gareau has supported data efforts of South Carolina's perinatal quality collaborative (SCBOI) and South Carolina Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Initiative (AIM initiatives) for over a decade.

SC Maternal and Infant Health Expert Panelist:

Jordan Desai, MS, LISW-CP



Jordan Desai serves as the Bureau Chief of Quality and Acting Deputy Director of Health Programs at the SC Department of Health and Human Services. In this role she oversees work in the Medicaid space for the Bureaus of Managed Care, Provider Support Services, Policy, Quality and Project Management. She is an expert in pediatric palliative care, and prior to joining the Agency, she managed quality for a multistate hospice company. She holds a Master of Science degree in Social Work with a focus on Health, Mental Health and Disabilities from Columbia University.

SC Maternal and Infant Health Expert Panelist:

Jimmell Felder, MD, MBA



Dr. Jimmell Felder served as a pediatrician in Upstate South Carolina for 17 years. Currently, she owns a weight management practice and leads the Health Equity Advisory Taskforce at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, SC. Dr. Felder is passionate about ensuring that all persons have equitable access to living a healthy life.

SC Maternal and Infant Health Expert Panelist:

Ann Lefebvre, DSW, CPHQ



Dr. Ann Lefebvre serves as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC). Dr. Lefebvre also serves as Associate Dean for Community Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). With more than 25 years of experience in the health care industry, Dr. Lefebvre has continuously worked to improve the quality of health care, educate health professions students and residents, and support the healthcare workforce needed for improved health in all communities.

SC Maternal and Infant Health Expert Panelist:

Danielle Wingo



Danielle Wingo serves as the Director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH). With over 16 years of experience in the public and private healthcare sector, she has developed expertise in quality improvement, process analysis, operations, leadership, and management. A graduate of Clemson University, Danielle's academic background includes studies in Nutrition-Dietetics and Psychology. In addition to her leadership role in public health, she is an active instructor and trainer in Mental Health First Aid.