

# Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative

# SPRING CONFERENCE

## Hard Conversations, Improved Healthcare

# May 23 2023

## Agenda

**Target Audience:** Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KPQC) members striving to improve maternal & infant health outcomes.

**Goal:** To make Kansas the best place to birth, be born, and to raise a family.

**Objectives:** At the end of the meeting, you will be able to:

1. Identify the current Fourth Trimester Initiative projects and goals for enrolled hospitals in 2023.
2. Discuss three ways health insurance companies are now working to improve maternal mortality in Kansas.
3. Discuss how maternal health providers can improve health outcomes using collaboration with the Division of Children and Families in KS through three case studies surrounding inpatient care in the postpartum setting.

**Continuing Nursing Education:** KFMC Health Improvement Partners is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is pending approval for RN, LPN, or LMHT re-licensure. Kansas State Board of Nursing provider number: LT0306-619.

8:30 am **Registration**

9:00 am **Welcome!**  
**Dr. Parul Nguyen**, KPQC Chairperson  
**Jill Nelson**, KDHE Health Planning Consultant, Maternal & Perinatal Initiatives

9:10 am **KPQC Overview & Updates**  
**Terrah Stroda**, CNM, KPQC FTI Co-Coordinator  
**Kari Smith**, RNC, KPQC FTI Co-Coordinator

9:30 am **How insurance companies are answering the call for help**  
**Virginia Barnes**, MPH, Director, Blue Health Initiatives

10:45 am **Case Studies: DCF and other “hard” talks**  
**Erica Hunter**, LBSW, Deputy Director, DCF

11:45 am **Working Lunch**  
KPQC Business Meeting

12:30 pm **Adjourn**

Click here to [register](#) for the KPQC Spring Conference.



**Virginia Barnes** has been serving as the director of Blue Health Initiatives for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas since October 2015. Blue Health Initiatives formalized the company's long-time efforts to improve the health and quality of life of all Kansans. The term 'social determinants of health' is more than just a buzz phrase for Virginia – her work is dedicated to moving the needle on health inequities across the state and improving quality of life for all Kansans. Blue Health Initiatives has distributed more than \$25 million since its inception to improve the quality of life for all Kansans. Ms. Barnes has over 15 years of public health experience, having worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in a variety of roles prior to joining Blue Cross. She earned a bachelor's in biology from Washburn University and a master's in public health from the University of Kansas. Barnes currently serves on several Boards, including the Kansas Public Health Association, the Topeka Community Foundation and the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice. She also participates in numerous advisory committees focused on improving health in Kansas. She is a lifelong Kansan and lives in Topeka with her husband and two children.



**Erica Hunter** is the Deputy Director for Safety and Thriving Families for the Kansas Department for Children and Families. She has a background in investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect, supervising front line staff, and reviewing high profile cases or critical incidents for DCF leadership. In 2018 she became the administrator for the Kansas hotline receiving reports of child abuse or neglect and in 2021 she became the Deputy Director for Safety and Thriving Families where her team is continuing to reimagine child welfare in Kansas.