

SPRING 2017

THE NEW HAVEN MOMS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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“Every Mother Matters” Mother’s Day Celebration

When: Sat, April 29
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Stop & Shop
150 Whalley Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

Join us for giveaways,
refreshments, family activities,
and community resource
connections!



Black Mamas Matter representatives visit with MOMS Partnership

BLACK MAMAS MATTER

Steering Committee members for Black Mamas Matter visited with representatives from the New Haven Mental Health Outreach for Mothers (MOMS) Partnership on March 1 to promote policies that will reduce maternal mortality, specifically racial disparities in maternal mortality.

Black Mamas Matter is a black women-led cross-sectoral alliance. The group centers black mothers to advocate, drive research, build power, and shift culture for black maternal health, rights, and justice. The mission of Black Mamas Matter is to advance the human right to safe and respectful maternal health care.

Elizabeth Dawes Gay, Black Mamas Matter Steering Committee member, is a Washington D.C.-based senior policy analyst for the Population Reference Bureau. She also advocates for reproductive and social justice through community organization and writing. She works to create awareness of racial disparities in maternal health.

Kwajelyn Jackson, also a Black Mamas Matter Steering Committee member, is the Community Education and Advocacy Director for the Feminist Women’s Health Center. The Atlanta-based organization provides maternal health services for mothers and supports the community through educational initiatives.

With the assistance of the Center for Reproductive Rights, Black Mamas Matter developed a policy toolkit in response to the need for advocacy tools that endorse a rights-based policy agenda. The toolkit includes resources that take a human rights-based approach to maternal health. Though much of the organization’s work has been done the Southeastern United States, the toolkit serves as a guideline for what maternal health advocates can promote in their own states.

Black Mamas Matter has four focus areas: advocacy and policy discussions focused on maternal health, improving service delivery and quality of care, research, and messaging to create communities informed on maternal health issues.

Gay and Jackson spoke of the MOMS Partnership’s service delivery methods as a model for what could be implemented elsewhere. Mothers can come to one of the MOMS Partnership’s four community-based hubs to receive mental health, parenting, and coaching services, as well as assistance with employment and basic needs.

Jackson emphasized her support of quality services delivered outside of traditional settings. “We need to honor community-based organizations and support the work done in alternative spaces.”

Connect with MOMS Partnership throughout New Haven

New Haven MOMS Partnership representatives outreach at VITA locations

A great resource available to the New Haven Community is the Volunteer Tax Income Assistance program (VITA). The VITA program is sponsored by the United Way of Greater New Haven and provides free tax preparation to local individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. There are VITA sites throughout the Greater New Haven Area, including New Haven Opportunity Center, Spanish American Merchants Association, and Helen St. School. Representatives from the New Haven MOMS Partnership will continue to be on hand to provide information about the organization through April 12. View the calendar below for exact the times, dates, and locations the MOMS Partnership will be available.



Meet MOMS Partnership staff and learn how you can participate in research studies related to stress management, the Parenting Program, and Career-Life Coaching.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|---|--|---|
| Mitchell Library 37 Harrison St. New Haven 2:30pm—4:30pm | Wilson Library 303 Washington Ave. New Haven 5pm—7pm | Helen St. School 285 Helen St. Hamden 4pm—6pm New Haven One-Stop 316 Dixwell Ave. New Haven 5pm—7pm | Community Action Agency 419 Whalley Ave. New Haven 5:30pm—6:30pm |

If you are a mother or female primary caregiver for a child under the age of 19 you are eligible to complete a screening questionnaire to see if you qualify. You will be financially compensated for your participation; you will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card.

HIC #1409014610

Parenting Program and Career-Life Coaching

The MOMS Partnership is now offering life-career coaching. Coaching involves one-on-one meetings with a coach—a MOMs staff member. The coach is there to help you identify personal goals and accomplish what is important to you.

MOMS is also excited to announce our new parenting program--*The Parenting D.A.N.C.E.* (Delivering Approaches to Nurture Children’s Emotions). This is an 8-week program, which includes group sessions and individual sessions (for caregivers/mothers to attend with their youngest child).

For more information on these programs, please call Betsy Olivencia at (203) 764-7374

ARE YOU A SPANISH SPEAKER INTERESTED IN THE MOMS PARTNERSHIP?

The MOMS Partnership is currently looking for Spanish-Speaking Mothers to join our Parenting and Community Focus Group.

Participants will receive a \$20 gift card. Food will be provided

Focus Groups will meet **Mondays: 4/10 & 4/17 10:30am to 12pm** or **Monday 4/17 & Wednesday 4/19 5:30pm to 7pm**

For more information, please contact Betsy Olivencia at

(203) 764-7374



Are you Pregnant and Currently Smoke Cigarettes?



Serious about Quitting?

Are you currently in your 2nd or 3rd Trimester?
Earn \$30 Gift card for Screening.

Eligible participants can earn up to \$812 in rewards for quitting!

To Learn more call
Kim @
(203) 764-7630

HIC #1407014326

The Farnam Community



The MOMS Partnership is working closely with the Farnam Community to inform the community of the many resources available in the Fair Haven neighborhood. On April 22, The Farnam Community will host a Resource and Family Fair at the Farnam Center. Community members will be able to connect with agency resources in the Fair Haven area and participate in fun family activities.

On select evenings, The MOMS Partnership representatives are available to conduct surveys and provide information at the Farnam Center.

MEET THE STAFF OF THE NEW HAVEN MOMS PARTNERSHIP

Community Mental Health Ambassador—Stop & Shop



Vanessa Colon is a Community Mental Health Ambassador in the New Haven, Mental Health Outreach for Mothers (Moms) at Yale School of Medicine. Vanessa is bilingual and has over six years experience being a proactive member in the New Haven Community. Vanessa is excited to now work with mothers in the New Haven community; while connecting them to resources that are of benefit to help these moms grow and promote healthy relationships in their lives. Vanessa pursued a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University, majoring in the psychology and sociology fields. With plans to continue furthering her education, Vanessa is ecstatic to perform such a role in her hometown to empower women to grow and attain healthy relationships. As a mother of one and a New Haven Resident, it has become my great desire to bring courage, well-being and overall growth to families in the New Haven community.

Events and Programs Around New Haven

Movie and Resource Fair at St. James Episcopal Church: 62 E Grand Ave. • Sat. June 10, 11-4 • Resource Fair and family activities, followed by a showing of "Despicable Me" for the children.

Farnam Community Resource Fair: 162 Fillmore St. • Sat, April 22, 11:00am—2:00pm • Open house for families to connect with agency resources in the Fair Haven area. Face Painting and Activities for kids

Passport to Prosperity Movement—CAANH Walkathon: 419 Whalley Ave. • Sat, April 22, 8:30am—4:00pm • Proceeds go to Programs and services provided by the Community Action Agency of New Haven

Fair Haven Family Stroll: Quinnipiac River Park • 2 E Grand Ave • Sat. May 6, 10:00am—3:00pm • A Fundraiser and Festival for High Quality Early Education

Summer Baking Programs at Katalina's Bakery: 74 Whitney Ave. • July 17 – September 1, 2017 • For ages 5 and up. Seats are filling up!



New Haven MOMS Partnership

Principal Investigator

Dr. Megan V. Smith
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Guide Team Member Organizations

Clifford Beers Clinic
State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families
City of New Haven
Elm City Communities Housing Authority of New Haven
National Diaper Bank Network
Maternal and Child Health
New Haven Healthy Start
The New Haven Diaper Bank
Yale School of Medicine

Hub Locations

West Rock Author's Academy Hub
311 Valley St
Community Mental Health Ambassador:
Stacy Downer
Site Coordinator: Laura Lawrence
(203) 387-1876 · (203) 535-9833 · (203) 584-2775

Stop & Shop Hub

150 Whalley Ave
Community Mental Health Ambassadors:
Cassandra Herrera · Vanessa Colon
Site Coordinator: Natasha Rivera-LaButhie
(203) 764-7495 · (203) 772-1270

New Haven Health Department Hub

54 Meadow St
Community Mental Health Ambassador:
Suzan Henriquez-Whitted
Site Coordinator: Gweniver Bell
(203) 535-9833 · (203) 584-2775

MOMS Partnership Innovation Hub

40 Temple St Suite 6D
Samara Zuniga
Site Coordinator
(475) 764-7374

Outreach Locations

MoMba Administrative Office
40 Temple St Suite 6B
Community Mental Health Ambassadors:
Cerella Craig · Kimberley Streater
(203) 764-8125 · (203) 764-7630

Boys & Girls of New Haven
253 Columbus Ave

The Farnam Community
162 Fillmore St

New Haven Opportunity Center
316 Dixwell Ave

Gateway Community College
20 Church St