



Dr. Michael Warren, MD MPH FAAP, is Chief Medical and Health Officer for March of Dimes. He leads the organization's programmatic, policy, research, and innovation initiatives and serves as the principal medical/ public health spokesperson. The mission of March of Dimes is to end preventable infant and maternal mortality and close the health equity gap.

Previously, Dr. Warren served as Associate Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Under his leadership, MCHB's budget grew by 31% to \$1.7B, with four new legislative authorities and multiple new/expanded programmatic initiatives, including a pediatric pandemic network, a national maternal mental health hotline, and a doubling of the evidence-based home visiting program with new state matching grants. MCHB's programs reached 99% of infants, 93% of pregnant women, & 62% of children nationwide.

Before joining HRSA, Dr. Warren served as Tennessee's Deputy Commissioner for Population Health. He led improvements in infant safe sleep, breastfeeding rates, early elective deliveries, newborn screening transit times, electronic systems for WIC and vital records registration, and established the first-ever real-time public health surveillance for neonatal abstinence syndrome.

A board-certified pediatrician, he completed his residency, chief residency, academic general pediatrics fellowship, and master's in public health at Vanderbilt where he also served on the clinical faculty. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and graduated with Honors in Psychology from Wake Forest University. In addition to his March of Dimes role, Dr. Warren serves as Adjunct Professor of Health Policy and Management at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. He previously served as President of the AMCHP Board of Directors.



Amy Calhoun-Vasko, APRN-CNM, is a certified nurse-midwife, maternal health innovator, and fierce advocate for rural mothers. With more than 25 years of experience, she has dedicated her career to combining clinical safety and evidence-based practice with respectful, compassionate maternity care.

As Director of Midwifery Services at Newman Memorial Hospital in Shattuck, Oklahoma, Amy is leading the return of labor and delivery services to one of the state's largest maternity care deserts. She is building a collaborative model that brings midwives, physicians, nurses, doulas, and community partners together to provide safe, equitable care throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

Under Amy's leadership, Newman has built a comprehensive maternal support network from the ground up—including free transportation, lactation services, embedded doula care, free childbirth education, and maternal mental health services. She is also developing a mobile maternal health unit to bring prenatal care directly to remote communities.

Amy believes a mother's ZIP code should never determine whether she has access to safe, dignified, and compassionate maternity care—and she is proving what becomes possible when a rural community refuses to accept ordinary solutions to extraordinary barriers.



Ashley Dougherty, LM, CPM,

Ashley's dedication to midwifery care began in 2015. Since then, she has undergone extensive training in both traditional midwifery and formal didactic education, with a focus on holistic health practices. This training has equipped her with the knowledge to support women through the entire natural birth process. Ashley is credentialed through the North American Registry of Midwives and Licensed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health as a Certified Professional Midwife since 2021.

For Ashley, being a midwife means more than just assisting with labor and delivery. It's about fostering an environment where women feel supported, respected, and empowered. She believes it is imperative to address not only the physical aspects of pregnancy and birth but also the emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects. Through compassionate and individualized care, Ashley creates a nurturing space where women can trust their bodies, their instincts, and their intuition as they navigate this incredible journey with confidence.

Personal Philosophy: "My approach to midwifery is supporting families during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, while emphasizing a whole-body, integrative approach to care and focusing on the importance of parents making informed decisions throughout the entirety of care. I strive to provide a holistic service that encourages long-term bonds with clients, not just during pregnancy, but in extended postpartum care."



Dr. Chad Smith, MD, FACOG, FACHE, is an OB Laborist and Associate Professor at OU Health. He also serves as Medical Director of the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (OPQIC) and chairs the Oklahoma State Maternal Mortality Review Board. Dr. Smith has nearly two decades of experience in obstetrics and gynecology, along with extensive leadership in patient safety, quality improvement, healthcare operations, and medical staff development. Through his work with OPQIC and state health partners, he has helped advance maternal and newborn health across Oklahoma.

He and his wife Jamie currently live in Edmond, OK. They have three boys: Kaedyn 21, Paxton 18, and Emerson 13. Chad enjoys playing golf, watching football and Formula One, and listening to audiobooks while doing yard work.



Regina Kizer, DNP, APRN-CNM, has been dedicated to maternal-child health care since 2004. She earned her Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Oklahoma, followed by a Master's degree in Nursing with a focus in midwifery in 2016 and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice specializing in midwifery in 2017.

Regina is the co-founder of **Breathe Birth and Wellness**, a freestanding birth center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which has served families since 2018. Her work is grounded in a passion for supporting physiologic birth and ensuring women receive individualized, evidence-informed care throughout their reproductive years.

A committed advocate for midwifery, Regina served as President of Oklahoma's American College of Nurse-Midwives from 2021–2026. During her tenure, she was actively involved in legislative efforts to promote a healthcare culture that supports and attracts midwives to Oklahoma. She also served on Oklahoma's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, contributing to initiatives focused on improving maternal health outcomes across the state.

Regina is passionate about expanding access to the midwifery model of care and believes women should not have to fight for care that benefits them and their families. Her work reflects a commitment to creating a maternity care system where low-risk women have meaningful access to respectful, individualized care and the opportunity to make informed choices about their birth experience.



Shamika Antwine Boone, Certified Community-Based Doula, is Founder & Director of PAC Birth Crisis Initiative, (DBA) Oklahoma Doula Collective. With 20+ years in birthwork and social service support, she's trained 200+ doulas and champions "Birth Confidence is a Health Intervention" for the labor parent and the birthworker. She serves rural Oklahoma communities, sits on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's Doula Support Council, and chairs the Board of Directors for Fostering Connections.