







# JUST Birth Network Program Team

	Team Member	Care Philosophy
	<p><b>Sauleiha Akangbe, CD PCD</b></p> <p>Birth Equity Manager, Founder and Manager of the JUST Birth Network</p>	<p>My black is beautiful, my black is Sun-kissed, my black is light brown sugar mixed with honey swirls, my black is untouchable and unapologetic, my black is strengthened by my Orisha and supported by my ancestors. I am descendant of those who could not be killed and every one of their prayers uplifts and empowers me to be the Black Woman I am. I was raised by Black women who come from Black women who were for the Black community. My ancestral heritage, cultural background, life experiences and elders qualify me to do this work.</p> <p>I am an African American Woman of Enslaved Descent. I am a mother, wife, priestess, agbebi, and I am unapologetically black.</p> <p>I created the Black Birth Empowerment Initiative in 2020 which is the foundation for the JUST Birth Network which I officially founded in 2022. This came from my personal experiences within healthcare and it was deemed necessary through our collective experience as Black people. I was born and raised to do this, however, my experience ranges as a Full spectrum doula, Midwifery assistant. Perinatal and infant loss advocate, Certified Blacktation Educator and student Agbebi of Osogbo, Osun state, Nigeria.</p>
	<p><b>Andrea Williams Muhammad, CD PCD</b></p> <p>Senior Administrative Coordinator</p>	<p>Andrea Williams-Muhammad is a quiet powerhouse advocating for reproductive rights since 1994, and has held numerous leadership positions throughout her long career. Her work in community includes, the groundbreaking initiatives "The Baltimore Community Doula Program" with the Baltimore City Health Department and Founding Member/CoChair of the Reproductive Health Equity Alliance of Maryland, a coalition of organizations working toward health equity within government policy and legislation.</p> <p>Her passion for advocacy is rooted in a family history rooted in traditional birthing practices, having grown up in the family home in which generations of her family were literally born and raised.</p> <p>"For Black women as well as Black men, it is axiomatic that if we do not define ourselves for ourselves, we will be defined by others—for their use and to our detriment." —Audre Lorde</p>
	<p><b>Makeda Robinson, CBE</b></p> <p>Birth and Family Educator</p>	<p>I am a Birth Worker, Herbalist and Business Owner. As a Mother of 7, I wholeheartedly enjoy the service of supporting Birthing Families as a Full Spectrum Doula, Birth Assistant, Lactation Support Counselor and Childbirth Educator. As the Educator for the JUST Birth Network for Swedish Providence, I come into contact with numerous families. This is one of the ways in which I am able to connect our communities to resources, while healing the wounds caused by the of lack of information regarding the natural birthing processes. Subsequently, this information will disintegrate the ridiculously alarming Black Maternal and Black Infant Mortality Rates and in the most applicable cases, replace the affect of misinformed practices and increase our knowledge and trust of the natural process. It is my goal to help create a better world for all our communities and future benefactors of this labor of love.</p>

	<p><b>Faronda Rollins</b></p> <p>Cultural Navigator</p>	<p>A woman needs someone she can trust, someone who laughs when she laughs, but who has different ideas so she can learn from them and teach them. She needs someone who will stand up with her and encourage her to be a woman not just a female. See where you are, admit what you know and what you need, and search for a true sister friend.</p> <p>I encapsulate these fully in my being a Woman but mostly as a " Black Woman Of This Era " and time where sisterhood I express through work and life to support my fellow sisters where it's needed</p>
	<p><b>Jasmine Smith</b></p> <p>Cultural Navigator</p>	<p>I was born and raised in Seattle, WA and graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in American Ethnic Studies. I've always had a passion for giving back to the community which drives the work I do serving underrepresented communities of Greater Seattle and the PNW region within the health and medical field.</p> <p>"Truth is powerful and it prevails." - Sojourner Truth</p>
	<p><b>Yemisrach Gudeta</b></p> <p>Cultural Navigator</p>	<p>I am passionate about working in women's health specifically, birthing women in the underserved community. I graduated from Lake Washington Technical College in Public health Sciences. I have served my community through the Ethiopian church and at TESFA Programs that serve People from diverse cultures, mostly East African cultures. Being trilingual is one of the best ways to survey and connect with my community of East Africa that come to Swedish to give birth, I speak Amharic and Oromo.</p> <p>All the patients I see from this population are thankful and cannot believe that there is someone that can reflect their cultural preferences to providers and nurses: I had a patient that made a transfer from Edmonds to First hill just because she feels more included here than anywhere else.</p> <p>I believe we all have the right to be listened to and included in the care we are receiving with many cultural preferences that are important to us. Black women and babies deserve the best possible health care to set them up for a life of success and long-term health.</p>

