

About NJMIHIA

Background on the Authority

The New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority was established in July 2023 through the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center Act (NJ Rev Stat § 26:18-17 et seq.).

This landmark legislation positioned New Jersey as the first state in the nation to create a dedicated public authority focused exclusively on improving maternal and infant health outcomes and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities.

The Authority is charged with coordinating cross-sector efforts, overseeing the development of the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (The Center) in Trenton, and advancing evidence-based strategies across care delivery, workforce development, and community engagement.

Since its inaugural board meeting in March 2024, NJMIHIA has focused on building foundational infrastructure, forging strategic partnerships, and laying the groundwork for the Center, in close collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) and the Office of the Governor.



Vision
A world where all mothers and babies flourish.

Mission
Empower the village that supports the health and well-being of all mothers and babies through transformative partnerships and community-rooted innovation.

Legislative Mandate

Under its enabling legislation, NJMIHIA is charged with:

- Establishing and overseeing the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (The Center), a central hub for clinical care, workforce training, social services, and innovation.
- Coordinating among national, state, local agencies, and private organizations to deliver perinatal and infant care services.
- Promoting equitable access to maternal and infant health services.
- Implementing strategies across healthcare delivery, social services, workforce development, community engagement, data collection, and research.
- Serving as an incubator for enterprises and technologies that improve health outcomes and reduce mortality and morbidity.
- Overseeing the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC), which develops and recommends strategies to reduce maternal mortality and racial disparities.



About NJMIHIA



Meet the NJMIHIA Team

NJMIHIA's team brings together professionals with diverse backgrounds in maternal health, community engagement, workforce development, and public policy. Together, they support the Authority's mission to advance maternal and infant health outcomes across New Jersey.

Lisa Asare
President & CEO

Sofia Bonsignore
Public Policy Specialist

Eric Carlsson
Chief Financial Officer

Cindy Cortez
Administrative Assistant

Maria Del Cid-Kosso
Director of External Affairs & Policy

Danelly DeLeon
Doula Program Compliance Specialist

Mahako Etta
Chief of Innovation

Tonique Griffin
Doula Program Compliance Specialist

Lauren Lalicon
Senior Program & Policy Director

Gabrielle Louis
Doula Program Manager

Myrna Rivera
Agency Management Analyst

Shellecia Smith
Doula Program Compliance Specialist

Pamela Taylor
MCQC Program Manager

Catherine Terrero
Senior Executive Assistant

Laura Wilton
Chief of Corporate Governance



About NJMIHIA

Meet our Board Members

NJMIHIA is governed by a Board comprised of both public members and representatives from State agencies. This structure brings together community expertise and government leadership to guide the Authority's work and ensure alignment with statewide priorities.

Public Members

Barbara George Johnson, Chair

Vice President of External Affairs and Urban Policy and Research, Kean University

Shakira Abdul-Ali, MSOD

Principal Managing Consultant and Owner
Alchemy Consulting LLC
Former Director, Trenton Department of Health & Human Services

Dr. Philip Bonaparte

President and CEO
New Hope Health Center
Former Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Horizon NJ Health, a subsidiary of Horizon BCBSNJ

Rosalee Boyer

First Lady of the Greater Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church
Co-founder of Salvation and Social Justice

Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji

Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Health, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Physician in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Andrea Martinez-Mejia

Executive Director
Greater Newark Health Care Coalition

Maritza Raimundi-Petroski

Chief Operating Officer
Prevention Links

Ex-Officio Representatives

Angela Bethea

Assistant Secretary and Chief Financial Officer
New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

Dr. Stephen Cha

Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Human Services

Andrea Jackson

Deputy Director
Division of Family and Community Partnerships
New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Holly Low

Director
Office of Strategic Outreach and Policy
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Trish Wallace

Senior Operations Director
New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance

Dr. Raynard Washington, Vice Chair

Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health

Evan Weiss

Chief Executive Officer
New Jersey Economic Development Authority

