



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Partnership
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La Familia Counseling Center
Executive Director

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Child Abuse Prevention Center
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Mutual Assistance Network
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Laurie Clothier
River Oak Center for Children
Executive Director

David Baker
Sacramento Children's Home
Executive Director

A.Jonathan Porteus, PhD
WellSpace Health
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Birth & Beyond staff,

It is with heavy hearts and overwhelming grief that we once again witness the inhumanity that exists when racism, disparities and broken systems continue to afflict the Black community.

We stand in solidarity with the Black community against racism and injustice in our community and across the country. We are deeply saddened and outraged by the deaths of innocent Black men and women in our country, including the latest victims George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Each of these Black Lives Matter.

We stand in solidarity with the peaceful protesters who are making their voices heard against injustice, hatred and racism.

Each of the organizations making up this collaborative have unequivocally stated that Black Lives Matter. We have each made strong and continued internal and external statements in support of equity. We would like you, every single one of our colleagues within our organizations, to know that this will be obvious in the way we conduct ourselves going forward and in the way that we discern who our partners are and what our expectations are of each other. Please find the attached letter outlining this commitment to how we conduct ourselves now and into the future.

Birth & Beyond cannot continue with business as usual; the status quo can no longer be good enough. The efforts we have made with cultural responsiveness in our Family Resource Centers are a good start; however, we will take further steps to strengthen our connection to the community and build on the trust we have established, recognizing that there is much to be done.

We are recommitting as a collaborative to reflect, listen, learn and take action - bringing voices from the community together, working towards common goals and effective solutions.

Birth & Beyond will:

- Acknowledge that race impacts community. Elevate the aspects of race and inclusion which have led to powerful resilience in communities and fight against systemic racism which has denied opportunities and well-being for generations.
- Listen deeply and intentionally. Community residents are aware of the problems present in their neighborhoods and they also know the answers. Our job is to lift up those answers connecting them with resources and influence to make them a reality.

- Promote social connection. Racism, fear, and brutality stop people from knowing each other and from trusting community leaders. Our family resource centers will support connections between people and their leaders which can impact equity and safety.
- Hire staff that represent our community needs. Assess and revise hiring practices and policies to include cultural responsiveness.
- Provide resources for parents and families to teach kids about race and equity.

The work we are doing in our Family Resources Centers becomes increasingly critical as Black families in the neighborhoods we serve need our support more than ever. We must do more as a collaborative to address these issues that have a devastating effect on the Black community and support children and families to achieve their greatest potential.

We thank you for walking this difficult journey with us and we look forward to our continued work with you.

Sincerely,

Birth & Beyond Executive Committee