



Connecting the Dots of Life

Presentation to Cleveland City Council



Our Mission

To address and improve the community and systemic structures that lead to poor birth outcomes through **Culture, Education, Advocacy, Support and Engagement (CEASE)**.

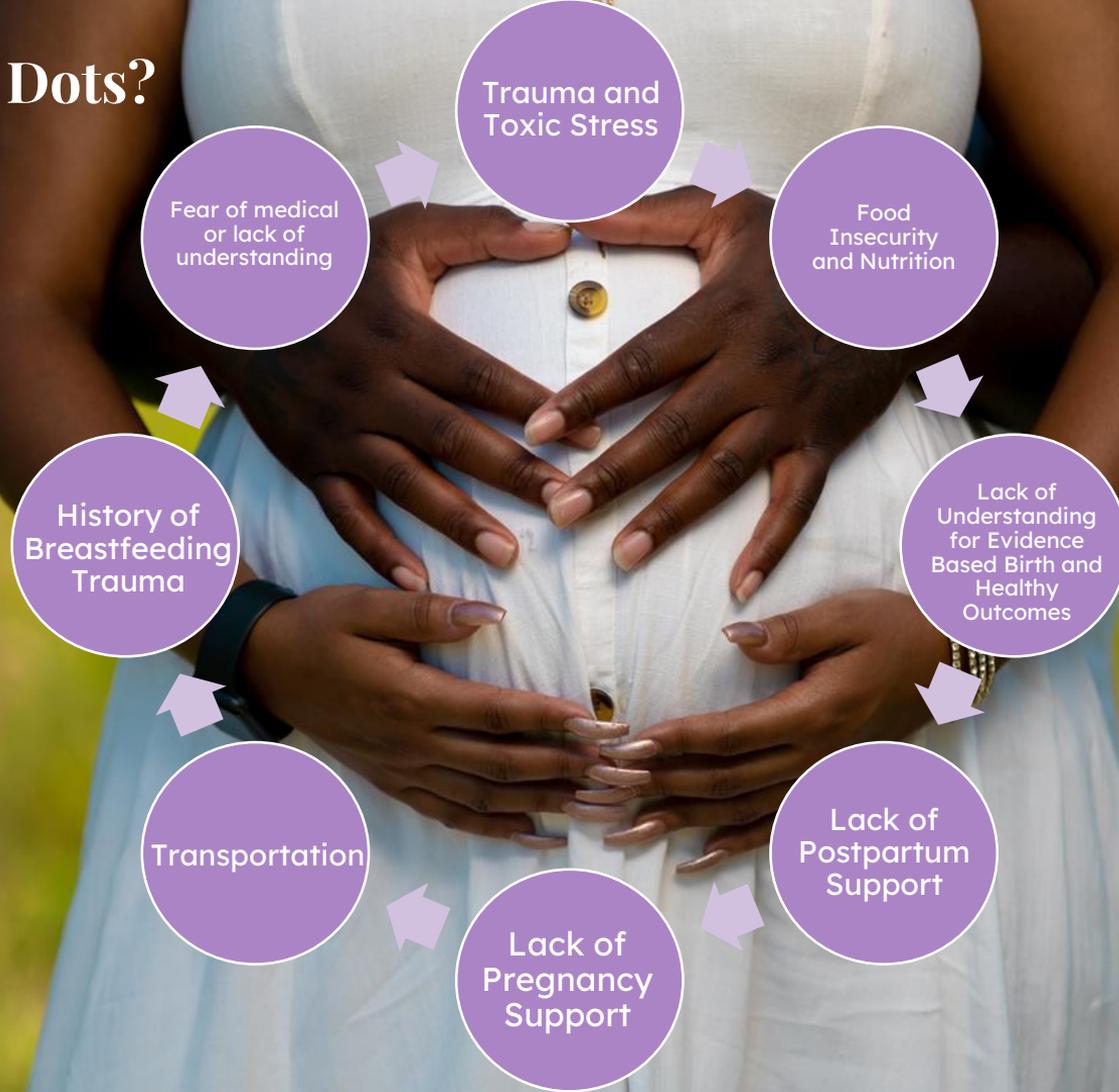
Black Infant Mortality is Just a Symptom of a Much Larger Problem - Systemic Racism

For more than five decades, Cuyahoga County has had one of the highest infant death rates in the country. Summit County is just behind.

In 2020, of the 13,204 babies born in Cuyahoga County, 101 babies did not make it to their first birthday. Black babies made up 73% of those babies who did not celebrate a first birthday.

In Ohio, Black infants died from prematurity-related causes at three times the rate of white infants.

What Are The Dots?



What is Birthing Beautiful Communities?

We train **birth attendants**, also known as doulas

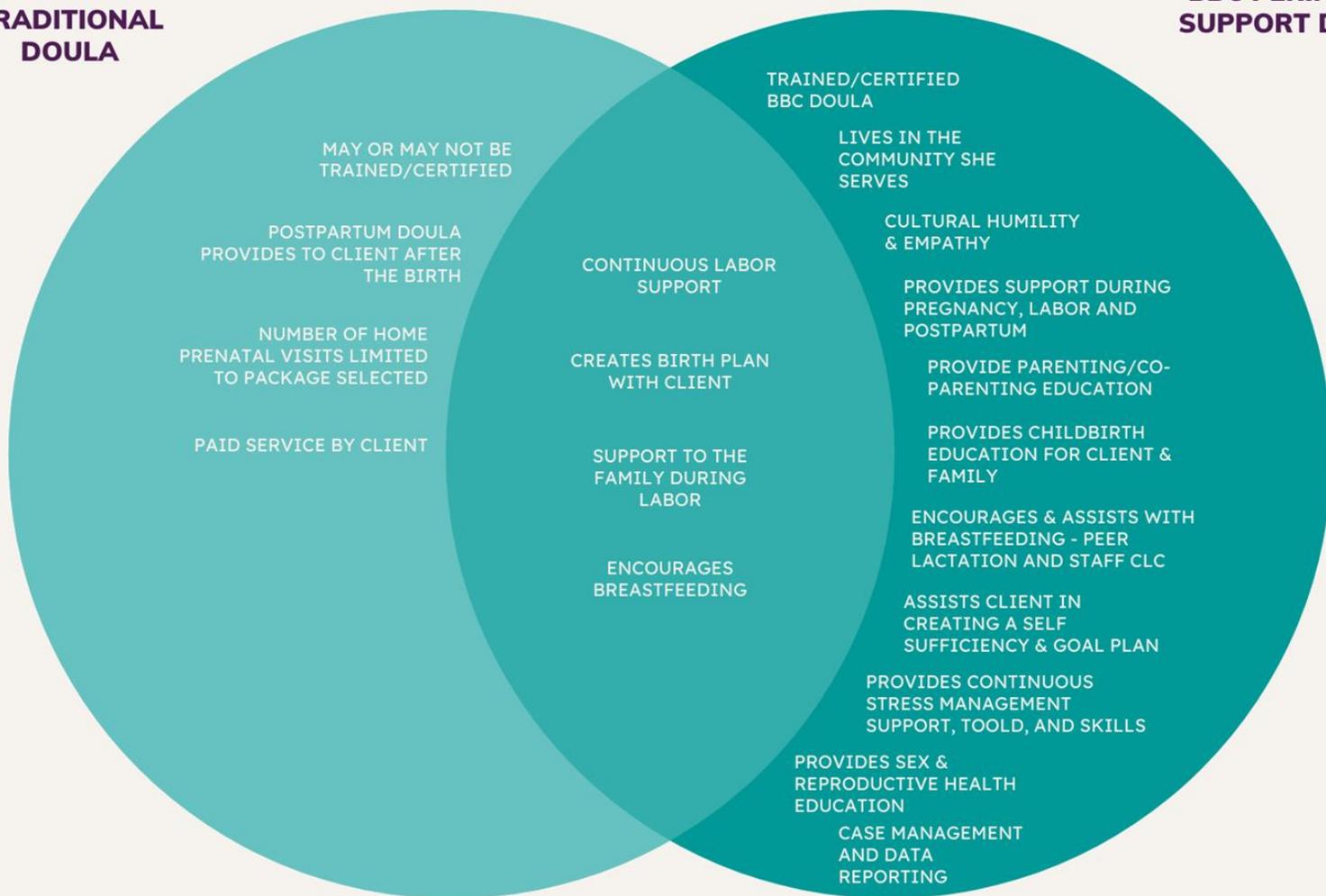
Women, Culture and Birth is our center

We provide **social support** to pregnant women by:

- ▶ **Connecting** the complicated dots of life
- ▶ **Offering** an ear and advocating for clients
- ▶ **Addressing** real life circumstances that cause stress, depression, anxiety, panic and fear
- ▶ **Gathering** together to share stories
- ▶ **Celebrating** new life
- ▶ **Providing** safe space for women and families
- ▶ **Encouraging** the pursuit and completion of goals
- ▶ **Connecting** women and families to legal, social, and mental health resources

TRADITIONAL DOULA

BBC PERINATAL SUPPORT DOULA



Pregnancy & Birth is social before it is clinical



Birthing Beautiful Communities is designed to take in moms who are at least 8 weeks pregnant. Our team is embedded into the daily lives of those we serve, for at least 80 weeks, or 1 year postpartum.

- Each mom is assigned a Perinatal Support Doula
- Weekly classes in childbirth, parenting, breastfeeding, etc. (3x per week)
- Support groups designed to help clients identify and navigate stress, depression, anxiety, panic and fear
- In-house lactation services, emergency assistance, and access to our Baby Bank for essential baby items

The Perinatal Support Program



Our Wellness Network



Our Wellness Network (OWN) is a collective of African American Grief Recovery Method Specialists (licensed therapists and peer specialists) trained by the Grief Recovery Institute to assist new parents, pregnant women, and their partners with grief after experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, or a loss of a child before the age of one.

- 1:1 Crisis Counseling
- Grief Recovery Workshops
- Peer Support
- Benevolence



birthing Moms Unchained: Providing Exceptional Perinatal Support to the Confined

Birthing Moms Unchained provides services to incarcerated women who are pregnant. A BBC Doula advocates for the pregnant mother during her time incarcerated. The BBC Doula also educates the family on caring for the baby while the mother is away.

- No shackling
- Private labor without guards
- Dignity in pregnancy and childbirth
- In partnership with The City of Cleveland and MomsFirst

Our Village



Jazmin Long, MSSA/MNO
President & Chief Executive
Director



8 Board Trustees
40 Perinatal Support Doulas
25 Administrative Team Members

Our Impact

Since 2014, we've served over **1,000** mothers and families

Trained over **150** Doulas

Healthy birth outcomes for moms and babies:
91% full-term birth rate

86.2% breastfeeding initiation rate
(compared to 68.8% for Black mothers in Ohio)

Agreements for reimbursement with CareSource, United,
and Buckeye Health and a pilot with Ohio Department of
Medicaid for reimbursement of Doula services.



Where We Are Headed

Planning a Birth Center in the Hough/Midtown Community

Free standing community-based birth center (10,000 sq. ft.) located off East 65th & Chester to provide midwifery-led and doula services to expectant and newly postpartum families.

In Northeast Ohio, families are looking for birthing services outside of hospitals or home births.



Why a Birth Center?

Birth centers play a crucial role in addressing maternal and infant mortality by providing a **safe and supportive environment** for low-risk pregnancies and births. Birth centers help address the **unique** needs and challenges faced by the Black community and the LGBTQ+ community during childbirth that promote the following benefits:

Patient-Centered Care

Lower Costs

Fewer Interventions

Increased Patient Satisfaction

Improved Access to Care

Inclusive & Affirming Care

Empowerment & Informed Decision Making

Cultural Competence & Representation

Birth Center Financing

Total Cost: \$12M

\$9.3M - Construction

\$2.7M - Operations

Financed by:

New Market Tax Credits

Government Entities

Community and Private Foundations

Individual Contributions



Thank You for Your Time & Support