

SESSION #2 PRESENTERS



Tyler Asa James, MPH has worked with the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) since February 2016. He currently serves as the Director of Race Equity Strategies within the Office of Equity Strategies.

Previously, he was the Director of Workforce Operations and Improvement, where he was the project lead in the development of learning programs for ACS frontline staff, supervisors and staff from ACS's contract provider agencies. Under his direction, the agency developed several new programs including: *Understanding and Undoing*

Implicit Bias, *Motivational Interviewing: Engaging Fathers*, *Motivational Interviewing: Engaging Families with Repeat Involvement with the Child Welfare System*, and *Identifying and Working with Families of Native American Heritage*.

Tyler also led a project to recognize ACS as a continuing education provider for LCSWs and LMSWs. In addition, he is a member of the *ACS Racial Equity and Cultural Competence Committee*, and serves as the chair of its training subcommittee.

Tyler has a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies from Brown University with a focus in race and health, and received his Masters in Public Health from the Boston University School of Public Health.



Michele Maye, MSW is the Executive Director of the NYC Infant Safe Sleep Initiative based at ACS, and is responsible for a coordinated, citywide strategy that builds awareness and understanding of the dangers of unsafe infant sleep practices. As the agency's lead on Safe Sleep matters, she oversees events, campaigns, materials development, and training curricula that informs parents, caregivers, professionals, and community stakeholders about sleep-related risks for babies. She leads a dedicated team of outreach coordinators working to establish strategic partnerships that bring Safe Sleep messaging to diverse communities in all five boroughs.

Michele's 32-year child welfare career began at the ACS Brooklyn Borough Office, where she progressed from casework and supervisory positions. Later she joined the Accountability Review Panel in the ACS Office of Quality Improvement as a case reviewer, where she evaluated case practice in child fatality, serious injury, and repeat maltreatment cases, and made quality improvement recommendations.

Michele received her Masters in Clinical Social Work from New York University and holds a BS degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Cornell University.



Priska Neely is an award-winning public radio journalist who has covered Black maternal and early childhood health issues for many years. As a senior reporter for NPR member station KPCC, she reported and produced a series of groundbreaking stories on high death rates for black babies in Los Angeles and across the U.S. Her reporting on the issue won many awards and has inspired policy change. Earlier this year, she produced a radio documentary on Black maternal health, called “*Reproducing Racism*” for Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting.

Priska is currently the managing editor of the Gulf States Newsroom, collaboration between NPR and public radio stations in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. She studied broadcast journalism and linguistic anthropology at New York University.



Dr. Stacy D. Scott, PhD, MPA, founder the Global Infant Safe Sleep (GISS) Center, has designed and implemented programs impacting underserved communities in the areas health disparities, prevention, and delivery of services for more than 30 years. She serves as a national health advocate and consultant – working to reduce infant mortality in the African American community and other disadvantaged groups by empowering communities.

In 2016, Dr. Scott established the Global Infant Safe Sleep (GISS) Center, an organization with a mission to empower the world’s communities to achieve equity in infant survival. The GISS Center supports vulnerable and marginalized global communities in an effort to reduce Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID). The center works with other community- driven organizations to combat infant mortality. She serves as Ohio’s spokesperson for their “ABC of Safe Sleep” campaign, and works with the Baby 1st Network as a Program Manager.

Dr. Scott received her bachelor’s degree in Human Service Administration from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green and her Ph.D. in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University.
