

Saleemah J. McNeil, CLC, MS, MFT

Certified Lactation Consultant

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology & Counseling

Pennsylvania License-Eligibility Pending Marriage & Family Therapist

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Certificate in Women's Entrepreneurship, *August 2020*

Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Clinical Psychology & Counseling

Marriage & Family Therapy Program, Master of Science, *May 2018*

Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Human Services, Bachelor of Science, *May 2013*

Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Allied Behavioral Sciences, Behavioral Health Program, Associate of Science, *May 2011*

SUMMARY

Saleemah McNeil is a Reproductive Psychotherapist, Certified Lactation Consultant, professionally trained Birth Doula, and a traumatic birth survivor. Saleemah has dedicated her work to helping families of color heal from traumatic birth experiences and transition into parenthood. Saleemah has held several positions in the field of Maternal & Child Health and Wellness. Mrs. McNeil began her work in the healthcare field as a Medical Assistant. Over time, she built her expertise and served as the Obstetric Coordinator at Pennsylvania Hospital. In this position, her passion for the maternal and child health field continued to grow. She was responsible for connecting patients to necessary community-based services and also trained providers to better understand the socio-economic barriers experienced by patients. Mrs. McNeil sought to further expand her knowledge and experience with vulnerable birthing persons and served as a Philadelphia County Jail Based Case Manager at Riverside Correctional Facility. In this role, she assisted birthing women during their most vulnerable times as a Doula, Childbirth Educator, and Parenting Group Facilitator. Saleemah began to appreciate the role of mental health in her clients' experiences and pursued advanced training in maternal mental health. Working in the Department of Corrections, ignited anger and further passion which ultimately guided Saleemah to a master's in clinical psychology and counseling. After watching years of

unfair treatment and inhumane conditions, reproductive injustice, systemic racism, and trauma, Saleemah founded a nonprofit organization, Oshun Family Center. She launched a citywide initiative to reduce Black maternal mortality through the “Maternal Wellness Village” program and became a key figure and content area expert in the region. Mrs. McNeil's work is rooted in a deep appreciation and understanding that surviving the 4th trimester can mean life or death for some women. As a clinician, advocate, researcher, and trainer, Mrs. McNeil’s work is grounded in helping families not only survive but thrive by utilizing anti-racism and trauma-sensitive framework.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Oshun Family Center, Jenkintown/Philadelphia, PA

Chief Executive Officer & Reproductive Psychotherapist 280

June 2020 - Present

Clinical Supervisor: Rebecca McDermott, MS, LMFT

- Provide ongoing behavioral support for families transitioning into parenting, administer screens for perinatal mood disorder such as postpartum depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and psychosis.
- Evaluate mental and emotional stressors, provide necessary resources such as Doula, lactation support, and support groups.
- Develop and implement strategic plans that meet business goals and objectives created in partnership with the Board of Directors and ensure commitment to and compliance with applicable nonprofit laws and regulations across the organization.

School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Psychoeducation for ELECT Program, 30hrs

January 2020 - June 2020

- Designed curriculum to utilize during parenting workshops within 10 public, charter, and alternative schools in Philadelphia. Facilitate psycho-educational workshops on topics such as mental health, setting appropriate boundaries, and identifying parenting styles.
- Consult with ELECT program Case Managers regarding concerns surrounding mental health, parenting concerns, and child welfare.

WellUS, Psychotherapy Group Practice, Jenkintown, PA

Part-Time Reproductive Psychotherapist, 1,770 hours

October 2018 - Present

Clinical Supervisor: Carmella Bond-Jackson, MS, LPC

- Evaluate mental and emotional disorders of individuals, couples, and families in treatment. Treat psychological disorders to effect improved adjustments utilizing various

psychological techniques, determine an appropriate treatment approach, frequency, intensity, and duration of the client.

- Assess patient progress and modify treatment accordingly in addition to openly communicating changes. Document therapy in accordance with the policies and procedures of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy which ensure patient confidentiality.

Center for Families and Relationships, Philadelphia, PA

Part-Time Psychotherapist, 954 hours

May 2018 - December 2019

Clinical Supervisor: Cheryl Foxworth, MS, LMFT, AAMFT AA

- Diagnose or evaluate mental and emotional distress of individuals, families, and couples and administer treatment in a community behavioral health setting.
- Document therapy in accordance with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and guidelines with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services. Evaluate and collaboratively update treatment plans with clients. Participate in individual, group supervision, and case consultation with fellow clinicians.

Maternity Care Coalition at Riverside Correctional Facility, Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia County Jail Case Manager

July 2012 - June 2015

- Provide intense case management during incarceration and 1-year post-release. Facilitate parenting workshops using nurturing families' curriculum; accompany women to local hospitals during labor and delivery and address social issues with referrals.
- Attend case consultation in order to gain increased insight into social determinants of health and reinforcing laws during labor such as no shackling during the labor process.
- Educate and empower parents to breastfeed their children for up to 48hrs before discharge from an area hospital.

Northwest Family Advocate

March 2011 - July 2012

- Home-based case manager providing crisis intervention referrals, counseling, safe sleep education, database entry, community accompaniment, and providing education pertaining to maternal-child health and wellness.
- Participate in trauma-informed training and implement necessary strategies to best support clients.

Penn OB/GYN & Midwifery Care, Philadelphia, PA

Obstetric Coordinator / Medical Assistant

May 2007 - June 2010

- Organize and follow the care of prenatal patients from conception through postpartum. Perform intake visit, prevention & education services; maintain prenatal database in addition to fostering a

continuum of care with other providers. Provide assistance to medical providers during procedures, phlebotomy, lab processing, triage, scheduling, and training new hires and interns.

- Facilitate training for incoming medical assistant employees and interns in collaboration with the office manager and lead physician.

CLINICAL TRAINING

Center for Families and Relationships, Philadelphia, PA

Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, 750 hours

May 2017 - May 2018

Clinical Supervisor: Cheryl Foxworth, MS, LMFT, AAMFT AS

- Utilize ecosystemic structural family therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy modalities to treat family therapy clients with complex trauma to address concerns from the Department of Human Services.
- Conduct crisis intervention strategies with clients and make appropriate referrals to increase the level of treatment. Collaborate with families for treatment plans, keep confidential records/notes, and follow up with referral sources.
- Participate in individual and group case consultation and complete forms for disability.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Mommy & Me for Moms of Color, Philadelphia, PA

Curator and Facilitator

October 2019 - November 2019

- 6-week program for Moms of color to discuss the intersection of parenting and mental health.
- Topics include, healthy eating, introducing solids, breastfeeding, self-care and outdoor exploration at the Discovery Center.
- Encourage participants to connect with one another in order to foster a positive bond and expand their parenting village.

Black Maternal Health Week, Philadelphia, PA

Lead Organizer

April 11th-17th, 2020

- Black Maternal Health Forum: *The impact of COVID-19 on birthing persons*. **McNeil, S.J.**, moderator, panelist include Coleman, Jabina G., Licensed Social Worker and Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant, King, Sharee., Registered Nurse on Mother/Baby Unit., Davis, Jatolloa., Certified Nurse Midwife., Gainey, Tekara., Full Spectrum Doula and Childbirth Educator and Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

- Advocacy Day Training: *Advancing the Village to Hold the Mother*. **McNeil, S.J.**, moderator, panelist include White, Lexi., Senior Policy Manager, Cephas, Morgan., 192 District State Representative and Mehta, Aasta., Obstetrics and Gynecology Physician and Women's Health Policy Advisor.
- Black Doula Meetup, *Addressing the needs of birth workers in the wake of COVID-19: Supporting the Village*.
- (In)Fertility Healing Circle: *Creating a safe space for women of color to find solidarity in healing through infertility*.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS and INVITED LECTURES

McNeil, S.J., (2020, October) GOLD Learning 2020 Conference, Birth and Beyond, Overcoming Barriers in Black Maternal Health: It Takes a Village

McNeil, S.J., Weinstein, E., (2020, September) Temple University, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, Maternal Health & Birth Equity Panelist.

McNeil, S.J., Simmons, E., Tilden, C., (2020, September) National Maternal Health Innovation Symposium Panel, Spark Session, It Takes a Village: The Maternal Wellness Village.

McNeil, S.J., (2020, September) Providence Center, Philadelphia, PA, Anti-Racism management training: Being anti-racist takes self-reflection and tough conversations.

McNeil, S.J., Cunningham, C. (2020, September) Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Virtual platform, PA PQC Learning Session: Update on the Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD) Change Package & Next Steps.

McNeil, S.J., (2020, August) Philadelphia Magazine, Be Well Philly Keynote, Virtual platform, A response to community trauma: Racial trauma in the wake of a civil uprising.

McNeil, S.J., (2020, July) Nurture Kansas City Annual Meeting Keynote, Virtual platform, Addressing Maternal Mortality: Driving Data to Action.

McNeil, S.J., Coleman, J. G. (2020, March) Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, Advancing the Village: Addressing disparities and connecting the dots in maternal mental health.

McNeil, S.J., (2020, February) Black Girl Health Foundation, Harrisburg, PA: Overcoming mental health barriers in the Black community.

McNeil, S.J., Anthony, D. (2020, February) AmeriCarnitas Keynote, It takes a Village, The Maternal Wellness Village: Community Organizing with culturally and racially concordant providers.

McNeil, S.J. (2020, January) Maternity Care Coalition, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders in minority communities.

McNeil, S.J. Coleman, Jabina G. (2019, October) University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Maternal Mental Health: Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder: The impact of Birth Trauma.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, October) Committee Hearing at Philadelphia City Hall, The impact of Birth and Racial Trauma on minority communities.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, May) Monster in my Mom Conference Keynote: The benefits of Community Organizing in the Black community and the intersection of birth and racial trauma.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, April) Black Maternal Health Week: HERstory of healing from a Traumatic Birth Experience.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, April) Policy Committee Hearing: Meaningful Solutions to Maternal Mortality.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, March) Women in Leadership Inspiring Young Women.

McNeil, S.J. (2019, March) Minnow Lane, Surviving a Traumatic Birth Experience: A Healing Journey, Resilience, and Empowerment.

McNeil, S.J. Johnson, J. A. (2018, October) District Attorney's Office, Say Her Name: A Journey through the eyes of justice-involved women.

AWARDS AND HONORS

City of Philadelphia, Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore Richardson, *April 2020.*

- Introduced a Legislative Resolution to declare Black Maternal Health Week to be recognized in Philadelphia on April 11th-17th.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health - Healthy Start, Community Action Network Grant Awardee, *March 2020.*

- Wrote a community-based grant for \$10,000, was awarded \$10,000 to pilot the Who Holds the Mother: Perinatal Wrap Around program in Philadelphia.

Temple University, Center for Obesity Research and Education, *March 2020.*

- Oshun Family Center / Maternal Wellness Village (Co-PI) will provide thought leadership and community collaboration to develop a program to address maternal health disparities in the Black Community related to cardiovascular health, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, breastfeeding, satisfaction with maternity care, and birth experiences for the National Institute of Health Grant: Addressing Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality and Morbidity.

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania CAREs Grant Awardee, *February 2020.*

- Wrote a community-based grant for \$2,000, was awarded \$1,000 to continue providing moms of color with support in North Philadelphia.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Co-Chair, Maternal Health Depression & Racial Equity Taskforce (MOMD Change Package) - Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC), Philadelphia, PA, August 2020 - Present

Board of Trustees, Perinatal Mental Health Alliance of Color, Fundraising Director, Baltimore, MD, January 2020 - Present

Curator of the Maternal Wellness Village Initiative, Philadelphia, PA, October 2019 - Present

Board of Trustees, Maurice Rush Foundation, Drexel Hill, PA June 2017 - Present

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

LEADERSHIP Philadelphia, Keepers, and Connectors Program, *October 2019 - June 2020*

Postpartum Support International, *June 2018 - Present*

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

1. Carmella Bond-Jackson, MS, LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
WellUS, LLC Group Therapy Practice
ccbj.13@gmail.com
2. Shanna Williams, LCSW, MEd

Director of Social Work Counseling Services
Clinical Assistant Professor, Widener University Center for Social Work
smwms82@gmail.com

3. Jabina Coleman, LSW, MSW, IBCLC
Hematology Medical Social Worker and Internationally Board Certified Lactation
Consultant
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Jabina.coleman@gamil.com