

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

April 1, 2025

Proclaiming April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week and April 16, 2025, as the Day of the Black Infant in Los Angeles County

"Black Maternal Health Week," which is held annually on April 11 through 17, was founded by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance in 2018 to spotlight the national maternal health crisis affecting Black communities and to promote education and advocacy around the experiences of Black mothers and birthing persons. This year's theme, "Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health Through Collective Action and Advocacy," emphasizes the power of Black-led organizations and community healing. This week serves as a time to honor and uplift Black mothers, families, and the care systems working to ensure joyful, healthy, and empowered perinatal experiences.

In Los Angeles County (County), Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than White women¹, and Black infants are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than White infants². These disparities persist across income levels, educational backgrounds, and geographic areas. Historical and structural racism, gender oppression, and inequities in the social

¹ California Integrated Vital Records System, 2014-2019; 2020-2022 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

² 2020-2022 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

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determinants of health collectively drive unequal health outcomes for Black mothers and their babies.

The County has launched important initiatives to address the needs of Black birthing families, working in partnership with community providers, birth workers, and advocates. The Department of Public Health and First 5 LA supports the County's African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM), which was created in 2018 to address Black birth inequities and improve pregnancy and birthing outcomes through collective action.

AAIMM unites County agencies, community and faith-based organizations, clinicians, doulas, midwives, healthcare plans, funders, and, most importantly, the Black/African American community to drive meaningful change. Through engagement, action, and advocacy, AAIMM delivers essential interventions, strategies, and resources. AAIMM continues to expand with culturally grounded programs and advocates for comprehensive, respectful maternal and reproductive care. Led by Black women, alongside passionate advocates and partners, the AAIMM village remains steadfast in its commitment to ending birth inequities and the maternal health crisis — striving to make joyful, healthy Black births the norm.

Furthering these efforts, on February 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a County Medi-Cal Doula Hub, which recently launched with Frontline Doulas, in partnership with Diversity Uplifts, Inc., as the lead community agency. The Hub supports the rollout of the Medi-Cal Doula benefit by focusing on workforce development for doulas and public education for County residents about the positive impact of doula care in addressing perinatal and infant health disparities and its availability to all pregnant or newly parenting Medi-Cal members.

Achieving birth equity in Black communities requires ongoing, collective efforts from diverse partners across the County. Transforming the overall health and well-being of Black birthing families will depend on sustained collaboration, dedication, and a shared commitment to lasting change.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the week of April 11 through 17, 2025 as “Black Maternal Health Week,” and April 16, 2025, as “The Day of the Black Infant” throughout Los Angeles County.
2. Encourage residents to learn about available services and resources, as well as ways to take a stand against racism, bias in health care, and birth inequities at the Los Angeles County’s African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative website at www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org, on Instagram at @blackinfantsandfamiliesla, and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackInfantsandFamilies>.
3. Encourage residents and County Departments to support AAIMM and its community partners by participating in upcoming events occurring during Black Maternal Health Week, including community resource fairs/baby showers and various partnering organizations’ events. Residents can learn more about these events at www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org.
4. Encourage residents and County Departments to learn about the Los Angeles County Medi-Cal Doula Hub’s available services and resources and participate in upcoming events. Residents can learn more about the Doula Hub at www.frontlinedoulas.com/doula-hub.

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