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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Panelists Gather for Forum on Health Equity in Birth Outcomes

Milwaukee, Sept. 14, 2021 – Poor birth outcomes are a serious issue in Wisconsin. The state leads the nation in racial birth disparities impacting Black women and babies and is first in the nation for Black infant mortality. But there are approaches that are making a difference.

Hosted by *iCare*, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Humana, in partnership with the Urban League and United Way, the [Health Equity in Birth Outcomes Forum](#) will bring together experts from across the country on Sept. 15 to share insights from evidence-based programs that are working.

Speakers will include:

- Jim Jones - State Medicaid Director; Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Nwando Olayiwola MD, MPH, FAFP - Chief Health Equity Officer, Humana
- Lynda Krisowaty, MHS - Senior Program Manager, Evidence-Based Practice; Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

- Laura Powis, MPH - Program Manager, Evidence-Based Policy and Practice; Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- Jordan Wildermuth, MSW - Senior Government Affairs Manager; The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First
- Shannon Sainer, MSW, MS - Director of Impact & Learning; The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First
- Eve M. Hall, PhD – President / CEO; Milwaukee Urban League
- Jasmine Zapata, MD, MPH, FAAP - Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist, Bureau of Community Health Promotion, Division of Public Health; Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Tony Mollica, MS, MHI – CEO/President; iCare

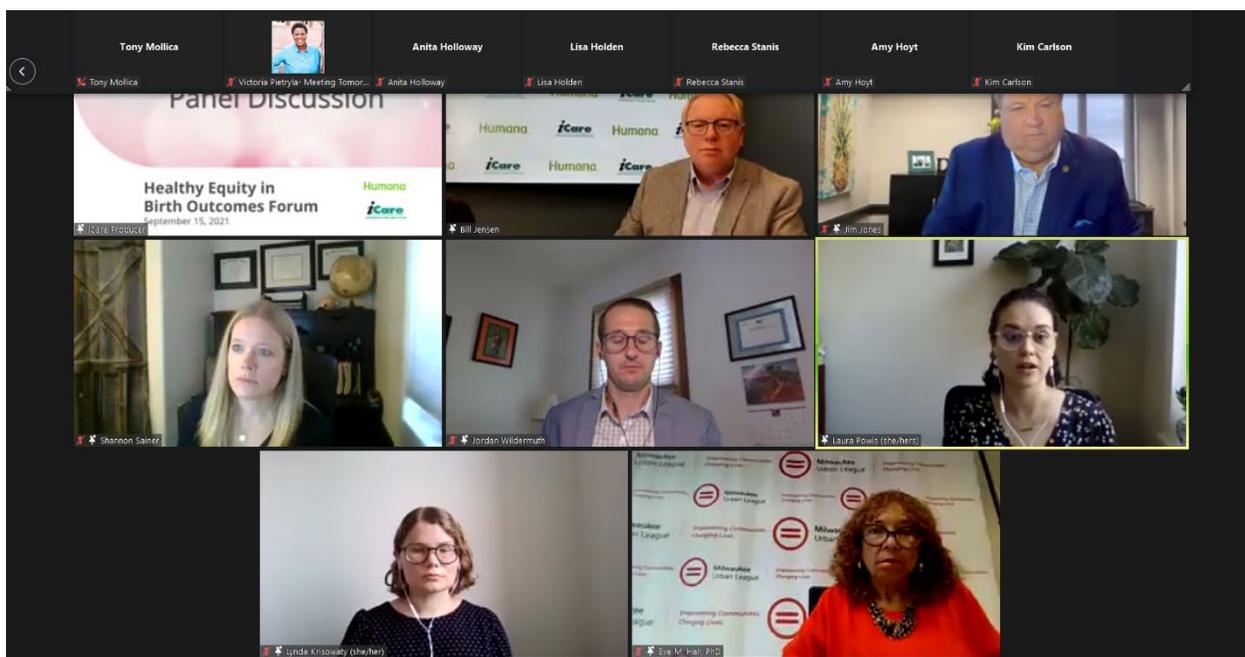
Forum attendees will include birth-to-3 programs in Wisconsin, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Wisconsin, obstetrics physicians, clinical neonatal programs, internal medicine nurses, social workers, community organizations and Wisconsin Community Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC) agencies. In addition to organizations serving as presenters, over 50 additional organizations will be recognized via a [Resource List](#) shared with attendees.

“We’re very fortunate to have assembled such an impressive group of speakers,” said Mollica. “Dr. Olayiwola is a speaker in high demand who’s been interviewed by Katie Couric and has been featured on TedTalks, to name a few. Jim Jones drives the priorities for Wisconsin DHS as Medicaid Director, and he’s placed healthy births as a top priority. It’s not an easy problem to solve, but these are the right speakers, addressing the right audience, to affect change in Wisconsin.”

For event details, speaker bios, slides, recording and other resources, go to <https://www.icarehealthplan.org/Forum21>.

About Independent Care Health Plan (iCare)

iCare provides managed care coverage for over 40,000 people throughout Wisconsin, most of whom have low incomes or are disabled. iCare has been securing the wellness of people with complex conditions for over two decades. iCare is a wholly-owned subsidiary of [Humana](https://www.humana.com). For more information about iCare, visit www.iCareHealthPlan.org, or call 800-777-4376 (TTY 1-800-947-3529).



A panel discussion of subject matter experts addressed attendee questions about healthy birth outcomes.

Media Coverage

- Article and audio segment by Wisconsin Public Radio - Corrinne Hess

<https://www.wpr.org/there-are-many-inequities-we-need-focus-wisconsin-health-officials-call-attention-black-birth>

- Article by Urban Milwaukee

https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2021/09/16/state-has-troubling-maternal-and-infant-racial-health-disparities/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+UrbanMilwaukee+%28Urban+Milwaukee%29

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To arrange interviews with panelists, contact Kirk Heminger at (414) 918-7559.

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DHS Approved 09/14/2021