



Title: **Operationalizing Perinatal Equity, Quality and Safety in Materno-toxic Zones - Every Person, Every Time.**

Presenter: **Jennie Joseph, LM, CPM President and Founder of Commonsense Childbirth Inc.**

Description:

Operationalizing Perinatal Equity, Quality and Safety in Materno-toxic Zones - Every Person, Every Time.

Materno-toxic Zones - As defined by the National Perinatal Task Force (NPTF), a materno-toxic area is any area where it is unsafe to be pregnant, breastfeeding or parenting. An area might be unsafe because of a physical threat to health, freedom or thriving in an environment. Or it might be unsafe because of the psychological and social pressures a person feels when in that environment – ridicule, judgment or anxiety might all play a role. Historically, people in materno-toxic areas traditionally face birth outcomes that are worse than those in adjacent areas and suffer an increased risk for premature birth, low-birth weight, and infant and maternal morbidity and mortality. Additionally, we recognize that the toxicity of implicit and explicit biases, racism, classism and sexism is created wherever a pregnant woman of color or marginalized person may be, and as such the materno-toxic status is not always just because of a specific geographic location. Regardless of where or how the toxicity shows up, the lack of perinatal safety impacts their chances of a healthy birth outcome.

Jennie also describes the impact of structural, historical and institutional harm experienced by the providers, practitioners and stakeholders leading to the vicarious trauma, moral injury and burn-out experienced by those of us on the frontlines of this movement to reclaim our humanity. Materno-toxicity affects us all!

Putting it into Practice

This presentation furthers our collective goals of eliminating perinatal disparities and provides readily-implemented tools and tweaks that will empower providers and stakeholders alike. The model is easily adaptable to telehealth with some creativity and a focus on communication and what we call ‘gap management’, and leads to a deeper understanding of the ways we can collaboratively and effectively move towards improved maternal/infant health and better birth outcomes for all communities.



Learning Objectives :

- ❖ Participants will be able to describe the effect of racial disparities in perinatal outcomes on all members of society, including themselves as providers and community stakeholders, and discuss current approaches to eliminating them.
- ❖ Participants will be able to discuss strengths and challenges of their local perinatal resources and systems.
- ❖ Participants will be able to describe the four tenets of The JJ Way® Maternal Child Health system and how this method can impact interdisciplinary collaborations on a local and regional level.
- ❖ Participants will be able to utilize one or more techniques to apply this knowledge in their own practice, facility or agency.
- ❖ Participants will be able to develop action steps to implement future life-saving projects and programs dedicated to improving the health of vulnerable women and babies in their area.

Bibliography

The JJ Way® Evaluation: Community-based Maternity Center - 2017

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OFsd0f3zcdCYZhQvmArHtLMgkVcK3OJP/view?usp=sharing>

NPTF Maternal Justice Report: Building a Movement to Birth a More Just and Loving World - 2018

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gxpAnPVG1LjKCI0bUaEgkRU8P8iRtnJW/view?usp=sharing>

The JJ Way® Model of Maternity Care – Easy Access Clinic

An Innovation Station Promising Practice 2020

https://perinataltaskforce.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JJ-Way-Model_Innovation-Station-Handout-min.pdf

Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Primer - Commonwealth Fund - 2020

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UCGyESku13-Z-wmHrqWMAwVDu3Gil7Nb/view?usp=sharing>

Equitable Outcomes At Scale Report - Jennie Joseph 2021

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12bW17Cj3wNldXl1VseB5-rYWG0eZOF3x/view?usp=sharing>