

Board of Directors

NACPM President Tanya Khemet Taiwo, CPM-Ret., MPH, PHD, considers herself blessed to be the mother of three beautiful girls who were all born into the hands of midwives. She lives in Sacramento, CA where she has practiced in community clinic settings for 16 years. After serving as clinic administrator and staff midwife of The Birthing Project Clinic for eight years, she became one of the founding mothers of Birth and Family Health Center, women's health clinics housed in community health centers located in medically underserved areas of Sacramento. These community health centers provide primary care, pediatrics, dental care and behavioral health; serving women who would otherwise have little or no prenatal care or reproductive health services. Women's health services are enhanced with health education, nutrition and social services. She currently works in a Federally Qualified Health Center, continuing to care for low-income families in a multi-disciplinary setting. She comes from a family tradition of midwives, was trained at Seattle Midwifery School, and apprenticed with midwives in Seattle, Senegal and Jamaica. She joined the NACPM Board of Directors in the fall of 2012 because of her commitment to bringing the midwifery model of care to the medically underserved and those at risk of poor birth outcomes. Before being elected as president, she served as co-President for 2 years and Secretary for four years. Dr. Khemet Taiwo is an assistant professor of midwifery at Bastyr University, and a research fellow at The Birth Place Lab at the University of British Columbia. At the Birth Place Lab she's collaborating on the Giving Voice to Mothers Study, a research project that examines how race, ethnicity and birthplace affect maternity care in the United States. Her dissertation research in epidemiology examined how prenatal socioeconomic and psychological stress impacted child neurodevelopment, and how these stressors are amplified by environmental exposures.



NACPM Vice President Keisha Goode, PhD, joined the Board as the first appointed Public Member. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at The State University of New York College. Her primary research area is Medical Sociology with specific attention to the medicalization of childbirth and the historical and contemporary complexities of black midwifery in the United States. She is completing a book proposal for the publication of her dissertation research, *Birthing, Blackness and The Body: Black Midwives and Experiential Continuities of Institutional Racism*.



Jennifer Ross, CPM writes, "I love being a midwife, the organic growth of the relationship between midwife and family is one of my favorite aspects. But at the same time, I was drawn to midwifery to help change the broken maternity system in the United States. It is unacceptable that our maternity mortality rate is consistently rising, the safety disparities for people of color are astronomical and 1 in 3 pregnancies end in cesarean. I believe everyone should have access to safe and respectful care. Studies are clear that people often experience better outcomes in community settings with culturally appropriate care. As such, I am dedicated to supporting the advancement and expansion of a diverse and representative midwife population and increasing access to high-quality maternity care in homes and freestanding birth centers.

I spent the first 17 years of my professional life living and working overseas as an engineer, manager and business developer. During this time I was exposed to the idea of midwifery led maternity care. I made the leap from engineer to midwife starting in 2012. I trained with many incredible midwives around the United States, graduated *summa cum laude* from the Midwives College of Utah, became a CPM in California and now have a home birth practice in New Hampshire. I hope my past experience and current CPM skills combined will be just what NACPM needs to further their important mission. I believe CPMs are the key to improving birth outcomes, reducing disparities, addressing systemic racism in our maternity care system and making the childbearing cycle a positive and empowering time. In order to do so, we need a medical system that recognizes us as equals, favorable laws to act autonomously, equitable pay, sustainable working hours and a strong community of midwives. I believe this and more is possible. NACPM has been the framework of change for decades, I am proud to represent you and all CPMs as a board member to help continue to facilitate these important goals."

