

FCC TASKFORCE SPOTLIGHT



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Meet Mia! She serves as an Executive Council Family Partner and Co-Chair of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice Committee for the Family-Centered Care Taskforce.

How were you personally activated to advocate for and support NICU families?

It came from understanding there was a lack of support for families during my NICU stint. But also seeing the differential support that families received depending on race, perceived relationship statuses, perceived intelligence/understanding, etc. I have been doing EDIBJ and SDoH education for many years understanding the racialized history of medicine in this country and seeing how that plays out for families and babies in the most vulnerable position was something I could not ignore.

How does your organization/company/hospital support NICU families?

Ollie Hinkle Heart Foundation provides mental health support, through Ollie's Branch, financial assistance, and meals support for pediatric heart families - including our NICU babies/families (covers so many conditions - hypertension, PDA, CHDs, etc.).

What are the greatest needs of families in maternal-infant health you observe through your work?

Families need access to equity centered trauma-informed, bias awareness, and representative care. We can no longer ignore the realities that families are receiving care that is infested with racial bias (plus affinity biases), caste discrimination, language discrimination, etc. These are permeating the medicine and cause disparate outcomes for Black and brown, "poor", non-English-speaking families.

What insight or advice do you have for healthcare professionals who want to implement/strengthen FCC practices in their hospital?

Decenter yourself. Ego and empathy don't share space - they don't sit at the same table, they don't know each other. We are socialized as medical professionals in perfection. This perfection causes and upholds hierarchy. This perfection makes it hard/impossible to acknowledge our mistakes/missteps.

What does being part of the FCC Taskforce mean to you personally?

It's a genuine opportunity for learning, educating, and partnership.

What is your greatest wish in terms of the positive impact the FCC Taskforce members can make together in maternal-infant health?

To continue to learn and be open to learning - especially when it's hard, especially when it causes us to do some hard reflection, especially because lives are on the line.

Is there anything else you want our community to know?

I want our community to know this: Whether you're a healthcare partner or a parent partner, you are an important and valuable part of this work. We're not just changing systems; we're changing experiences, for the next parent who walks through the NICU doors scared and unsure, for the baby whose first connection is a parent's voice, and for every care team member who wants to lead with both excellence and empathy.

Together, we are building something bold and lasting. And I'm incredibly honored to be in this work with you.



Healthcare partners are...
Necessary.

NICU & bereaved parents are...
Essential to every conversation.



**FAMILY-CENTERED CARE
TASKFORCE**