

# FCC TASKFORCE SPOTLIGHT



## YAMILE JACKSON, PHD, PE, PMP

CEO, Nurtured by Design  
 Founder, Int'l Kangaroo Care Awareness Day  
 Parent of Zachary

Meet Yamile Jackson! She serves as both an Organizational Partner with and an Executive Council Family Partner for the Family-Centered Care Taskforce.

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

*When Zach was 3 weeks old, weighing 2.5 lbs., Tropical Storm Allison hit Houston, TX, leaving the hospital and life-support equipment powerless. The NICU staff and we kept Zach alive "by touch" for 9 hours until he was evacuated. I held him skin-to-skin to keep him warm and calm, and Larry received a crash-course on "bagging," taking turns with the staff. In those dark hours, I promised Zachary that his pain and struggle to survive were not in vain and I would dedicate my life to supporting babies like him and families like ours. Zach is now healthy and in college.*

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

*I am an advocate for trauma-informed kangaroo care. I know that everything important is "counted and analyzed," from the grams of weight of the babies to the drops of milk the baby eats. I hope we give more importance to analyzing kangaroo care and include it in "count what counts."*

### Anything else you want our community to know?

*Professionals like you saved Zach's life. He suffered so much, and while we are glad he doesn't remember, we will never forget.*

*We see Zach grow healthy and become a wonderful, intelligent, funny, loving, and unstoppable young man.*

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

*We apply ergonomics engineering, risk management, and our personal and professional experiences in creating The Zaky® (products, consulting, and app) that are evidence-based, support families, zero-separation, aid kangaroo care, nonpharmacologic pain management, and individualized developmental and neuroprotection care.*

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

*The lack of parental leave in the USA, especially for families of NICU infants. Too much happens in the NICU; parents should be able to be there without barriers.*

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

*Neonatologists with a multidisciplinary team can create a trauma-informed culture of family inclusion in the NICU. Parents have superpowers for natural healing and mental health support. The healthcare team provides medical care and enables families to bond. Work as a team and rely on each other's strengths.*



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

*I like working with a taskforce that understands that families suffer when a baby is in the NICU, and the best way to support them is to include them in the care of their babies while in the hospital and beyond.*

**Healthcare partners are... in a position to make or break the seamless inclusion of the baby into their own family.**

**NICU & bereaved parents are... traumatized but capable.**



FAMILY-CENTERED CARE  
**TASKFORCE**