



**MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH NOW**  
supporting the well-being of growing families

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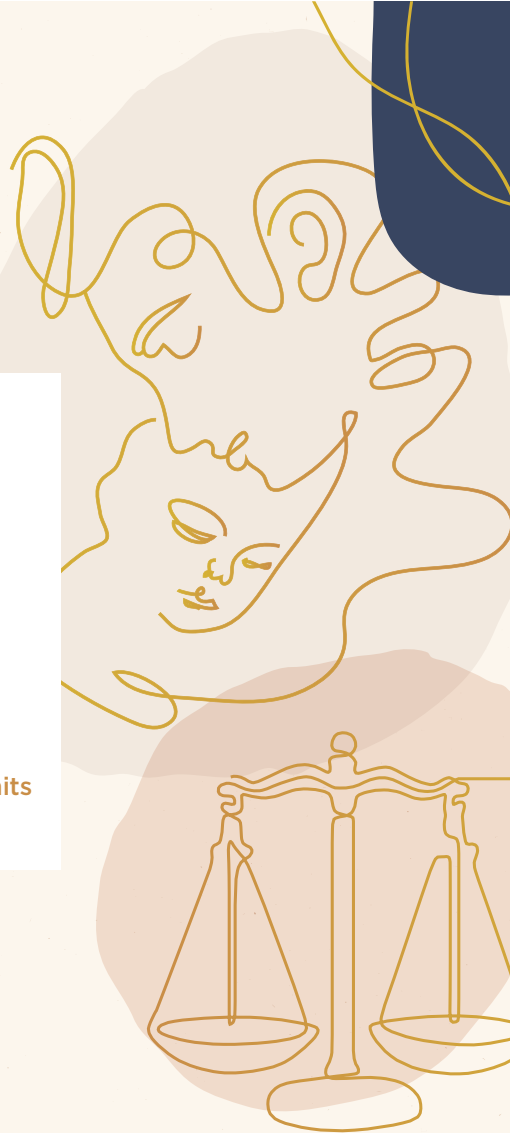
**EVENT DATES**

June 3, 10 and 17, 2021  
6-8 pm PST

# LEGAL AND ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH

3-Part Webinar Series

6 Law & Ethics Continuing Education Units



Sponsored by



California Health Care Foundation

The field of perinatal mental health may present clinicians with unique legal and ethical dilemmas, with an abundance of grey areas to traverse. Concerns about parent, infant and child safety are keenly present for providers supporting families on their reproductive journey. Additionally, ethical dilemmas may arise as clinicians navigate providing equitable care with cultural humility while meeting legal and ethical standards of licensure governing boards.

This 3-part continuing education workshop series pairs legal and clinical voices in conversation to help us problem solve these complex and ever-evolving challenges. Topics include: promoting safe boundaries, child abuse and neglect reporting, managing high risk cases and practicing risk management, and implicit bias.

**Please join us for what is sure to be an informative, interactive and practice transforming series!**

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**This event is approved for CE credit and pending approval for CME credit. Please review page 13 for full accreditation details.**

## **REGISTRATION:**

- Individual Workshops: \$40
- All 3 Workshops: \$100

Visit [www.maternalmentalhealthnow.org/legal-ethical-dilemmas-pmh/](http://www.maternalmentalhealthnow.org/legal-ethical-dilemmas-pmh/) to register.

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# ABOUT

## Target Audience

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This live virtual workshop series is primarily targeted toward mental health clinical professionals including social workers, counselors, and psychologists but will also greatly benefit nurses (neonatal, labor and delivery, maternity, NICU), midwives, nurse practitioners, and physicians (psychiatrists, OB/GYNs, pediatricians, neonatologists) in their care of pregnant and postpartum bodies.

## Refund and Grievance Policy

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50% registration fee refund through 5/1/21. No refunds after that time. Grievances may be made to: [info@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:info@maternalmentalhealthnow.org).

## Conflict of Interest

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Speakers are paid an honorarium for their time. There are no other known commercial interests affiliated with conference speakers.

## Accessibility

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We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all bodies, including those with varying abilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact [info@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:info@maternalmentalhealthnow.org).

Community Partners FBO Maternal Mental Health NOW will be recording the speakers, presentations and discussions throughout this event. We hereby provide notice that, as an attendee of this event, your likeness and voice may be captured by such recording.

Through your attendance at the event, you grant Community Partners FBO Maternal Mental Health NOW the right to said recordings and to sell or distribute any of the recordings and any derivative works in any medium or form throughout the world and to use them for advertising, promotion or any other lawful purpose.

You agree that Community Partners FBO of Maternal Mental Health NOW does not have to get your approval of any of the photos or videos before using them.

# When Criminal Justice Meets Perinatal Mental Health

Diana Barnes, PsyD, LMFT, PMH-C &  
George Parnham, JD

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The first workshop brings expert insight from cases of perinatal psychosis and addresses legal responsibilities when working with individuals at risk for committing suicide, infanticide, or other forms of harm to self or other. In her experience as a forensic psychologist, Dr. Diana Barnes will share from her knowledge as an expert witness in a number of cases of postpartum psychosis and pregnancy denial. She and George Parnham will explore the intersection of the criminal justice system and implications when psychological conditions lead to the unthinkable.

While postpartum psychosis is rare, when it does happen, there are significant dangers including elevated risk for suicide and infanticide. This workshop will review how to recognize signs of severe distress, warning signs for psychosis and how to implement safety measures for the family. Presenters will also speak to what happens when the legal system is involved and advocacy efforts to integrate a psychological understanding within the criminal justice system.

Objectives:

- 1) Identify four symptoms of perinatal psychosis.
- 2) List three risk factors to child endangerment related to perinatal mental health.
- 3) Identify two ways clinicians may assist families in establishing safety.
- 4) Discuss how the legal system views mental health in the perinatal period.

# SESSION 1 SPEAKERS



**Diana Barnes, PsyD, LMFT, PMH-C**

Diana Lynn Barnes, PsyD, LMFT, PMH-C (she/her) is a psychotherapist specializing in women's reproductive mental health. She wrote the guidelines for the assessment and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders for the Perinatal Advisory Council of Los Angeles and is the editor and contributing author of the definitive reference text on Women's Reproductive Mental Health across the Lifespan.

She is a past president of Postpartum Support International and currently sits on their Advisory Council. She is training faculty for Maternal Mental Health NOW and 20/20 Mom/PSI webinar series. In 2015 Dr. Barnes was appointed as the mental health consultant to the California Commission on the Status of Maternal Mental Health and in 2016 to the California Maternal Mortality Review Panel. Dr. Barnes is an expert on maternal mental health and the criminal justice system and is frequently retained by defense counsel in cases of postpartum psychosis and infanticide, pregnancy denial and neonaticide, as well as child abuse and neglect where a child/children may have been harmed. She is on the editorial advisory board for Forensic Scholars. She maintains a private practice in Sherman Oaks, CA.

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**George Parnham, JD**

George Parnham (he/him) is a soft-spoken attorney who once trained for the priesthood and was thrust into the national spotlight through representing such high-profile clients as Andrea Yates and Clara Harris. Parnham has practiced law for fifty years in Houston, Texas, specializing in criminal defense. He has become an expert on the defense of individuals with mental illness and a passionate advocate for legal reform of their treatment in the criminal justice system. Parnham is called upon frequently by local and national news media, as well as State Bar organizations to render an opinion on mental health. He is board certified in the area of criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



## SESSION 2

THURSDAY | JUNE 10, 2021 | 6-8 PM

# Perinatal Mental Health and the Child Welfare System

Patrisha Taylor, PsyD, LMFT & Naomi Cohen, JD

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The second workshop, co-facilitated by Dr. Patrisha Taylor and Naomi Cohen, will clarify for clinicians the realities of navigating the child welfare system through an understanding of the systematic process, including an emphasis on the role of the mandated reporter and the impact on the family. Though protocols vary per county, city, and state, the impact of child welfare involvement is likely to create a ripple effect from the immediate family to the larger society. Through collaboration between systems of legal and social services, cases of child abuse and neglect are explored.

As mandated reporters, clinicians are responsible for making child abuse reports when we believe there is significant risk to minors. When supporting families struggling with perinatal mental health disorders, what is our role? How do we know when to report? What happens after we make a report and what are the legal ramifications with child welfare?

Objectives:

- 1) Identify three symptoms of perinatal mental health disorders that potentially put children at highest risk for endangerment.
- 2) Recognize the role that mental health providers play in reporting child abuse and/or neglect.
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of the steps to making and filing a child abuse report as a mandated reporter.
- 4) Apply two ways to support families engaged in the child welfare system.

# SESSION 2 SPEAKERS

## Patrisha Taylor, PsyD, LMFT

Dr. Patrisha Taylor (she/her) is an Assistant Regional Administrator with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services who has worked in the Child Welfare System in Los Angeles County for over 26 years striving to protect, stabilize, and reunify children and families. Dr. Taylor holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Clinical Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute, a Master's Degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology from Pepperdine University, and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has focused and studied the intersection of Child Welfare and Perinatal Mental Health for over a decade, including writing her doctoral dissertation entitled, *Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders: "Barriers To Treatment,"* with a special focus on Mothers' Fear of Child Welfare.



## Naomi R. Cohen, JD

Attorney Naomi Cohen (she/her) has been working in the Child Welfare legal field for over 25 years. She started out representing foster children at Edelman Children's Court and since 2006 has been representing Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family services (DCFS). As a County Counsel, she has been a litigator, an in-house advice attorney in DCFS offices and a trainer at the DCFS Academy for new DCFS Social Workers. Ms. Cohen is currently assigned to the courtroom at Edelman's that focuses on commercially sexually exploited children and their families.



## SESSION 3

THURSDAY | JUNE 17, 2021 | 6-8 PM

# Reimagining Ethics in a Decolonized Mental Health Ecosystem

Brietta Clark, JD & Thea Monyéé, LMFT

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In this workshop, legal and clinical changemakers Brietta Clark and Thea Monyéé will hold a conversation to reflect on one step in the process of striving to co-create a decolonized world.

In healthcare, ethics and law are viewed as important tools for promoting equity, dignity, and patient autonomy. Yet, ethical and legal rules are the product of the same social, economic, political, and legal forces that have allowed structural racism, reproductive injustice, and other forms of discrimination to shape society. Indeed, such rules have often operated as dangerous weapons that disempower and subordinate the very people they claim to protect – health practitioners and patients.

To effectively address health inequity affecting perinatal mental health, we must ask several questions: Who determines the ethics, laws and systems within a society? What motivations underlie the production and deployment of rules? How do these rules impact the care relationship between practitioners and patients' reproductive decision making? And what barriers must be overcome in order to reform rules that undermine health equity, dignity, and autonomy?

Objectives:

- 1) Identify ways that legal and ethical rules shape the professional-patient care relationship in perinatal mental health, especially in marginalized communities.
- 2) Identify successful strategies for promoting equity, dignity, and autonomy in health care.
- 3) Demonstrate empowered use of culturally rooted strategies to question and expand ethical codes and guidelines governing their current service environments.

# SESSION 3 SPEAKERS



**Brietta Clark, *JD***

Brietta Clark (she/her) is a Professor of Law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, and she teaches in the areas of health care law, reproductive justice, bioethics, and torts. Her research focuses on health care access, specifically the structural and individual factors that shape health and create inequity in our health delivery and financing systems. She has written and provided commentary on issues

such as Medicaid access, immigrant health, reproductive and sexual health barriers, prison health care, and health literacy. She is also one of co-authors of the Eighth Edition of the Furrow et al. Health Law casebook. Clark remains active in the health law community, providing community education around health reform and assisting legal organizations on various health care regulatory matters, such as hospital mergers, coverage exclusions, network adequacy and professional licensing.

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**Thea Monyeé, *LMFT***

Thea Monyeé, LMFT (she/her) is a licensed therapist committed to creating healing opportunities to Black/Marginalized bodies through decolonization, joy, and pleasure. In addition to appearances on HBO, OWN, FOX SOUL, and THE RED TABLE TALKS, she is the host of Shaping The Shift Podcast, founder of MarleyAyo, and The Blacker The Brain: A Mental Health Decolonizing Campaign, Conversation, & Cohort, co-host of Dem Black Mamas Podcast, and co-creator of The Free Joy Experience.



# ACCREDITATION

## CE Credit

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**Continuing education for Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in Perinatal Mental Health is sponsored by Wellnest, formerly Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.**

Wellnest is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Wellnest maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This course also meets criteria for **6** continuing education credits for LMFTs, LPCCs, LCSWs, LEPs, and psychologists through the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) in the state of CA. If you hold a license not listed here or are licensed outside of the state of California, please check with your licensing board directly to confirm that these CE credits will be accepted.



## CME Credit

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Pending