

# NYSPA's 2026 Perinatal Partnership Conference

## AGENDA

### Wednesday, June 10, 2026

8:00 am – 4:00 pm AWHONN Obstetric Patient Safety: OB Emergencies Workshop Governor C  
Sandra Asanjarani, RNC-OB, MS, NPWH, C-EF & Michelle Szeffler, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM [AWHONN pre-registration is required](#)

7:30 – 8:30 pm Evening Preconference Governor AB  
It's getting hot in here... let's talk about menopause & PERIMENOPAUSE  
*Ashanda Saint Jean MD FACOG, NYC DOHMH*  
(available to all arriving Wednesday)

### Thursday, June 11, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 Registration, Exhibits Gallery  
Breakfast buffet served from 7:30 – 9:15 Governor C

8:30 – 8:40 Welcome: Ellen Tourtelot, MD, NYSPA Board President, Governor AB  
Sally Dear-Healey & Sharon Barron, Conference Co-Chairs

8:45 – 9:35 Keynote: Integrating Mental Health into Ob/Gyn Care Governor AB  
*Catherine Monk, PhD (Columbia University Irving Medical Center)*

9:40 - 10:30 Plenary 2: New York State Title V Program Assessment to Action: Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment and 2025-2030 State Action Plan Overview Governor AB  
*Kirsten Siegenthaler, PhD (NYS Dept of Health)*

10:35 - 11:15 Exhibits & Posters Gallery & Gov C

11:20 - 12:05 Concurrent workshops

1. From Silos to Synergy: Understanding the Impact of SMM and Developing a comprehensive Obstetric and Neonatal Training Program in WNY Governor D  
*Michelle Szeffler, BSN, RNC-OB, C-OB & Ashley LaBruno, BSN, RN*
2. Trauma-Informed Care in Perinatal Systems Chambers  
*Marc Merchant, BS, C-Mental Health*
3. The Fourth Trimester Fog: a Practical Guide to Perinatal Mental Health for Providers and Parents Gov AB  
*Jennifer Williams, LCPC, PMH-C, R-PLC*
4. Birth Defects Surveillance in New York State State AB  
*Amanda St. Louis, MS; Sarah Fisher, PhD, Adrian Michalski, MPH*
5. Integrating Perinatal Mental Health Screening and Support into Family Connects' Community Resource Network for Pregnant & Parenting Families Capitol AB  
*Camille Tinder, LMSW, MPH; Ashley Powell, LMSW; Karen Ann Amin, LCSW*
6. Integrating Doulas into Maternal Health Systems: Applying Community Health Worker Model to Strengthen Perinatal Care Governor E  
*Christine Hernandez, Doula, CHW*

12:10 - 1:10	Lunch / NYSPA Annual Awards Program	<u>Hudson Ballroom</u>
1:15 - 2:05	Plenary 3: Can you Hear Me? Improving Outcomes between Professionals & Patients during Pregnancy & Birth/Impact of Implicit Bias <i>LuAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MSN (Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network)</i>	<u>Governor AB</u>
2:10 - 3:00	Concurrent Sessions	
	1. Applications of Best Practices Outlined in the Hospital Doula-Friendliness Guidebook: A Closer Look at Support for Relationships between Hospital Staff and Doulas <i>Alison Whitney, MSW, MPH; Amaya Languaine, MPH; Nicole JeanBaptiste, C-Doula; Ashanda Saint Jean, MD, FACOG</i>	<u>Governor AB</u>
	2. Group Care Across Contexts: Comparing Care in Rural and Urban Settings <i>Rhiannon Needham, MBA, CD, PHM-C</i>	<u>Governor D</u>
	3. Addressing Maternal Mental Health Challenges in NYS <i>Audrey Erazo-Trivino, PsyD; Yamilette Hernandez, BS;</i>	<u>Capitol AB</u>
	4. Holding Ambivalence: Promoting Perinatal Mental Health Practice through Adoption-Informed Options Counseling <i>Kate Kaufman, LCSW-R, DSW &amp; Patty Smith, BS</i>	<u>Chambers</u>
	5. Vaccines During Pregnancy: Recommendations and Conversations <i>Ariela Zamcheck, DO, MPH</i>	<u>State AB</u>
	6. Social Care for Maternal and Perinatal Health <i>Emily Engle, MBA</i>	<u>Governor E</u>
3:05 – 3:25	Exhibits & posters	<u>Gallery &amp; Gov C</u>
3:30 – 4:20	Plenary 4: Preserving Maternity Services in Rural New York <i>Sally Dreslin, MA, MS, RN (Step Two Policy Project)</i>	<u>Governor AB</u>
4:25 - 5:15	Closing Plenary: Human Milk & the Micro Biome <i>Ashley Robinson, DrPH, IBCLC, CLE, CLD (self-employed)</i>	<u>Governor AB</u>
5:20- 6:15	<i>Reception, Exhibits, Silent Auction &amp; Networking</i>	<u>Gallery &amp; Gov C</u>
	<a href="#"><u>Friday, June 12, 2026</u></a>	
6:30 – 7:30	Yoga	<u>Governor E</u>
7:30 = 9:30	Breakfast Buffet	<u>Governor C</u>
7:30 - 8:30	RPC Coordinators Meeting	<u>Chambers</u>
7:30 – 9:00	Exhibits, Posters & Networking	<u>Gallery</u>
8:30 – 8:40	Welcome + announcements: Conference Co-Chairs	<u>Governor AB</u>
8:45 – 9:40	Keynote: A Fresh Perspective on Intimate Violence. Understanding, Preventing, and Healing Using a Trauma-Informed “Multi-Human” Perspective <i>Sally Dear-Healey, PhD, PPNE, HFCE, TICP, CBA, CCE, Doula (self-employed)</i>	<u>Governor AB</u>

**9:45 – 10:35 Workshops**

1. **From Silos to Synergy: Understanding the Impact of SMM and Developing a comprehensive Obstetric and Neonatal Training Program in WNY** Governor D  
*Michelle Szeffler, BSN, RNC-OB, C-OB & Ashley LaBruno, BSN, RN*
2. **Prevention of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders: Evidenced-based Models and Improving Access to Care** Governor E  
*Elizabeth Werner, PhD*
3. **It is not a Badge of Honor to Survive; Transforming Healthcare “Pits” and Pitfalls into Transformative Possibilities for Providers and Patients, One Conversation at a Time** Governor AB  
*Sally Dear-Healey, PhD, PPNE, HFCE, TICP, CBA, CCE, Doula*
4. **Practical Approaches to Suicide Risk Assessment and Safety Planning in Perinatal Care** Chambers  
*Nicole Tchalim, MD & Elizabeth M. Fitelson, M.D.*
5. **Trauma-Informed Care in the Outpatient Setting After Pregnancy Loss** State AB  
*Heather Florescue, MD*
6. **Reducing Severe PPH through Risk Identification and Targeted Actions** Capitol AB  
*Sharon Doyle-Hennessey, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, Allison Frank, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM*

**10:45– 11:15 Exhibits & Posters**

Gallery & Gov C

- 11:15 –12:10 Plenary: Low-Barrier, High Impact: Integrating MATTERS Programming into Perinatal Practice to Address Fragmented Access to Substance use Services** Governor AB  
*Raven Manchester, ROC, Brooke Langella, MPH (MATTERS Network)*

**12:10** **Box Lunch**

- 12:50 – 1:40 Closing Plenary: The Role of Mental Health Consultation in Perinatal Care** Governor AB  
*Elizabeth M. Fitelson, M.D. & Nicole Tchalim, MD (Project Teach)*

- 1:45 – 1:55 Conference Wrap-up: Ellen Tourtelot, MD, NYSPA Board President** Governor AB