

**Minneapolis Healthy Start Community Action Network (CAN)  
Directory  
(2015-2019)**



Minneapolis Healthy Start CAN aims to support the Healthy Start program and provide guidance to Healthy Start staff and contracted partners (HCMC Mother Baby Program, MVNA, North-Point Health and Wellness, and The Family Partnership). CAN engages health professionals and Healthy Start participants in dialogues on the social determinants of health and ways to improve them. CAN strategies aim to foster healthy family development, promote parent leadership, and focus on system and policy changes to improve birth outcomes for families in Minneapolis. CAN will align its work with Mayor Betsy Hodges Cradle to K policy recommendation.

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## CAN Chair



### **African American Babies Coalition, Director**

**Name:** Sameerah Bilal-Roby

**Phone:** 1-800-550-7195 (o) 612-309-6874 (c)

**Email:** [sameerahbilal@gmail.com](mailto:sameerahbilal@gmail.com) or  
[sameerah@africanamericanbabies.org](mailto:sameerah@africanamericanbabies.org)

**Description:** Ms. Bilal-Roby works on educating the community on how trauma affects healthy brain development in children. She is a member of CAN mental health action team.

## Members



### **Hennepin County Health Care for the Homeless Director**

**Name:** Stephanie Abel

**Phone:** 612-348-8824

**Email:** [stephanie.abel@hennepin.us](mailto:stephanie.abel@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. Abel is a manager of Integrated Care for Hennepin County Public Health. She oversees Health Care for the Homeless. She is a member of CAN housing action team.

### **Nursing Supervisor, Hennepin Co Public Health**

**Name:** Jane Auger

**Phone:** 612-596-0542

**Email:** [jane.auger@hennepin.us](mailto:jane.auger@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. Auger provides early childhood services at Hennepin County by supporting young families from pregnancy through kindergarten. Currently, she is working with the CAN mental health action team on developing a training for community providers around the impact of trauma on children and adults and how to provide services to reduce re-traumatizing individuals.



### **Office to End Homelessness, Heading Home Hennepin**

**Name:** Mikkell Beckman

**Phone:** 612-596-1606

**Email:** [mikkell.beckmen@hennepin.us](mailto:mikkell.beckmen@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Mr. Beckman works with the Office to End Homelessness. He is a member of CAN housing action team.

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### **The Family Partnership (TFP) Parent Advisory Group liaison**

**Name:** Betsy Bartek

**Phone:** 612-294-2680 (o), 763-528-8839 (c)

**Email:** [bbartek@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:bbartek@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Ms. Bartek is currently a supervisor of the Healthy Start Program at The Family Partnership. She is a member of CAN housing action team.



### **Director of Public Health at Medica**

**Name:** Kenneth Bence

**Phone:** 952-992-8380

**Email:** [Kenneth.bence@medica.co](mailto:Kenneth.bence@medica.co)

**Description:** Mr. Bence directs health improvement and clinical initiatives in support of clinical quality goals in collaboration with internal and external constituents. He represents Medica at county, regional & state meetings related to community health issues. He is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.



### **Focus on Fathers-Father Advocate**

**Name:** Josh Carney

**Phone:** 763-221-3826

**Email:** [jcarney@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:jcarney@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Mr. Carney is a Father Advocate with The Family Partnership. He is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.



### **MDH Community & Family Health**

#### **Title V Representative and Infant Mortality and Multicultural Health**

**Name:** Michelle Chiezah

**Phone:** 651-201-3621

**Email:** [michelle.chiezah@state.mn.us](mailto:michelle.chiezah@state.mn.us)

**Description:** Ms. Chiezah is an Infant Mortality Consultant at the Minnesota Department of Health. She provides statewide leadership around infant mortality reduction and to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates. Currently, she participates in CAN safe sleep action team.

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### **BlueCross BlueShield Blue Plus of Minnesota**

**Name:** Ashlyn Christianson

**Phone:** 651-662-4694

**Email:** [ashlyn.christianson@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:ashlyn.christianson@bluecrossmn.com)

**Description:** Ms. Christianson is a member of CAN mental health action team.



**Name:** Lynn Choromanski

**Phone:** 612-617-4745

**Email:** [choromanski@mvna.org](mailto:choromanski@mvna.org)

**Description:** Ms. Choromanski works with Minnesota Visiting Nurses (MVNA). She is a member of CAN safe sleep action team.



### **Project Director, MN Trauma Informed Care Learning Collaborative / Planner Principal – Women Services Lead**

**Name:** Ruthie Dallas

**Phone:** 651-431-2465 (o) / 651-592-7075 (c)

**Email:** [ruthie.dallas@state.mn.us](mailto:ruthie.dallas@state.mn.us)

**Description:** Ms. Dallas works to improve the quality of care for pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders.



### **Neighborhood Healthsource**

**Name:** Fred Evans

**Phone:** 612-460-3866

**Email:** [evansf@neighborhoodhealthsource.org](mailto:evansf@neighborhoodhealthsource.org)

**Description:** Mr. Evans works with Neighborhood Health Source “SEEN ON DA STREETS”. He is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.

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### **MN Sudden Infant Death Center**

#### **Director**

**Name:** Kathleen Fernbach

**Phone:** 612-813-6285

**Email:** [kathleen.fernbach@childrensmn.org](mailto:kathleen.fernbach@childrensmn.org)

**Description:** Ms. Fernbach's work focuses on sudden infant deaths as well as how parents and caregivers can ensure a safe sleep environment for infants. She participates in CAN safe sleep action team.

### **Health Partners**

#### **Program Manager**

**Name:** Patty Graham

**Phone:** 952-883-6163

**Email:** [patty.r.graham@healthpartners.com](mailto:patty.r.graham@healthpartners.com)

**Description:** Ms. Graham is a health plan representative. She is a member of CAN mental health action team.



### **Ramsey County Department of Public Health**

#### **Health Educator,**

**Name:** Nina Harris

**Phone:** 651-266-1545

**Email:** [nina.harris@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:nina.harris@co.ramsey.mn.us)

**Description:** Ms. Harris co-facilitates the Club Mom program. A monthly support group that provides Parent Health Education for mothers who are raising children ages 0-5 years with a goal to reduce the infant mortality rates within the African American community. She is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.

### **Psychiatric Social Worker at Mother Baby Day Hospital**

**Name:** Jodi Hennessey

**Phone:** 612-873-6262

**Email:** [jodi.hennessey@hcmcd.org](mailto:jodi.hennessey@hcmcd.org)

**Description:** Ms. Hennessey works with Mother Baby Day Hospital that serves perinatal women and their children. She is a member of CAN mental health action team.

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### Center for Fathering, Registration Coordinator

**Name:** Gloria Howard, M. Ed.

**Phone:** 612-455-4643 (office), 763-614-0414 (cell)

**Email:** [gloriahoward@urbanventures.org](mailto:gloriahoward@urbanventures.org) or [jeangh31@msn.com](mailto:jeangh31@msn.com)

**Description:** Ms. Howard works with North Minneapolis Rotary Club, Infant Mortality in the African American community as well as Urban Ventures, Center for Fathering in south Minneapolis. She is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.



### Case Manager

**Name:** Arlishia Irby

**Phone:** 763-528-8138

**Email:** [airby@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:airby@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Ms. Irby is a Healthy Start case manager with The Family Partnership. She participates in a CAN mental health action team.



### NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center

**Name:** Julie Knudsen

**Phone:** 612-543-2603

**Email:** [julie.knudsen@hennepin.us](mailto:julie.knudsen@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. Knudsen is a member of CAN mental health action team.



### NorthPoint Health and Wellness

**Name:** Carmita McGlory

**Phone:** 612-543-2607

**Email:** [Carmita.McGlory@hennepin.us](mailto:Carmita.McGlory@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. McGlory works with the Care Coordination team at North Point, specifically OB patient coordination through Minneapolis Healthy Start. She is a member of CAN mental health and housing action teams.

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### **Wellshare International Program Manager**

**Name:** Ashley Mitchell

**Phone:** 612-230-3258

**Email:** [amitchell@wellshareinternational.org](mailto:amitchell@wellshareinternational.org)

**Description:** Ms. Mitchell is interested in helping planning for healthy pregnancies and assisting all families to have access to more comprehensive resources and care that is culturally sensitive. She participates in CAN safe sleep action team.



### **Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency, Clinical Director of Family Health**

**Name:** Anna P. Mueller, RN, PHN, MA, IBCLC, RLC

**Phone:** 612-777-8458 (office), 612-998-5907 (cell)

**Email:** [muellera@mvna.org](mailto:muellera@mvna.org) or [anna.mueller@hcmcd.org](mailto:anna.mueller@hcmcd.org)

**Description:** Ms. Mueller is a Minnesota Visiting Nurse providing comprehensive public health nursing and case management services for pregnant and parenting families. She is a member of CAN safe sleep action team.

### **Twin Cities RISE!**

**Name:** Quinten Osgood

**Phone:** 612- 279-5812 (office), 612-275-2083 (cell)

**Email:** [qosgood@twincitiesrise.org](mailto:qosgood@twincitiesrise.org)

**Description:** Mr. Osgood trains for job skills and job placement program that supports individuals in finding survival to gold standard employment. He is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action team.



### **Case Manager**

**Name:** Valencia Perryman

**Phone:** 763-221-1431

**Email:** [vperryman@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:vperryman@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Ms. Perryman is case manager for the Healthy Start Program. She is a member of CAN housing action team.

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### **HCH Clinic Manager- Health Care for the Homeless**

**Name:** Dawn Petroskas, RN, PhD

**Phone:** 612-348-8824, 612-232-5991

**Email:** [dawn.petroskas@hennepin.us](mailto:dawn.petroskas@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. Petroskas works with 11 different shelters and drop-in centers in Minneapolis to address health concerns, provide treatment and medications, coordinate health care services, provide health education, and coordinate access to health and social services in the community.



### **Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health, Family Health Division-MCH Outreach**

**Name:** Tamiko Ralston, BSN, LPCC

**Phone:** 651-266-1585

**Email:** [tamiko.ralston@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:tamiko.ralston@co.ramsey.mn.us)

**Description:** Ms. Ralston works with the Ramsey County Public Health Department with the Club Mom program on population based services related to community health. She is a member of CAN safe sleep and mental health action teams.



### **Father Project / Goodwill EasterSeals,**

**Name:** Jesse Rison Jr.

**Phone:**

**Email:** [jrison@goodwilleasterseals.org](mailto:jrison@goodwilleasterseals.org)

**Description:** Mr. Rison Jr. helps fathers to overcome barrier that interfere with their participation in their children lives. He helps them with child support issues, employment and self-improvement where they can be successful fathers. He is a member of CAN fatherhood and



### **Children's Hospitals & Clinics**

**Name:** Katie Rojas-Jahn

**Phone:** 612-813-7111

**Email:** [katherine.rojas-jahn@childrensmn.org](mailto:katherine.rojas-jahn@childrensmn.org)

**Description:** Ms. Rojas is a member of CAN mental health and housing action teams.

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### **Way to Grow, Program Director**

**Name:** Ronel Robinson

**Phone:** 612-874-4740 x102

**Email:** [rrobinson@mplswaytogrow.org](mailto:rrobinson@mplswaytogrow.org)

**Description:** Ms. Robinson works for Way to Grow, a home visiting program serving families in the City of Minneapolis prenatal to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She is part of CAN safe sleep action team.



### **Administrative Director/Health Systems Navigator/CPE Cultural Wellness Center**

**Name:** Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra

**Phone:** 612-721-5745 (o) 612-871-9260 (f)

**Email:** [akhmiri@ppcwc.org](mailto:akhmiri@ppcwc.org)

**Description:** Ms. Sekhr-Ra is involved with Mental Health action team. She is the Administrative Director/Health Systems Navigator at the Cultural Wellness Center. She is a Coordinator for the MN Birthing Project, part of the MN Cultural Birth Workers.

### **Goodwill Agency/Father Advocate**

**Name:** Joe Stratig

**Phone:** 612-724-3539 x114 (o), 612-990-5297 (c)

**Email:** [jstratig@goodwilleasterseals.org](mailto:jstratig@goodwilleasterseals.org) or  
[jstratig@icloud.com](mailto:jstratig@icloud.com)

**Description:** Mr. Stratig is involved with the Program that assists fathers to become involved emotionally and financially with their children. He participates in CAN fatherhood and employment action teams.



### **Vice president, Early Education**

**Name:** Kay Tellinghuisen

**Phone:** 612-294-2659 (office), 612-805-9083 (cell)

**Email:** [ktellinghuisen@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:ktellinghuisen@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Ms. Tellinghuisen is the Vice President of Early Childhood Services. She participates in CAN housing action team.

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### **The Family Partnership**

**Name:** Kati Thayer

**Phone:** 763-516-7692

**Email:** [kthayer@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:kthayer@thefamilypartnership.org)

**Description:** Ms. Thayer is a Healthy Start Case Manager with the Family Partnership. She is a part of CAN mental health action team.



### **Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness**

**Name:** Lisa Thornquist,

**Phone:** 612-348-3477 (office), 612-327-3958 (cell)

**Email:** [lisa.thornquist@hennepin.us](mailto:lisa.thornquist@hennepin.us)

**Description:** Ms. Thornquist works with the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness. She provides planning, evaluation, and coordination around the community's work to end homelessness.

### **Aide to City Council Chair Barbara Johnson**

**Name:** Jennifer White

**Phone:** 612-673-3313

**Email:** [Jennifer.White@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.White@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** Ms. White is part of CAN safe sleep action team.

### **Minneapolis Health Department Staff**



### **CDC, Public Health Associate (PHAP)**

**Name:** Shamis Adam

**Phone:** 612-673-5497

**Email:** [shamis.adam@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:shamis.adam@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** Ms. Adam is a 2015-2016 Associate through CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP). She is involved with CAN housing action team.

### **Director**

**Name:** Patty Bowler

**Phone:** 612-673-3009

**Email:** [patty.bowler@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:patty.bowler@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** MS. Bowler is a project Director for Healthy Start as well as Director of Policy and Community Programs, Minneapolis Health Department. She participates in CAN housing action team.

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### **Maternal & Child Health Coordinator**

**Name:** Stephanie Graves

**Phone:** 612-673-3735

**Email:** [stephanie.graves@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:stephanie.graves@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** Ms. Graves is a Maternal & Child Health Coordinator. She also participates in CAN safe sleep action team.



### **City of Minneapolis health commissioner**

**Name:** Gretchen Musicant

**Phone:** 612-673-3955

**Email:** [gretchen.musicant@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:gretchen.musicant@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** Ms. Musicant is responsible for providing key leadership for community health, public health and special initiatives for the City of Minneapolis. She is a member of CAN fatherhood and employment action teams.



### **Healthy Start Coordinator**

**Name:** Kristen Tharaldson

**Phone:** 612-673-2622 (office), 612-930-9607 (cell)

**Email:** [kristen.tharaldson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kristen.tharaldson@minneapolismn.gov)

**Description:** Ms. Tharaldson provides programmatic coordination for federally funded Healthy Start projects. She oversees all CAN action teams.