

### **She-Tara Smith**

She-Tara Smith is the founder and owner of The Birth Co. As a doula she provides both birth and postpartum support. In addition, she is an Evidence-Based Birth Instructor, childbirth educator, lactation educator, and infant sleep educator, offering a host of other trainings geared towards perinatal support. She serves as an advisor on the boards of The Neighborhood Birth Center and PICKK and also serves her community by volunteering with the Boston Breastfeeding Coalition and Vital Village Network. She-Tara was first elected to the BACE-NMC Board in 2019 and has served as president of the 2020-21 Board.

### **Yaa Lassiter**

Yaa Lassiter has been a BACE-NMC Board member for over two years. She has participated in both the BACE Childbirth Educator training and DONA Approved Birth Doula training. As a professional with over 13 years of healthcare experience, human capital and resource experience, one of her core beliefs is that all mothers and babies should receive and have access to the same level of care, advocacy and evidenced based knowledge, protection and high quality services regardless of social, economic, cultural, or educational background, It is the inherent right of every birthing person to have their humanity and dignity recognized and acknowledged.

### **Shannan Clarke**

Shannan is the mother of 2 and an entrepreneur. In 2018, Shannan started Queen & Baby Box, a breastfeeding subscription box for working mothers. Today, with experience and a more narrow focus, Shannan is working to create a new model for breastfeeding education for Black mothers and families. A multi-passionate activist and artist, Shannan has devoted her time to numerous national and international non-profit organizations spanning the arts, international affairs, social enterprise and higher education. Shannan is currently a Vital Village Networks Certified Lactation Consultant (CLC) Breastfeeding Scholar and was first elected to the BACE-NMC Board in 2019.

### **Theresa Moutafis**

Theresa is a Registered Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist (CDCES), and IBCLC. Her passion is accessible and affordable lactation and prenatal/post-partum holistic care (and babies, of course!). She works as an independent contractor in a variety of positions, including virtual lactation consulting. In addition, she is on the Board of Directors for the MA Lactation Consultant Association and is a volunteer counselor for NMC. She's also kept busy by her 6 year old and 3 year old daughters and her 7 month old son.

### **Shenell Ford**

Shenell R. Ford was born and raised in Springfield, MA. She received her B.S. in Public Health from Temple University, with plans to pursue a Maternal Child Health - focused MPH in Spring 2021. Shenell is the founder of Heart2HeartBeat Lactation & Wellness, which provides heartfelt support from bump through breastfeeding, focusing especially on the BIPOC breastfeeding experience. She is a former WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, where she nurtured her love of lactation. She obtained her CLC credential in 2015 and became an IBCLC in January 2019. She is currently the Research Associate Lactation Consultant on the New Moms Wellness Study out of UMASS Amherst and a member of the Mass. Breastfeeding Coalition board of directors. Her greatest joys are her sons, who were exclusively breastfed and are approving breastfeeding advocates already!

### **Moryn Mendoza**

Moryn Mendoza is an IBCLC in the Western Massachusetts region. She is currently working as a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor with the WIC Program and as a Breastfeeding Support Specialist for a pilot with the Massachusetts State WIC Program. Moryn's journey began with the birth of her first son in 2013 and her positive breastfeeding experience led her to want to support local mothers to reach their breastfeeding goals. Over the last 6 years she has given birth to 2 more boys while increasing her knowledge and qualifications to become both a Certified Lactation Counselor in 2017 and an IBCLC in 2019. Moryn holds a BA in Latino and Latin American Politics from Mount Holyoke College and an MA in Human Resource Development from American International College. She is a bicultural first-generation Venezuelan American and is fluent in Spanish.

### **Aysia Wanner**

Aysia is a CLC and WIC Peer Counselor in Fitchburg, MA. She works at U Mass Memorial Medical Center. She also helps to coordinate the Fitchburg Baby Café and volunteers at the BMC Baby Café.