Saving Lives! Transforming Maternal Health Care in America’s Materno-Toxic Zones

Jennie Joseph – Executive Director

Because Every Woman Deserves a Healthy Baby
What’s Happening in the United States of America?

**Healthy People 2010 Goals**
- Aim to increase the quality and years of life, and call for the *elimination* of health disparities

**Healthy People 2020 Goals**
- The goal was expanded even further: to *achieve health equity*, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups.

https://healthypeople.gov

Our Babies are Dying!

*Twice* as many African American babies in the USA being born:

Too SOON  
Too SMALL  
Too SICK

to survive the first year of life
Women Are Dying in the USA Too!

Two to three women die every day during pregnancy, birth or their postpartum.

There is an alarming increase in severe pregnancy-related complications that nearly cause death, known as ‘near miss’ incidents.

50,000 per year

Three to four times as many African American women are dying as White women.

Determinants of Health “Materno-toxic Zones and Environments”

Orlando, Florida

We utilize The JJ Way® “Midwifery Model of Care” – patient-centered, woman-centered, family-centered, culturally-congruent, accessible maternity care AND psycho-social support

- The Birth Place – a Free-standing Birthing Center since 2003
- Easy Access Women’s Health Clinics – independent women’s health and ‘maternity medical home’ community clinics since 2005
- Trauma-informed Care
- Safe, respectful care, with dignity
- Care from compassionate, culturally-sensitive, non-judgmental care-givers
Creating Perinatal Safe Spots

Four Cornerstones:
• Access
• Connections
• Knowledge
• Empowerment

Connect and Support the Providers and Agencies through Training and Toolkits
PRE-TERM, LBW BIRTHS 2006
Orange County, Florida

0% African American or Hispanic Pre-term Births – Commonsense Childbirth / The JJ Way®

0% African American or Hispanic LBW Babies – Commonsense Childbirth / The JJ Way®

Reports and Evaluations – The JJ Way®

The National Perinatal Task Force
Building a Movement to Birth a More Just and Loving World

The JJ WAY®:
Community-based Maternity Center Final Evaluation Report

www.jjway.net