

# 14th Annual Becoming Baby-Friendly in Oklahoma Summit

*Oklahoma Experts Shaping the Future of Lactation Care*



## Becoming Baby-Friendly In Oklahoma

Becoming Baby-Friendly in Oklahoma (BBFOK) is a statewide effort to help hospitals improve maternity care and increase breastfeeding rates in Oklahoma. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) is a global program that recognizes hospitals that offer an optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding.

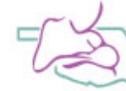
BBFOK project support includes reimbursement of 80% of the annual fee required by Baby-Friendly USA , education stipends for online courses, staff/physician/patient education offerings, technical support from OBRC and mock surveys prior to BFHI assessments. To enroll your hospital or for more information, contact OBRC at [obrc@ouhsc.edu](mailto:obrc@ouhsc.edu) or [click here](#).

The goal of the BBFOK Summit is to provide expert speakers to discuss subjects related to breastfeeding and the process to become (and remain) a Baby-Friendly Designated Hospital. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Designation is an national recognition earned by hospitals who have implemented policies and practices supportive of breastfeeding. Hospitals designated as Baby-Friendly have demonstrated best practice in the care of mothers and newborns & improved breastfeeding rates.

# 14th BBFOK Summit Agenda

Friday, March 6, 2026

Metro Technology Center- Springlake Campus, OKC, OK



Time	Topic	Speaker
08:30 - 08:50	The Impact of Lactation Programs & Baby-Friendly Designations	Brittney Clark
08:50 - 09:50	Lactation & the Pediatric Dentist	Jeffrey Rhodes, DDS
09:50-10:05	15-Minute BREAK	
10:05-11:05	Lactation & the Pediatrician	Jean Wu, MD
11:05-11:20	Next Generation Lactation Support	Jaclyn Huxford, RD, IBCLC & Amanda Parsons, RD, IBCLC
11:20-12:05	LUNCH HOUR	
12:05-12:35	Networking & Self-Reflection HALF HOUR	
12:35-1:20	Coverage, Coordination & Care: A Conversation	Various
1:20-2:20	State of the State with a Spotlight on Donor Milk in Oklahoma	Becky Mannel, MPH, IBCLC
2:20-2:35	15-Minute BREAK	
2:35-3:35	Supporting Lactation in High-risk Pregnancies	Stephanie Pierce, MD
3:35-4:35	Breastfeeding $\longleftrightarrow$ Cancer	Robert Mannel, MD
4:35	Evaluation & Dismissal	

# Speaker Biographies



**Becky Mannel, MPH, IBCLC, FILCA**, is a Clinical Professor in Lactation in the Department of OB/GYN at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. She is Director of the Oklahoma Breastfeeding Resource Center and Executive Director for the Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank. She leads the Becoming Baby-Friendly in Oklahoma project sponsored by the Oklahoma State Department of Health as well as new OBRC initiatives funded from a TSET Discovery Grant and an OSDH Choosing Childbirth Grant. Becky also developed the Oklahoma Breastfeeding Hotline and provides professional training/education to Oklahoma hospitals to improve their breastfeeding care and outcomes.



**Stephanie Pierce, MD**, is an Assistant Professor of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. She completed her OB/GYN residency at Case Western-MetroHealth and the Cleveland Clinic, followed by a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at OUHSC. Her clinical and research interests include substance use disorders, obesity, and diabetes in pregnancy. Dr. Pierce serves as medical director of the STAR prenatal clinic and leads statewide initiatives addressing opioid use disorder in pregnancy. She is also a member of the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, collaborating on research to improve outcomes for mothers and infants.

# Speaker Biographies



**Jeffrey D. Rhodes, DDS, MS**, is a board-certified pediatric dentist with over 30 years of experience supporting infant and child development through oral function, airway health, and feeding-focused care. He is the founder and Chief Dental Officer of Smile Shoppe Pediatric Dentistry and Breathe Well Dental Studio in Northwest Arkansas. Trained at Baylor College of Dentistry, his early research in craniofacial growth shaped his lifelong focus on identifying structural and functional issues that affect feeding and development. He has extensive experience caring for medically complex infants and collaborates closely with pediatricians, ENTs, therapists, and lactation professionals. Dr. Rhodes serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Oklahoma and lectures nationally on airway-centered pediatric care, infant feeding, and collaborative treatment. He is dedicated to respectful, team-based partnerships with IBCLCs, SLPs, and allied providers.



**Robert Mannel, M.D.**, is director of OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. Additionally, he serves as associate vice provost for cancer programs and is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Mannel is a leader in the National Clinical Trials Network of the National Cancer Institute, and his clinical and research interests include laparoscopy for gynecologic malignancies, gynecologic oncology, and drug development for ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancers. He has published more than 100 scientific articles dealing with the management of gynecologic malignancies. He completed medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, his residency at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, and a fellowship at the University of California, Irvine.

# Speaker Biographies



**Dr. Jingtong Wu, MD**, is an internal medicine–pediatrics physician and clinical assistant professor at OU Health, where she practices as both a Hospitalist and General Pediatrician. She completed her Med-Peds residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences after earning her MD from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Her professional interests include supporting breastfeeding-friendly environments for patients and trainees, medical education, resident wellness, and quality improvement. As a resident, she successfully advocated for improved access to lactation rooms and increased breastfeeding awareness among trainees and educators. Dr. Wu has presented her work at multiple regional and national conferences, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Association of Pediatric Program Directors. She is currently working toward board certification in Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine.

# OBRC Team



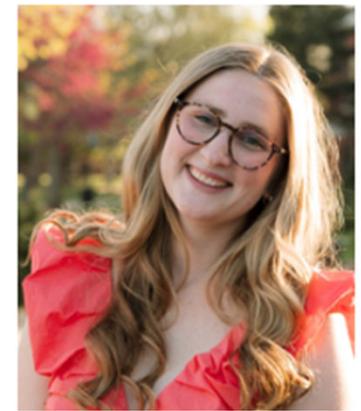
**Amanda Parsons**



**Jaclyn Huxford**



**Sara McManus**



**Jordan Connelly**

# Panel Moderator



**Heidi Russell** is a nonprofit community leader and maternal-child health advocate who previously served as the first executive director of the Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA). During her tenure, she advanced statewide initiatives to improve breastfeeding support, education, and public policy, working alongside healthcare professionals, legislators, and community partners to improve health outcomes for Oklahoma mothers and babies. Heidi currently assists the Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank with special projects while remaining deeply engaged in civic and philanthropic leadership across Oklahoma City. She currently serves on the board of COBA, Friends of [OU Breast Health Network](#), Civic Center Music Hall, Rotary Club of Oklahoma City, Magdalene House OKC and the University of Central Oklahoma Foundation.

# Panelist Biographies



**Maray Appleberry, MSN RN** is a Maternity Care Manager with Humana Healthy Horizons. She holds a Master's Degree of Nursing and has over 10 years of maternal/newborn and mental health experience. She has supported both mothers and babies in a hospital and clinical setting. In the hospital setting she loved getting to care for the tiniest patients in the NICU and in the clinical setting enjoyed getting to assist with piloting the Zulresso postpartum infusion for mothers experiencing postpartum depression and treated over 100 women in Oklahoma. In her current role she supports mothers throughout their pregnancy and postpartum period ensuring all their personal and healthcare needs are met. She has a passion for mothers and babies and loves getting to support them in any way she can!

# Panelist Biographies



**Kimberly Mostrom, RN**, is a Certified Case Manager (CCM) with over 19 years of extensive expertise in maternal-child health. Spanning across Case Management, Labor and Delivery, and Public Health. Kimberly has gained clinical practice working in Labor and Delivery, and Postpartum Couplet Care at Norman Regional Health Systems and Integris Health Edmond. Kimberly found a passion for public health by working as a Children First Nurse with the Logan County Health Department, and as the Health and Nutrition Coordinator for Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. With a deep background in maternity services, she is able to excel in case management with Humana as the Maternal Care Management Manager by navigating the healthcare system to improve member outcomes. The ripples of change our case management team is making will continue to grow into waves of better outcomes for mothers, newborns and children.



**Mika Armstrong, RN**, serves as the Senior Director of Population Care Management at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. She brings a powerful blend of clinical experience and systemic strategy to the healthcare landscape. As a Registered Nurse, she has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between complex medical needs and seamless patient transitions. Before stepping into her current senior leadership role, she gained deep expertise in pediatric surgical nursing in high-pressure environments and experience in family-centered care. This experience evolved into a specialized focus on Case Management, allowing her to advocate for patient populations through evidence-based practice and resource optimization. her experience has helped in designing care models that improve outcomes, reduce re-admissions, and humanize the healthcare experience for patients of all ages.

# Panelist Biographies



**Kamisha D. Busby, MBA, BSN, RN** is the Director of Care Management for SoonerSelect at Oklahoma Complete Health, overseeing complex care coordination across physical and behavioral health, maternal and child health, NICU initiatives, and population health programs. With over 20 years of healthcare leadership and nursing experience across nonprofit, managed care, and government settings, she is dedicated to improving outcomes and advancing health equity for Oklahoma families. She holds an MBA in Health Care Administration from Southern Nazarene University and bachelor's degrees in Public Health and Nursing from the University of Central Oklahoma. Kamisha is currently pursuing a Doctor of Health Care Administration at Oklahoma State University.



**Shiann Mason** is a Senior Manager of Member Solutions at Aetna Better Health of Oklahoma, supporting member-facing initiatives and operational strategy. Shiann leads cross-functional work focused on value-added benefits—including programs such as the free breast pump benefit—designed to strengthen the member experience through clearer coordination and support. Shiann brings over 15 years of experience spanning care management and justice-related services. Prior to her role at Aetna, she served as Director of Programs at ReMerge of Oklahoma County, a women's prison diversion program focused on keeping mothers out of prison and in the community with their children.

# Important Dates to Know

## **March 4, 2026 – IBCLC Day**

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Day celebrates the extraordinary services that IBCLCs provide to expectant parents, new mothers and the healthcare teams who form their circle of care. Join us in celebrating this day by thanking all the IBCLCs that significantly transform world health through skilled lactation care and reflecting on the incredible impact that IBCLCs have made over the past 41 years.

## **March 10, 2026 - COBA Bagels for Breastfeeding**

Join the Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA) for “Bagels for Breastfeeding,” an annual event at the Oklahoma State Capitol where attendees can meet legislators, learn about policies affecting maternal and infant health, and celebrate breastfeeding advocacy through the Breastfeeding Champion Awards. Taking place March 10th at 9 AM, the event highlights the importance of strong breastfeeding support across the state.

## **March 22, 2026 – IBCLC Care Award Deadline**

For hospital-based facilities and community-based agencies.

The **IBCLC Care Award** recognizes hospitals and community-based facilities that demonstrate their commitment to promoting, protecting, and supporting breastfeeding and the lactation consultant profession.

## **March 31, 2026 – COBA Scholarship Deadline**

The Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA) offers scholarships to support aspiring IBCLCs by covering exam fees or required education costs. The program prioritizes applicants serving underserved communities and those active in Oklahoma's breastfeeding efforts. **Education Scholarship applications are due March 31.**

Thank you to all our venders!



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