

## Speaker Biographies



### Karen Jacobs

Karen D. Jacobs, a 40-year employee of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, became the Administrator of the Office of Community and Faith Engagement in 2013. Prior to her appointment, she served as Coordinator of the DHS Office of Volunteerism for thirteen years and held several positions throughout her career path at DHS.

She serves on the Infant Mortality Alliance Chair. Karen is a member of the Ralph Ellison Foundation Board, Domestic Violence African American Women's Subcommittee, Regional Food Bank of Central Oklahoma Board, Central Oklahoma Volunteer Administrators (COVA) and the Star Spencer High School FCCLA Advisory Board.

In May 2008, OKDHS established the Karen D. Jacobs Volunteer Award, which is given to an individual or organization that exemplifies the character of volunteerism that was established under her leadership. She has received several DHS recognitions and community service awards. For over 28 years, Ms. Jacobs continues to volunteer and support the Spencer schools and the Spencer Community.

Ms. Jacobs is very active in her church, where her husband, Ronnie, serves as Pastor. Karen is the proud mother of three children: TaKisha, Tamara and Myron and two grandchildren, Amari and JaRon.



### Rev. Dr. Que English

Rev. Dr. Que English is the Director for the Partnership Center at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). She joined HHS from the State of New York where she served as the Deputy Director of Faith-Based Initiatives for the Governor's Office of Faith and Community Development Services. Here she identified opportunities for the State of NY and HCR to elevate strengths and identify new opportunities to build relationships with the faith-based community. She also conceptualized and was instrumental in forming the faith-based office in the Office of the Mayor of New York City. She has brought together several roundtables and interfaith coalitions to create and implement strategic plans to tackle NY's most problematic issues.

She is the Founder and past President of Not On My Watch, an organization formed to combat human trafficking and domestic violence through education, training and community and policy advocacy. Named 1 of 25 Most Influential Women in the Bronx, Dr. English brings to HHS a wealth of knowledge in working with the criminal justice system, substance abuse issues, health and mental health, human trafficking, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, civil rights and more. She received her masters and doctorate degrees from New York Theological Seminary where she was the recipient of the Excellence in Ministry Award, the highest award given to a graduating doctoral student.



### Dr. James Collins

Dr. Collins earned his BS and MD degrees from the University of Michigan and his MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He's a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of

Medicine. He is the medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit and the associate director of the pediatric residency program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. He has authored numerous research articles and is a frequent lecturer on issues related to racial and ethnic group disparities in adverse birth outcomes. Dr. Collins has received several awards for his research, teaching, and leadership in maternal and infant health, including the March of Dimes Jonas Salk Health Leadership Award, Research Honoree and the Duane Alexander Award for Academic Leadership in Perinatal Medicine from the National Institute of Child Health and Development. He's also a member of several advisory groups addressing the social determinants of infant outcome.



### Dr. Sonja Hughes

Sonja Hughes, MD, MHA, FACOG, serves as the Vice President of Strategy and Service Excellence at Aetna, a CVS Business. In this role, she provides leadership to the clinical quality management teams supporting Aetna quality initiatives for all lines of business, including Medicare, Medicaid, FEHB, and Commercial business. The initiatives include Accreditation, Credentialing, Delegation, and Potential Quality of Care Reviews (PQOC). Additionally, she manages the colleagues with oversight of Regulatory, Compliance, Auditing, HEDIS and Stars outcomes.

Dr. Sonja Hughes is a board-certified OB/GYN who practiced for over 20 years before changing the focus of her career to include health care quality improvement. Prior to joining Aetna, she was the Executive Medical Director for the Federal Employee Program at Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC). Dr. Hughes has also worked as the Medical Director and Certified Compliance HEDIS Auditor for Attest Health Care Advisors.

Dr. Hughes, a native of Fort Worth, TX, graduated from Oklahoma State University before attending medical school at Meharry Medical College. She completed her OB/GYN residency training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Hughes also has a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Trinity University.

Dr. Hughes enjoys teaching Children's Church, reading, and attending sporting events. Her professional affiliations include the National Medical Association (NMA), Oklahoma State Society of the NMA, the Infant Mortality Association, and the Oklahoma Black Physicians Alliance. Dr. Hughes lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, her daughter, and two dogs.



### Councilwoman Nikki Nice

Councilwoman Nikki Nice was elected Nov. 6, 2018, to serve as Ward 7's representative on the Oklahoma City Council. She's the 10th woman, and the second woman of color, to serve on the Council since the City's incorporation in 1890. She was re-elected unopposed in 2021.

Councilwoman Nice serves on the MAPS 3 Citizens Advisory Board, the Zoological Trust and the Trails Advisory Committee.

A fourth-generation Oklahoman, Councilwoman Nice was born, reared, educated and spiritually nurtured in Ward 7. Her early education was completed in the Millwood Public School District. She is a graduate of Northeast High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcasting from historic Langston University. She has studied abroad in The Gambia and Dakar, Senegal, in West Africa. Councilwoman Nice is a well-known television and radio personality with nearly 15 years of on-air experience in the Oklahoma City market.

Councilwoman Nice brings to the Oklahoma City Council a wealth of leadership and community service. She is the proud recipient of the Opio Toure Medallion award presented by the Oklahoma County Democrats, Finer Womanhood Award presented by the Chi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Upsilon Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the Reach Forward No Fear Lady Award. Nice also served as a member of Class one of L.O.Y.A.L. (Linking Oklahoma's Young Adult Leaders), Leadership Oklahoma City Class 35, an inaugural Board Member of NLC Oklahoma (New Leaders Council), and as a Northeast Task Force Member with OKCPS. She

currently serves as an Executive Board Member for HeartLine, Inc., Special Friends of Ralph Ellison Library Executive Board Member, BLAC (Black Liberated Arts Center) Incorporated Board Member, Working Together for Change Ministries Board Member and Northeast Academy PTSA Vice President. Councilwoman Nice lives in Northeast Oklahoma City and is the proud daughter of Roberta. She is a pet lover, music lover and a lover of people, and she is committed to moving Ward 7 and Oklahoma City "Forward Together."



**Farah Mayberry**

Farah Antoine-Mayberry is a graduate from Howard University with a degree in Occupational Therapy. She has worked as an OT in various adult and pediatric settings including the neonatal intensive care unit. Her passion for the perinatal population led her to become an Internationally Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), a doula, as well a midwife's assistant. She started her own practice in 2017, called Epiphany Birth Services, llc and a year later founded a non-profit organization called For The Village, Inc. This 501(c)3 is addressing Black infant and maternal health by training Black doulas, childbirth educators, and lactation professionals. Farah and her husband are proud parents of 5 children.



**Sekou Clincy**

Sekou Clincy joined the Community Service Council in October 2017 as the Fatherhood Coordinator for the Healthy Start Program. He earned his undergraduate degree in Developmental Psychology from Northeastern State University and his Masters of Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma. Before arriving at the Community Service Council as a Fatherhood Coordinator, Sekou worked at the Tulsa Health Department as both a Health Education Specialist and Fatherhood Coordinator for 11 years. During

Sekou's two-year tenure as a fatherhood coordinator at the Margaret Hudson Program, he designed a fatherhood program, and trained and developed teen fathers. In addition, Sekou has presented numerous fatherhood presentations at both the local and national level. Sekou has occupied a seat on the National Healthy Association conference planning committee since 2018. During this time, Sekou communicated directly with the National Healthy Start Association CEO to develop timetables, and action steps to ensure successful national conferences. Duties include but not limited to collecting: speaker forms, biographies, photos, assisting with registration, contacting vendors, videographers, and formatting the conference program. Sekou continues to devote time to various academic projects as a freelance research assistant. His most recent project includes conducting research for "Black Towns, Black Futures: The Enduring Allure of a Black Place in the American West" (2020) by Dr. Karla Slocum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



### Dr. Angela Hawkins

Angela Hawkins, MD knew from childhood she wanted to be a physician. Nurturing a love of science from a young age, she graduated cum laude from Oklahoma City University and earned her medical degree at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, where she also completed her residency. She is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She founded the Oklahoma Black Physicians Alliance.

Dr. Hawkins wants her patients to leave her office feeling better than when they came in, educated and empowered to maintain and improve their own health outcomes. Her faith is important to her, and she is inspired by the SSM Health Mission of providing exceptional care for people of all backgrounds. When not delivering babies at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital or seeing patients at her clinic in east Oklahoma City, Dr. Hawkins enjoys staying active with running, hiking and yoga, as well as spending time with loved ones.