

THE PUSH

Push Birth Partners (Push) Newsletter



A Special Day for Family

The History of Mother's Day

Ann Reeves Jarvis, a community organizer and activist who had 13 children, most of whom died in infancy or childhood, was committed to addressing sanitary conditions and the infant mortality rate in her community. Jarvis is known as the organizer of Mothers' Day Work Clubs. She coordinated Mothers' Friendship Day during the Civil War to bring peace among veterans in the North and South.

In 1908, a surviving child of Ann Reeves Jarvis, Anna Jarvis, organized several groups in honor of her activist mother who passed away on the second Sunday in May 1907. This celebration marked a formal "Mother's Day" ceremony during which time white carnations were distributed to the mothers, sons, and daughters in attendance.

Mother's Day became an official holiday in West Virginia on the second Sunday in May as Jarvis creates the Mother's Day International Association to recognize all that a mother does for the family.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson makes Mother's Day a national holiday. The movement spreads into Canada, becoming an official holiday in Canada in 1915, and continues throughout other parts of the world.

Ann Jarvis spent the latter part of her years protesting the commercialization of Mother's Day, a day intended to be a reverential day for families. Click [here](#) to learn more about the founder of Mother's Day.

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"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned."

-Maya Angelou



Dear Reader,

Welcome to The Push, the newsletter for Push Birth Partners (Push)! Creating a culture of community has been the focused theme of our newsletter since our January 2021 edition. It is our commitment at Push to create an infrastructure of compassion, community, and care for women and moms-to-be. Nevertheless, our core values extend beyond our mission as we keep our neighbors, both near and across the globe, close to our hearts.

More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and we are still facing challenges beyond our imaginations. While some are reporting a decline in certain areas there are disturbing reports in others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns of a surge in the United States through May due to variants of the virus, the crisis in India continues to worsen, and there are increased fears of a serious outbreak in Nepal. Loved ones abroad are unable to be with their family members due to travel restrictions and the World Health Organization (WHO) is closely monitoring the situation as the virus mutates.

These are difficult times, but there are healthy ways of coping. If you are dealing with unpleasant emotions, acknowledge those feelings and know that you are not alone. The key is proper management and finding a solution that works best for you. Lean on those who welcome you as you are, even when you are feeling "broken".

As we celebrate family and those special women in our lives, and not only on the second Sunday of May but continually, let us be intentional in our awareness of how we receive and respond to our environment and the people around us. My message to anyone reading this, including myself, is to practice patience, dismiss the judgment, and embrace empathy. We each handle difficult circumstances in different ways but together, and as a community, we can triumph over fear, pain, and uncertainty.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline McLeeland

Jacqueline McLeeland
Founder & Director, Push





LIFE DOESN'T COME WITH A
MANUAL, IT COMES WITH A MOM.
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Thank you!

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR DONORS

Dear Donors,

The state of maternal health has been a growing concern for years, and long before the presence of COVID-19. Given what we have already witnessed, it is fair to predict that the pandemic is going to lead to increased rates in maternal mortality and morbidity throughout the months ahead, possibly years.

Several of you have reached out in recent weeks to inquire about how to donate to Push. We have since received your contribution and would like to express our gratitude for your support. As a startup nonprofit corporation, we are limited to funding opportunities needed to build the infrastructure necessary for the work ahead of us. The current pandemic has added new challenges as many foundations are either forced to scale back on their funding budget or they choose to fund past award recipients.

We are on a mission to design a community initiative, "boots-on-the-ground", that addresses this public health crisis. It is your contribution that will make it possible to lay the foundation to not only start strong, but to help mobilize our advocates, volunteers, and staff who will build a sustainable infrastructure for the future of moms, families, and generations to come.

In the days ahead you will receive a personal thank you along with details on where and how your contributions will be allocated.

Your donations are tax-deductible. Click [here](#) if you would like to donate to Push.

With gratitude,

Jacqueline McLeeland

Jacqueline McLeeland

Founder & Director, Push



Passage in Texas

House Approves Telemedicine Expansion, Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Bills

The Passage of Texas House Bills

HB 4, HB 133, and HB 290

The postpartum phase is critical to maternal health and often the phase when many women experience increased challenges, including morbidity and mortality. A lack of insurance is one of many causes. The passage of Texas House Bill 133, which expands Medicaid coverage after pregnancy from 60 days to 12 months, is long overdue but an immense step forward for women and families in Texas. Now HB 133, along with HB 4 (allowances for telemedicine use) and HB 290 (continuous Medicaid coverage for children), will go to the Senate for consideration.

Current Status: HB 4, scheduled for public hearing on 5/12/2021; HB 133, in committee; HB 290, in committee.

As seen on texmed.org:

Expanded insurance coverage of telemedicine, one year of postpartum coverage for pregnant women in Medicaid, and improved continuity of care for their children – some of the Texas Medical Association’s biggest priorities – are all halfway to approval from the Texas Legislature.

The full House of Representatives on Wednesday passed House Bill 4 by Rep. Four Price (R-Amarillo), which would make permanent some of the allowances for expanded telemedicine use that were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those include payment for telemedicine for early childhood intervention services and Medicaid waiver programs. HB 4 is one of several TMA-backed measures pursuing both expansion and permanent payment parity for telemedicine services.

And with the passage of House Bill 133 by Rep. Toni Rose (D-Dallas), the House gave its approval to Medicaid coverage for women for no less than 12 months after giving birth. The chamber also passed House Bill 290 by Rep. Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio), which gives children on Medicaid six months of continuous coverage, plus an eligibility check that could qualify the child for an additional six months of coverage.

All three bills are now eligible for consideration by the Senate. [Continue reading...](#)



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Fostering a System of Support: The Impact of CHWs in Maternal Health



Faces of Maternal Mortality

Push BirthPartners (Push): A Maternal Health Partnership
www.pushbirthpartners.org

The 2021 Virtual CHW Summit was a hit! Presented by Umemba Health LLC during National CHW Week, the goal of the annual Summit is to provide continuing education, professional development, and networking opportunities for Community Health Workers, Community Health Worker Instructors, and those interested in learning more about CHWs.

Jacqueline represented Push during the Health Equity track. Her presentation, "Fostering a System of Support: The Impact of CHWs in Maternal Health", is now available on our website and can be viewed by clicking on the image to the left.

"TREBEK"

The process in which there is a formation of an embryo occurring from a different menstrual cycle and when an already existing embryo or fetus is present in the uterus. In other words, becoming pregnant while pregnant.

See answer on page 11



Join Our Team

WE ARE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!



Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and the heart of our mission. Support Push by volunteering and help build the infrastructure of this new initiative. Volunteers are needed in several areas of the organization.

Push is also dedicated to maximizing professional opportunities for students and graduates. As strong supporters of educational growth and development, we continue to grow our partnership with colleges and universities throughout Texas and beyond. Currently, we are an approved employer site for Texas Woman's University (TWU), Texas Christian University, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Texas Southern University, and Texas State University.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Want instant access to opportunities?

Text THEPUSH to 346-248-4370 and receive immediate notifications to your phone when new opportunities are posted.

Member Spotlight



Getting to know Jacqueline McLeeland, Founder

Jacqueline entered public health through graduate studies at the George Washington University and is currently pursuing a legal studies degree. She came to the United States by way of Liberia with her parents, living first in New York before moving to Texas as a toddler. The idea of Push was conceived in 2018 following the birth of Jacqueline's second child. In 2020, she officially established the organization. Jacqueline became a SAHM following the birth of her first child and after 10+ years in the pharmaceutical industry. She now applies her education and professional background as a regulatory compliance consultant.

What is something people don't know about you?

I once wanted to be an actor and, many years ago, landed two small roles in Friday Night Lights, the movie, and The Ringer.

Where is your happy place in Texas?

Texas Hill Country.

What excites you most about Push?

Replacing fear and uncertainty during pregnancy with positive outcomes through our programs.





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you shop Amazon.

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5. Click on Search
6. Select Push Birth Partners from the list
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BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

April 11 - 17, 2021

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked Black Maternal Health Week by announcing actions to expand access to continuous health care coverage and access to preventative care in rural areas to improve maternal health outcomes. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced that Illinois is the first state to provide continuity of full Medicaid benefit coverage for mothers by offering extended eligibility for a woman during the entire first year after delivery. A new data brief shows that more than half of pregnant women in Medicaid experienced a coverage gap in the first 6 months post-partum and disruptions in Medicaid coverage often lead to periods of uninsurance, delayed care, and less preventive care. The American Rescue Plan provides an easier pathway for states to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months

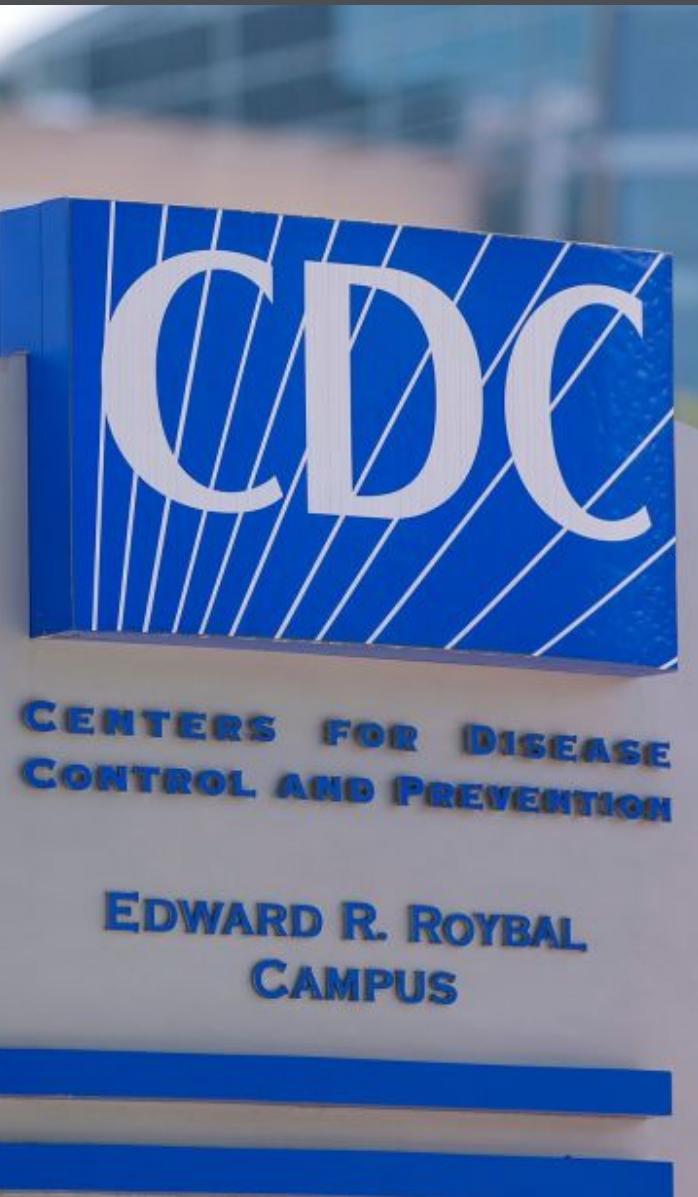
Secretary Becerra also announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that will make \$12 million available over four years for the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program that will allow awardees to test models to address unmet needs for their target population. For the first time, applicants are required to focus on populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities. [Continue reading...](#)

NEW OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS

Push
77 Sugar Creek Center Blvd.
Suite 600
Sugar Land, TX 77478



Managing Your Health



TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH:
Information from cdc.gov

Disaster Distress Helpline:
Call or text 1-800-985-5990 (press 2 for Spanish)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English, 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish, or [Lifeline Crisis Chat](#)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522

National Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453

National Sexual Assault Hotline:
1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or [Online Chat](#)

The Eldercare Locator:
1-800-677-1116 [TTY Instructions](#)

Veteran's Crisis Line:
1-800-273-TALK (8255) or [Crisis Chat](#) or text: 8388255

Click this image to access the interactive map of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) located at data.cms.gov



Push

OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

About Push

Push is a maternal health nonprofit, established in 2020 and received its 501(c)(3) designation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe every birthing family deserves a trusted partnership and support system; before, during, and after pregnancy.

Recognizing the need for locally based interventions, cultural sensitivity and humility, quality improvement, and access to care, we aim to build a supportive system, guided by human principles, for the improvement of maternal health experiences and outcomes.

Our commitment is to moms and moms-to-be, their health, and their holistic well-being.

Vision

A healthy birth experience for every woman, every child, and every family.

Mission

To partner with women and expectant families in Texas for improved maternal health outcomes.



CONNECT WITH US

VISIT SITE

LINKEDIN

TWITTER



Core Values

Partnership

Is how we continue to build towards the goals we set forth. This does not mean always agreeing, but a commitment to work it out.

Unification

Makes us stronger individually and collectively. This is how we build sustainable communities.

Support

Equips us with the tools and resources to achieve positive results.

Health Equity

Is deserved by all despite one's zip code, sex, beliefs, education, race, and ethnicity.

Breastfeeding

Is an essential benefit when moms have the ability and choose to. We equally support nursing and healthy alternatives.

Integrity

Is not an option, but a requirement. This is a commitment to our mission, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and community.

Respect

Is a fundamental principle and we hold our actions accountable that everyone is treated autonomously.

Timeliness

Means early access and responsiveness to the needs of moms-to-be; a critical component to maternal health services, prenatal care, and postpartum recovery.

Holistic

Is a mind, body, spiritual, and social process that we promote through self-care.

"TREBEK"

Answer: What is Superfetation?

