



For Immediate Release

Kendra Copanas
314-880-5701 or 314-518-6610 (mobile)
kcopanas@generatehealthstl.org

Generate Health Celebrates Four Phenomenal Leaders at the annual *Standing Up for Black Mothers and Babies Awards Event*

Keynote address by Mayor Tishaura O. Jones

ST. LOUIS (September 30, 2021)- For the twelfth year, Generate Health STL will host the premier maternal and child health awards event in the region. The celebration will occur virtually on Thursday October 21, 2021 from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm. This event brings together individuals and organizations who are committed to improving the health of Black mothers, birthing people and babies in the St. Louis area. The well-being of pregnant and parenting families shapes the health of our next generation, which is why we've put a stake in the ground, addressing racial disparities in maternal and infant health and vitality.

The featured speaker will be the first Black woman elected Mayor of the City of St. Louis, Tishaura O. Jones. "Mayor Jones will highlight how now is the time for local partnerships and policies to prioritize Black pregnant and parenting families in the City of St. Louis," said Kendra Copanas, Executive Director of Generate Health.

Generate Health will honor four local champions for their contributions to the field of maternal and infant health. The nominees that will be honored center and work with communities who are systemically disadvantaged by racism. Their commitment and work improve people's lives and the wellbeing of our community every day. Humans of St. Louis will help Generate Health tell their stories through their social media platform beginning October 10, 2021.

Eboni Hooper Boateng, CD, CBE, CLC – *Judy Wilson-Griffin Maternal Health Equity Champion.* Eboni Hooper-Boateng is a certified full spectrum doula and childbirth educator based in St. Louis, MO. Her professional career and volunteer engagement have allowed her to work on both local and international efforts related to sexual reproductive health and breastfeeding outcomes. Her passion to improve maternal and infant health in the St. Louis region aligns deeply with Generate Health's efforts to eliminate racism and empower families. A true champion for birthing people, Eboni is dedicated to providing holistic, informed choice care through the perinatal support that Birthing You Doula Services provides. As a believer in equal access care, in 2021, she started the Ruth Wilson Birth Fund, in honor of her late Grandmother who was a labor and delivery nurse, so she could provide low and reduced cost services to Black Women and Teens. Eboni is a powerful and authentic leader with a quiet, yet

unyielding approach, that has affected incredible change within our community and lives of those she has supported as a Doula and Childbirth Educator.

Village of Moms STL - Alderman Gregory Carter Community Champion. Village of Moms STL is a community organization founded by two black mothers, Alecia Deal and Mia Daugherty, who decided to push through their anger, frustration, and obstacles so that future Black mothers do not have to endure health and economic disparities. Village of Moms STL has made significant contributions within the scope of maternal and infant health by connecting community members that live in the Promise Zone with providers and agencies through various projects such as The Reading Village, Lunch and Read with Saint Louis Public Library, Take Back The Parks with Saint Louis Police Department, the St. Louis Home Visiting Collaborative, Making Change Happen Leaders Academy and FLOURISH St. Louis Community Leaders Cabinet. During the pandemic, Village of Moms STL worked tirelessly to provide mental health and emotional support to pregnant and young moms, who were dealing with domestic abuse, evictions, and parenting crises. Village of Moms STL is determined to push the envelope and disrupt the status quo with political and corporate systems by elevating racial equity and maternal and infant vitality.

EleVATE Women Collaborative - Dr. Terry Leet Researcher Award. The EleVATE Women Collaborative works to establish an equitable model of prenatal care and group prenatal care. The EleVATE Women Collaborative has bundled two evidence-based techniques that improve health outcomes (group prenatal care and behavioral health techniques like cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness stress-based reduction) into a group care intervention that is imbued with trauma-informed care and anti-racism principles. This collaborative focuses on implementing group prenatal care, training health care teams and working to change policies within health care systems to erase inequitable maternal health outcomes. The EleVATE Women Collaborative is dedicated to changing care delivery with patients who will be impacted by the services. The EleVATE Women Collaborative is coordinated by the St. Louis Integrated Health Network and includes the following partners:

- Community Collaborators: Jessica Belton, Joie Cruesoe, Jenella Norman, Cheron Phillips, Teneisha Parks and Richelle Smith
- Affinia Healthcare, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, CareSTL Health, Family Care Health Centers, St. Louis Integrated Health Network, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital, Truman Medical Centers, University of Kansas School of Medicine, University of Missouri -Kansas City School of Medicine, and Washington University School of Medicine.

Jesse A. Davis, MD, MBA - Dr. Corinne Walentik Provider Champion. Dr. Jesse Davis is a neonatal hospitalist at Saint Louis Children's Hospital, where he cares for critically ill newborns. As a faculty member of Washington University School of Medicine, he has had the opportunity to pursue his passion of maximizing social impact in areas of highest need, especially in the area of equitable infant mortality prevention. He was born and raised in Saginaw Michigan, graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans Louisiana, and previously lived in the Netherland Antilles as part of his medical training. He truly enjoys being a dad to his two beautiful daughters and a husband to the love of his life, Dr. Matifadza Hlatshwayo Davis. He believes that the absolute best thing that he can do for infant health is to work diligently to advocate for quality, equitable maternal health.

About Generate Health

Generate Health STL's mission is to mobilize and inspire the St. Louis region to advance racial equity in pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health. We believe community-based issues require community-based solutions, so we are investing in moms and parents in the community to lead our path to eliminating racial disparities in infant mortality. For more information on Generate Health, call 314-880-5719 or visit www.generatehealthstl.org.

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If you would like more information or to discuss interview opportunities with our honorees, please contact Kendra Copanas at 314-518-6610 or kcopanas@generatehealthstl.org.