

ADOLESCENT HEALTH SPRING SUMMIT



CONNECTING
IDEAS, PEOPLE
& POSSIBILITIES



@factforwardorg

Factforward.org



Our Vision

Fact Forward envisions a world where all youth and young adults have the opportunity of a healthy, bright, self-determined future.

Our Mission

Fact Forward's mission is to promote the optimal health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities in South Carolina and beyond by advancing sexual and reproductive health for all youth and young adults.



Core Values

Facilitate a Community of Practice that:

1. Centers youth and young adult voices.
2. Respects all youth/young adults and whom they hope to be.
3. Fosters an environment of safety and security.
4. Advances evidence- and practice-based approaches to sexual and reproductive health.
5. Ensures equity in policy, programmatic, and clinical approaches to sexual and reproductive health.
6. Promotes access to culturally responsive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health education and services.

2024

Featured Speaker

Dr. LaShay Harvey

is an educator, sexologist, and artist. She has always been attracted to creating stories that tell how something became. Her work and career interrogate how something comes to be (that is, born or birthed) and examine the narratives surrounding birth and becoming. In another way,

Dr. Harvey studies the reproductive lives of Black girls and women. To this end, Dr. Harvey holds a Ph.D. in Human Sexuality Studies and a master's degree in education.

She has taught and trained on sexuality education for over 20 years. She is the principal and founder of Black Girl Saturday School®, an immersive experience where Black women journey back to their Girlhood seeking brilliance. Dr. Harvey was born in Southeast Georgia and raised in Northeast Florida; she likes her grits with butter, salt, and pepper, and her tea is sweet!



2024 Summit Presenters



Brittany
Garner



Charity
McLean



Dr. Christina
Dodson



Cristal
Avalos



Jada
Green



Jamika
Lynch



Cindy
Cruz



Jess
Merino



Megan
Schroeder

2024 Summit Presenters



Dr. Kineka
Hull



Lauren
Radford



Liz
Reeder



Moriah
Brown



Tracy M.
Scull



Dr. Tanya
Bass



Fred
Baker



Brittany
Sydnor



Brittany
Wearing



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**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW
THE 2025 SUMMIT DATES**

SCHEDULE AT-A- GLANCE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 2024

- 8:00a - 9:00a Registration opens
- 8:00a - 9:00a Morning Brew: A Dialogue on Tailoring Professional Development for Youth Serving Professionals (*Prior Registration required*)
- 9:00a - 10:30a Summit Opening and Panel Discussion: Unleashing the Power of Innovation in Adolescent Health

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- 10:45a - 12:00p
- Option #1: Media Aware: Media Literacy Education Programs for Sexual and Relationship Health Promotion and Sexual Violence Prevention**
- Option #2: How to Build a Successful Teen Advisory Council**
- Option #3: “Oh God, the Sex Talk!”: Tools for Sexual Health Conversations with Youth from a Religious Lens**

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

- 12:00p - 1:15p Luncheon Keynote Address: Out of the Mouth of Babes: What adolescence can teach those who work with adolescents.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- 1:30p - 2:45p
- Option #1: Facilitation Unearthed: Unlocking Hidden Gems in Facilitation Tools and Techniques**
- Option #2: Empowering Teen Parents: Building Protective Factors and Connections**
- Option #3: The Foster-Friendly Healthcare Toolkit: A Guide to Delivering Quality Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare to Youth in Foster Care**

CLOSING

- 3:00p - 3:30p “30 Years, 300 Rockstars, + \$3000 in Prizes: The Closing Celebration!”

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

10:45AM - 12:00PM

- **OPTION 1:** Media Aware: Media Literacy Education Programs for Sexual and Relationship Health Promotion and Sexual Violence Prevention

PRESENTERS: Liz Reeder, Dr. Tracy M. Scull, Dr. Christina Dodson, & Jada Green

Description: Media are central in youth lives, yet media's impact on sexual and relationship health is often overlooked. From music to social media to pornography, media messages often communicate unhealthy, inaccurate, and incomplete messages about sex and relationships, which can lead youth to make risky sexual decisions and hold unhealthy beliefs about relationships. One evidence-based strategy to combat the potential adverse effects of media and promote health is to provide interventions grounded in media literacy education (MLE). MLE aims to enhance critical thinking about media messages related to health behaviors and give medically accurate health information frequently left out of media messages.

- **OPTION 2:** How to Build A Successful Teen Advisory Council

PRESENTERS: Lauren Radford & Megan Schroeder

DESCRIPTION: Are you interested in starting a teen advisory council at your organization? This session will cover success and challenges with examples from a teen advisory council with over ten years of success. Join us to learn more about the Gaston County Teen Action Council, our past successes, retention, structure, and planning. Attendees will leave this session with tools for getting started, organizations to partner with, ways to incentivize participants, and ideas for successful youth leadership.

➤ **OPTION 3: “Oh God, the Sex Talk!”: Tools for Sexual Health Conversations with Youth from a Religious Lens.**

PRESENTERS: Moriah Brown & Mikayla Crawford

DESCRIPTION: In this 75-minute session, we will explore the intersections of sexual health and religion. Understanding how these two topics relate will help us recognize why we should address sexual health in our religious settings. Participants will be provided with scriptural references, curriculums they can utilize for discussions, and additional tips and tools for facilitating conversation with youth.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

1:30PM - 2:45PM

➤ **OPTION 1: Facilitation Unearthed: Unlocking Hidden Gems in Facilitation Tools and Techniques**

PRESENTERS: Dr. Tanya Bass

DESCRIPTION: Are you ready to take your facilitation skills to the next level? Join us in this dynamic workshop, where we will dig deep into facilitation to uncover hidden gems that can transform your approach. Facilitators often rely on familiar tools and techniques, but a wealth of untapped potential is waiting to be discovered. In "Facilitation Unearthed," we will explore facilitation tools and highlight techniques that have been underutilized but can make a significant impact. Through interactive activities, discussions, and hands-on exercises, you will gain new insights, enhance your facilitation toolkit, and leave with the confidence to apply these hidden gems in various settings.

➤ **OPTION 2: Empowering Teen Parents: Building Protective Factors and Connections**

PRESENTERS: Brittany Garner, Charity McLean, & Cristal Avalos

DESCRIPTION: Through this interactive session, we aim to foster a supportive environment where participants can gain insights, skills, and resources to better assist pregnant and parenting teens in building stronger family systems and nurturing protective factors for themselves and their children.

➤ **OPTION 3: The Foster-Friendly Healthcare Toolkit: A Guide to Delivering Quality Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare to Youth in Foster Care**

PRESENTERS: Cindy Cruz & Jess Merino

DESCRIPTION: Healthcare providers are well-positioned to offer support, tools, and information to help foster youth benefit fully from health visits. “The Foster Friendly Healthcare Toolkit” was developed by a multidisciplinary team, including former and current foster youth and medical professionals, to explain what it takes to implement inclusive, respectful sexual and reproductive health care (SRH) that contributes to building a sense of agency for youth in care and with diverse identities. The Toolkit includes tools and a roadmap that allows users to evaluate and modify individual practice and the practice environment so that youth in foster care can access SRH. This presentation will introduce the Toolkit and how to navigate it. After attending this session, participants will be prepared to critically evaluate their own program and practice for its ‘foster friendliness’ using youth assessment tools.

PRESENTER BIOS



Cristal Avalos

Cristal is the Community Support Programs Manager at the Partnership for Children & Families. Cristal has extensive experience in delivering direct support services to youth and families. Her passion lies in empowering individuals through innovative programs and services. She is trained in various evidence-based curriculums and certified in NC Trauma & Resilience, focusing on racial trauma. She serves as an NC Child Treatment Program (CTP) provider certified in Resource Parent Curriculum (RPC). Driven by a commitment to continuous improvement, Cristal is pursuing her Master's in Youth, Family, and Community Science at North Carolina State University. As a dedicated advocate and leader, Cristal is committed to positively impacting and empowering individuals to thrive.



Fred Baker

Fred is a native of the Bronx, NY and calls Fayetteville, NC home since being stationed at Pope Air Force Base in 1995. A Disabled Veteran of the United States Air Force, Fred served his country for 10+ years. As one of the most senior members of the Leading To Change team, Fred has presented to over 5,000 people – including the New York Mayors Alliance, National Youth At Risk Conference, NC Workforce Development Training Center, Alabama Department of Human Resources, and even the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. When not traveling around the country with Leading To Change Inc., you can find Fred volunteering his time, talent, and treasure in his local community. Mr. Baker is an active member of the Cumberland County Workforce Development Youth Council, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the City Rescue Mission Inc., Chairman of the Deacon's Ministry, Advisor for the Brothers Bridging the Gap, Men's Ministry, Young Adult Sunday school teacher, and a host of other duties.

PRESENTER BIOS



Tanya Bass

PhD, MS, Med, CHES®, CSE

Tanya Bass, Ph.D., MS, MEd, CHES®, CSE (she/her/hers) is the "Foundress" of the North Carolina Sexual Health Conference (NCSEXCON). She is an award-winning sexuality educator and subject matter expert in reproductive health and health equity. Dr. Bass is an alumna of North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) Department of Public Health Education, where she has served as an adjunct instructor for several years and is currently the lead instructor for Human Sexuality. She is also an adjunct instructor at East Carolina University in the Department of Health Education and Promotion

She completed her PhD in Education at Widener University's Center for Human Sexuality Studies. Dr. Bass remains committed to seeking professional development and is a member of the NC Society for Public Health Educators, the Women of Color Sexual Health Network (WoCSHN), the Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians (ABSC), and the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists.



Moriah Brown

MPH, CHES

Moriah is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) and Public Health Educator for the Wake County Health & Human Services HIV/STD Hep C Community Program. She currently spearheads the Wake County Faith Coalition, helping to facilitate efforts to promote opportunities for health educational programming that is culturally sensitive and age-appropriate for church congregations. Moriah completed her undergraduate studies at East Carolina University and received her Master's in Public Health from Benedictine University. .

PRESENTER BIOS



Cindy Cruz

Cindy Cruz is the Director for the Reproductive Health Equity Project for Foster Youth - also known as RHEP - at the National Center for Youth Law, where she works to end inequitable reproductive health outcomes for youth in foster care and support the healthy sexual development and bodily autonomy of young people. Cindy is a passionate advocate for reproductive justice, racial justice, and LGBTQ liberation. Before joining the National Center for Youth Law, she was URGE's Western States program director, overseeing organizing and advocacy work in California. Previously, she was the director of education for Planned Parenthood California Central Coast, where she led the organization's sex education programming. Cindy received a bachelor's in public health education and a Master's in Public Health from California State University, Northridge. Cindy was born and raised in Los Angeles and enjoys living on California's beautiful central coast. She is the proud daughter of Salvadoran immigrants.



Christina Dodson

Ph.D

Dr. Dodson is a Research Scientist at innovation Research & Training (iRT). She received a doctorate in Mass Communication and a certificate in Interdisciplinary Health Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds an MA in Communication Management from the University of Southern California. Dr. Dodson's research investigates the impact of media exposure and processing on health beliefs and behaviors. She has worked on developing and evaluating the Media Aware programs, which use media literacy education (MLE) to promote sexual and relationship health among adolescents and young adults. Her work has been published in academic journals and presented at national and international conferences.

PRESENTER BIOS



Brittany Garner

Brittany is the Family Support Programs Manager for the Partnership for Children and Families. She has been dedicated to working with youth and families in the nonprofit sector for nearly two decades. After attaining her Bachelor's degree in Social Work, she has consistently engaged in numerous professional development initiatives to acquire additional skills and knowledge. She served on the 2023 State Health Improvement Plan's Perinatal Equity Collective workgroup. She is currently enrolled in graduate school at North Carolina State University and is excited to one day become a Certified Family Life Educator!



Jada Green
MPH, CHES

As a research specialist at innovation Research & Training (iRT), Jada aids in qualitative data coding, content development, study recruitment and study coordination. Jada has experience in implementing health educational programs, community outreach, conducting research, and motivational interviewing. Overall, Jada has research interests that include sexual health, cardiovascular health, and chronic pain prevention, all while using a health equity lens. She enjoys meditation, cooking, and nature walks!

PRESENTER BIOS



Kineka Hull
PhD, MSPH

Kineka J. Hull, PhD, MSPH, is a public health scientist with over 17 years of experience in public health research who specializes in adolescent and youth risk behaviors, including sexual risk behaviors; healthy relationships; menstruation management; comprehensive sexual health education; and sexual abuse prevention, including human trafficking. Dr. Hull is passionate about advancing reproductive health equity and has expertise in replicating and tailoring curricula with fidelity for African American youth and other diverse populations, providing training and technical assistance, and providing health education during clinical trials. She has worked with community-based organizations, academia, and health departments on strategic planning, organizational capacity building, infrastructure/staffing needs, and project sustainability and succession planning. Dr. Hull currently hosts the Elevate Youth Programming Podcast, which is designed to strengthen the provision of youth-focused services.



Jamika Lynch

Jamika Lynch is a Health Educator II for the Columbus County Department of Public Health. She is skilled at resourcefully adapting and meeting the needs of youth and her community in Columbus County. She specializes in teenage pregnancy prevention. Ms. Lynch is experienced in facilitating sexual/reproductive health education for adolescents. She has been involved in adolescent health education for schools and Columbus County for over eight years. Her work in public health has received North Carolina funding for over eight years. She has worked with thousands of adolescents in Columbus County during her tenure. She has received the 2019 Barbara Huberman Bravery Award from SHIFT NC (Sexual Health Initiatives for Teens) for her success in teenage pregnancy prevention. She has also received the 2019 Rising Star Award from the NC Sexual Health Conference for her passion for leadership and commitment to sexual health. She has also been invited to speak at numerous public health and health education conferences and WUNC (North Carolina's Public Radio) due to the success of her programs. She recently received a Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners. She just got elected co-chair for the Health Education section for the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association.

PRESENTER BIOS



Charity McLean

Charity, the Teen Outreach Program Coordinator at the Partnership for Children & Families, holds a master's in counseling and boasts over a decade of experience coaching individuals and teens through various life challenges. As a former teacher for the AVID program in high school, she brings extensive education and youth development expertise to her current role. Her dedication and excellence in teaching earned her recognition as Teacher of the Year, highlighting her commitment to empowering students. Furthermore, Charity has been acknowledged as a high-quality facilitator, showcasing her ability to lead and inspire others in various professional settings effectively. Passionate about offering professional speaking engagements and conducting training opportunities, Charity strives to empower individuals to gain clarity on their goals, stretch beyond their comfort zones, and navigate transformations for greater happiness and fulfillment in life.



Jessica Merino

Jessica Merino is a Senior Program Associate for the Reproductive Health Equity Project for Foster Youth—also known as RHEP—at the National Center for Youth Law. She works to advance systems that normalize, promote, and support the healthy sexual development and bodily autonomy of young people in foster care through policy, program implementation, and youth-centered partnerships.

Jess is a passionate advocate for reproductive rights, equity, and justice. Before joining the National Center for Youth Law, she served as the Development and Communications Coordinator at Ibis Reproductive Health, where she worked to secure funding and disseminate a global research portfolio through a justice and equity lens. Previously, she was an editorial assistant for Ms. Magazine, reporting on sexual and reproductive health issues. Jess received a bachelor's in community studies/public health from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Jess was born and raised in the Bay Area, where she loves to enjoy the San Rafael farmers market and surf Bolinas or Ocean Beach...when the waves aren't too big.

PRESENTER BIOS




Lauren Radford

Lauren Radford is a health educator at Gaston County Public Health. She has an undergraduate degree in Health and Physical Education and a Master's in Instructional Technology. She taught in the North Carolina school system for six years and has been a Health Educator with Gaston County Public Health for five years. She is married with two children and their dog Sadie. Her passion for Public Health comes from her love of educating people of all ages on the importance of living healthy and sustainable lifestyles.



Liz Reeder

Liz is a Media Literacy Trainer and Research Specialist at innovation Research & Training (iRT). Between training for iRT's media literacy education school-based programs, she stays busy bridging the creative and quantitative through content development and study coordination. In program development, she focuses on inclusivity, LGBTQ representation, and keeping information current and accessible. She lends her voice to narrate programs and lead interviews and trainings. On the research side, she codes surveys and data, assists in recruitment, leads data collections nationwide, and assists from grant to paper writing.



PRESENTER BIOS



Tracy M. Scull

Ph.D.

Dr. Scull, is a Senior Research Scientist at innovation Research & Training (iRT). She holds a doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Duke University. Dr. Scull conducts basic and applied research to improve the health of children, adolescents, young adults, and families, specifically focusing on sexual health promotion, substance abuse prevention, and understanding media influence on health. She has secured federal funding for her research, including grants from NIDA, NICHD, NINR, NHLBI, and SAMSHA. Her findings have been published in esteemed peer-reviewed journals, including Pediatrics, Journal of Youth and Adolescence, Journal of Health Communication, and Journal of Children and Media. Dr. Scull has extensive experience developing and evaluating health promotion programs that are developmentally appropriate for diverse audiences and ages. Among them are the Media Aware programs, comprehensive sexual health programs for adolescents through young adulthood, and Media Aware Parent, a web-based program designed to help parents talk about sexual health and media with their adolescent children.



Megan Schroeder

Megan Schroeder completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2021. She earned a bachelor's degree in Public Health, specializing in Community Health Education and Global Health. While pursuing her degree, she was a research assistant at Trinity College and an educator at Interfaith Refugee Ministry. Over the last three years, Megan has been dedicated to her role as a Health Educator with Gaston County Public Health.

PRESENTER BIOS



Brittany Sydnor

Brittany joined Fact Forward in October 2020 as the Brand & Communications Specialist. In this role, she works with local communities to develop a multi-year plan to identify, prioritize, and execute health communication strategies. Sydnor earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. Originally from New Jersey, Brittany fell in love with the South. Before joining Fact Forward full-time, she was an intern in 2019. She also worked as a Teen Pregnancy Outreach Worker at the Virginia Department of Health and local high schools.



Brittany Wearing

MPH, CHES

Brittany Wearing is a passionate public health professional whose purpose is to make an impact in every environment she touches. She has over ten years of experience working in K-12 and higher education institutions, healthcare systems, and state-level non-profit organizations. She is a subject matter expert in adolescent reproductive/sexual health, curriculum development, and program implementation. Currently, she is the Community Investment Manager at Fact Forward. Brittany's passion for this work was fueled by her undergraduate and graduate studies, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health and a Master of Public Health degree in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior from the University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health. Brittany is particularly interested in working with historically marginalized populations in maternal and child health, reproductive justice, and adolescent health.



Becoming an 'Ask'able Adult


May 22 | 9am - 2pm

Upcoming Training

★ Dive into meaningful conversations with teens! ★


Are you ready to empower the next generation? Join us for an enlightening training session: "Becoming an 'Ask'able Adult: Talking with Teens about Tough Topics."

 Date: May 22, 2024

 Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

 Location: McKimmon Center - NC State University

 Address: 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC, 27606



 Gain invaluable insights and skills to foster open dialogue on sensitive topics.

 Enjoy a delicious lunch!

 Cost: \$75.00

Don't miss out! Secure your spot today:  Registration Link:

<https://cvent.me/v0NrX3>

Prepare to empower, engage, and inspire! See you there!  

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

Continuing Professional Education Category	Hours
General Hours	6
AHEC	6
Counselors & Therapists	6
Medical Assistants	6
Nursing	6
Social Workers	6

AHEC: This program is approved for .6 CEU's (6.0 clock hours) of continuing education by Mid-Carolina AHEC, Inc. and meets the SC AHEC Best Practices Standards. **Participants must attend 90% of the program in order to receive a certificate of attendance. No partial credit will be given.**

COUNSELORS & THERAPISTS: This program has been pre-approved for 6.0 hours of continuing education by SC AHEC under its accreditation by the SC Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists.

Medical Assistants: This program qualifies for 6.0 hours of NON AAMA continuing education for recertification.

NURSING: Mid-Carolina AHEC is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by South Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This nursing continuing education activity approval # 2110-022PR-450 has been approved for 6.0 hours.

SOCIAL WORKERS: This program has been approved by the SC Board of Social Work Examiners for 6 hours of NON-social work continuing education.