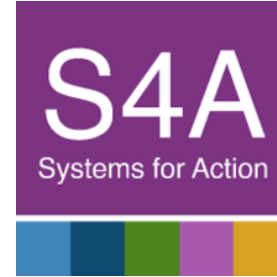
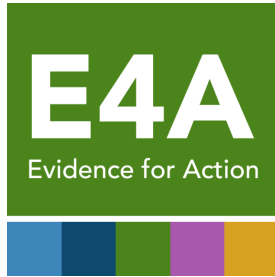


# Addressing Birth Equity and Family Wellbeing Through Cross-Sector Alignment & Policy Solutions



A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 'For Action' Research Programs  
Panel Discussion

August 30, 2023 | 12-1pm ET

## Moderator

**Andrea Serano, CLC, IBCLC** – Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE)

## Panelists

**Malini Nijagal** – Evidence for Action

**Felix Muchomba** – Policies for Action

**Venice Williams** – Systems for Action

## Q&A

# Panelist – Evidence for Action



**Malini Nijagal, MD, MPH**

Dr. Nijagal is a Professor of Ob/Gyn at UCSF and a practicing obstetrician who primarily focuses on caring for pregnant people with systemic barriers to care. The main focus of Dr. Nijagal's work is around maternity care design: how we can create sustainable systems of care that are high quality and valuable from the perspective of pregnant people. Using her background in human-centered design, community engagement, healthcare financing, and cross-sector partnerships, she designs and implements new models of care that focus on tackling inequities in pregnancy care access, experience and outcomes. Dr. Nijagal earned her medical degree at UCSF and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She has a MPH, with a focus on health care management, from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Contact: [malini.nijagal@ucsf.edu](mailto:malini.nijagal@ucsf.edu)



# Panelist – Policies for Action



Dr. Muchomba is an Associate Professor at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. His research examines how social policies and institutions influence the well-being of girls and women. He is currently studying geographic, racial, and ethnic disparities in maternal health. Dr. Muchomba holds a PhD in social work with a concentration in social policy from Columbia University, an MPH from Columbia University, and a BA in computer science from Middlebury College.

Contact: [felix.muchomba@rutgers.edu](mailto:felix.muchomba@rutgers.edu)

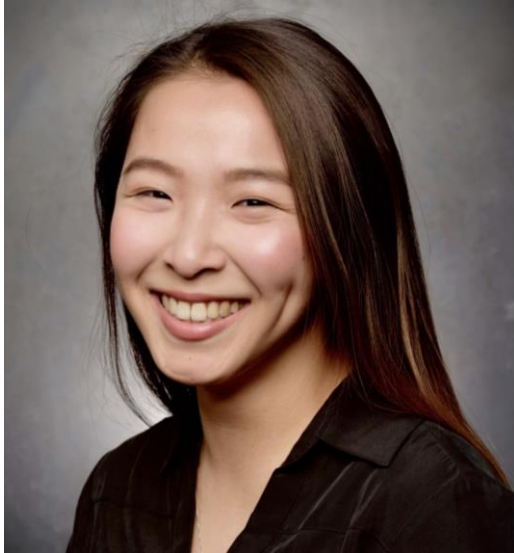
**Felix Muchomba, PhD, MPH**



**RUTGERS**

School of Social Work

# Panelist – Systems for Action



**Venice Williams, PhD, MPH**

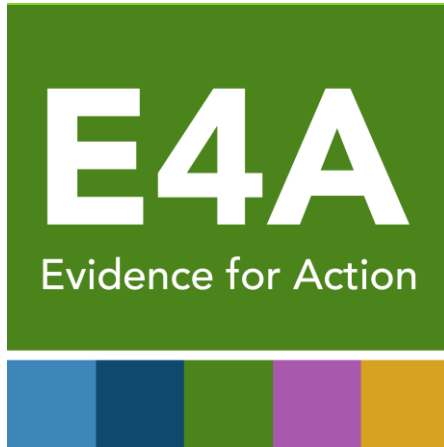


University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Prevention Research Center for Family & Child Health at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Her research relates to improving the implementation of home visiting programs like Nurse-Family Partnership through mixed methods, cross-sector collaboration, and systems integration. Dr. Williams has a range of experience in health services research, including conducting health impact assessments to inform child welfare policy, evaluating systems-change interventions with Urban Indian health centers, and developing collegiate tobacco control policies. Dr. Williams received her BA in Psychology and Sociology from the University of British Columbia, MPH from UCLA, and PhD in Health Services Research from the Colorado School of Public Health. She is passionate about working with communities to improve health outcomes among families experiencing adversities.

Contact: [venice.williams@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:venice.williams@cuanschutz.edu)

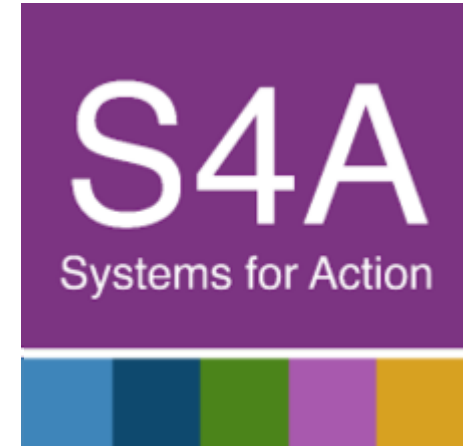
# RWJF-Funded Research Projects



[Pop-Up Village: A New Model of Perinatal & Family Care Delivery](#)



[Mapping Maternal Health in New Jersey](#)



[Aligning Health and Social Systems to Expand Evidence-Based Home Visiting](#)

# Question 1

**What are the policy levers that are relevant to improving birth equity; especially levers that address structural racism and addressing disparities experienced by BIPOC individuals/communities?**

# Question 2

**What are the key partnerships or collaborations you've identified that empower community members? What learnings can we take away from these collaborations, particularly about next steps to make sure communities are engaged and aware of the findings and improved outcome recommendations?**



# Question 3

**What are your plans for translating evidence into action and what recommendations do you have for others who are interested in implementing similar interventions?**

**Questions?**



***Evidence for Action, Policies for Action*** and ***Systems for Action*** are National Program Offices of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



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