

2023 CNMA Ballot

PRESIDENT ELECT

The President Elect will serve as President Elect from 11/2023 to 10/2024, then assume the role of President for 10/2024 to 10/2026, before transitioning to Immediate Past President from 10/2026 to 10/2027. View the full role of the PRESIDENT ELECT on cnma.org

Amita Graham, MSN, MPH, CNM, WHNP, IBCLC



Amita Graham (she/her/hers) offers broad experience with over 15 years in health care focusing on Family and Child Health (FCH) services. Her roles span Certified Nurse Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant, Public Health Consultant, Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Director, and Health Educator. She has extensive experience engaging with national FCH programs aimed at improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Such programs include; CenteringPregnancy®, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, the Women Infant and Children's program, and Head Start.

She is a proud citizen of California. With the goal to ensure the use of evidence-based practices for positive FCH outcomes in the state, Amita is proactive in ascertaining quality improvement measures in adherence with best practice standards in midwifery care and health equity.

She is eager to see continued diversification of the profession of midwifery. This fuels her desire to have a positive impact on poor health outcomes that are far too common among minority populations in California and the United States of America. She seeks the role of President Elect to 1) extend influence on the practices of inclusion in terms of the midwifery workforce, policy, and equity; 2) maintain and enhance alignment with the groups goals aimed at reducing racism-based disparities; and 3) advance sexual and reproductive healthcare in California through legislative advocacy and improved access to quality care.

Amita boasts expertise in working on grant- funded projects focused on public health policy, and family and child health initiatives. As an innovator in providing collaborative efforts, her work yields excellent

program outcomes. She maintains communications and interpersonal skills that colleagues and stakeholders find outstanding. Furthermore, she offers essential intangibles such as a collaborative management style, persuasive leadership talents, and clear foresight to develop effective policies and manage programs.

Amita currently works as a full scope Certified Nurse Midwife in Ukiah, California at Mendocino Community Health Clinic. She provides health care, including prenatal, childbirth, postpartum, lactation, family planning, well person, and mental health. Personally, she enjoys spending time with her family, swimming, dancing, camping, and spending time outside, especially cruising the waters in the San Francisco Bay with her husband on their 25-foot sailboat. She loves to garden and makes teas, ointments, and salves from plants she grows and forages.

SECRETARY

The secretary will serve from 11/2023 until 10/2026. View the full role of the SECRETARY on cnma.org

Laura Sheperis, CM, RN



Laura Sheperis (she/her/hers) graduated from SUNY Downstate and became a Certified Midwife (CM) in 2005. For six years she worked in full-scope midwifery practice in large urban hospitals in New York City and then accepted a position with Doctors Without Borders, where she worked in several countries in Africa, as well as in Jordan, Papua New Guinea, and Greece, providing clinical care, training, and managerial support to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) programs in resource-limited settings. After a decade with the organization, Laura felt the call to again provide direct patient care and returned to clinical practice in the US, this time in the San Francisco Bay Area. She lives in Oakland and has worked with Planned Parenthood Northern California since July 2022.

Laura has been active with ACNM since her years as a midwifery student to today. She was a member of the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) and more recently has been involved with the Committee of Midwives to Advance the CM Credential (CMAC) and the ACNM Midwives-PAC. She played an active role on the board of the New York Affiliate from 2004-2011, serving in various capacities - from Student Representative to President. She understands the importance of the state affiliates to represent and be a resource for midwives throughout each

state. After her move to California in 2019, Laura became involved in the Health Policy Committee of CNMA. She is interested in shifting her focus within the Association to serve in the role of CNMA Secretary to gain a broader knowledge of the Association as a whole, as well as to better understand the successes and challenges of midwives throughout our diverse state.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATIVE

The NorCal representative will serve from 11/2023 until 10/2026. View the full role here cnma.org

Lori Link, CNM, MSN



Lori Link (she/her/hers) received her BSN at UTHSC Houston and CNM/MSN at UTMB Galveston, Texas. She believes midwifery in practice meets and prevents most current and urgent maternal, newborn and women's health needs across the country, particularly in rural areas. Lori enjoys providing woman/family/culturally centered care, honoring the normal natural strengths and processes of birth. "Listen to Women" is the guiding motto of her career.

Lori brings over 30 years of midwifery experience managing hospital and community birthing services in both rural and urban settings. In Oct 2021, Lori joined Plumas District Hospital and Rural Health Clinic in Quincy, California as Director of Midwifery to establish a rural hospital midwifery service and a hospital owned, midwifery led community birthing center as requested by the community to prevent another maternity desert. In collaboration with the Plumas District Hospital team, many midwifery minded California entities, and the newly established ACNM

Rural Midwifery Task Force, Lori sees the opportunity to establish a model of care that turns a maternity desert into a maternity oasis. Lori likes to cook, quilt, read, hike, play the violin and piano and pay my taxes on time.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUP

The representative from an under-represented group will serve from 10/2023 until 10/2026. View the full role of the REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUP on cnma.org

Katiana Carey-Simms MSN, CNM, WHNP, BSN, RN



Katiana Leslie Hazel Carey-Simms (she/her/hers) is from the Bay Area, raised in Berkeley and Oakland. She has been on a dynamic path to midwifery care since 2011 when she bought her first midwifery text and witnessed her first birth. Her background is in mentorship, youth education, and community-based advocacy. She approaches learning and practice from a patient and family-centered, dignity-based perspective, with my values rooted in Reproductive Justice, Black feminist theory, and liberation. She began her formal midwifery education at Maternidad La Luz on the boarder of Juarez, MX and El Paso, TX, training with Certified Professional Midwives in a community birth center. From this experience, she continued learning with homebirth midwives in the Bay Area and worked as a Reproductive Health Specialist at Planned Parenthood Northern California. After completing her nursing degree, at Emory University, she began working at the Atlanta Birth Center, and later returned home to the Bay to complete her master's in nursing at UCSF. She has continued community birth work at the San Francisco Birth Center, as well as a number of resource distribution community organizations serving our state's most criminalized populations. She is currently a part of the wonderful midwifery team at CommuniCare and Sutter Davis serving Yolo county. She enjoys cooking new things, anything involving water, and cozy clothing

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATIVE

The CentralCal representative will serve from 11/2023 until 10/2026. View the full role here cnma.org

Sarah Dinkler, CNM, WHNP-BC



Sarah Dinkler (she/her/hers) is a long time Ventura resident. During her tenure as a labor and delivery nurse at Community Memorial Hospital (CMH), she attended thousands of births, taught childbirth classes at the New Parent Resource Center, and assisted in the development of CMH's "Kangaroo Care" skin-to-skin policies and procedures.

Since becoming a CNM/WHNP, she has worked in a variety of settings, including an FQHC providing outpatient care, full-scope in a private OB/GYN office, as adjunct faculty at Cal State Channel Islands, and now as a Nurse-midwife hospitalist.

Sarah was a founding parent and previous board secretary for Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education. She currently serves as member-at-large for Church of the Foothills in Ventura, a United Church of Christ Open and Affirming congregation.

Sarah has been serving on the CNMA Board as the Central California Representative since 2021 when a vacancy became available mid-term.

COMMENTS?

If you have a question about the ballot or the voting process, or a question about a candidate, please email alisonnyoung@gmail.com

