

The Call to Strengthen Maternal and Infant Health in NJ.

**THE
10:30
AM
CALL**



Let's Get to Know Each other!

In the chat, share your:

1. Name
2. Organization
3. What's your favorite outdoor place to make summer memories?



WELCOME!

10:30 Welcome: Winifred Smith-Jenkins and Jill Wodnick

10:35 Guest Speaker: Juwana Montgomery, Doula, CLC, CCBE, PCHW

Supporting Young Families: A Holistic Approach to Parenting, Education, and Opportunity

11:05 - 11:15 Updates

1. Federal Updates: Jill Wodnick
2. MPC Updates: Winifred Smith-Jenkins
3. State and Legislative Bill Updates: Shaylynn Bivens

11:15 Voices from the Field and Closing Reminders

1. Voices from the Field
2. Upcoming 10:30 AM MIH Dates and Guests
3. Remember to share **the registration link** and bring a friend!



Winifred Smith Jenkins, Ed.D.
ACNJ Maternal Infant Health
Co-Chair
Director of Early Childhood
Policy & Advocacy
ACNJ



Jill Wodnick, MA, LCCE, IMH E® (II)
ACNJ Maternal Infant Health Co-Chair
Asst. Director Maternal Health Policy, Doula &
Lamaze Childbirth Educator, Montclair State
University



SUPPORTING YOUNG FAMILIES:

**A HOLISTIC APPROACH
TO PARENTING,
EDUCATION, AND
OPPORTUNITY**

**JUWANA MONTGOMERY,
DOULA, CLC, CCBE, PCHW**

MIDWIFERY POLICY **COLLECTIVE** **NJ TEAM UPDATES**



- **15-month statewide policy initiative funded by the Pritzker Foundation**
- **Cross-sector coalition of maternal health leaders**
- **Community-led and equity-centered**
- **Five policy workgroups**
 - **Policy and Public Affairs**
 - **Birth Center Sustainability**
 - **Community Midwifery Education and Workforce Development**
 - **Systems Integration, Reimbursement & Liability Strategies**
 - **Community Engagement**

Centers community voices and lived experience in developing policy recommendations.

Goal: Build a stronger, more integrated maternal health system that expands access to community midwifery and improves outcomes for all families in NJ.

FEDERAL UPDATE DOMAINS

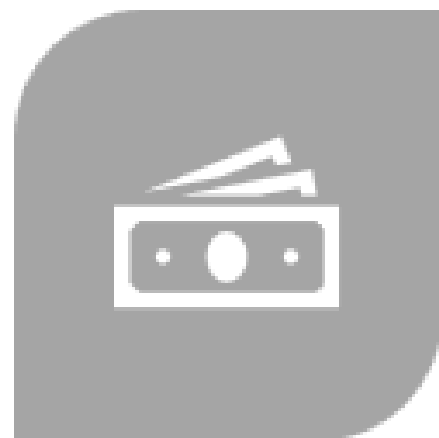
REPORTS



RESOLUTIONS



FEDERAL FUNDS



LEGISLATION



FEDERAL REPORT



June 16, 2026

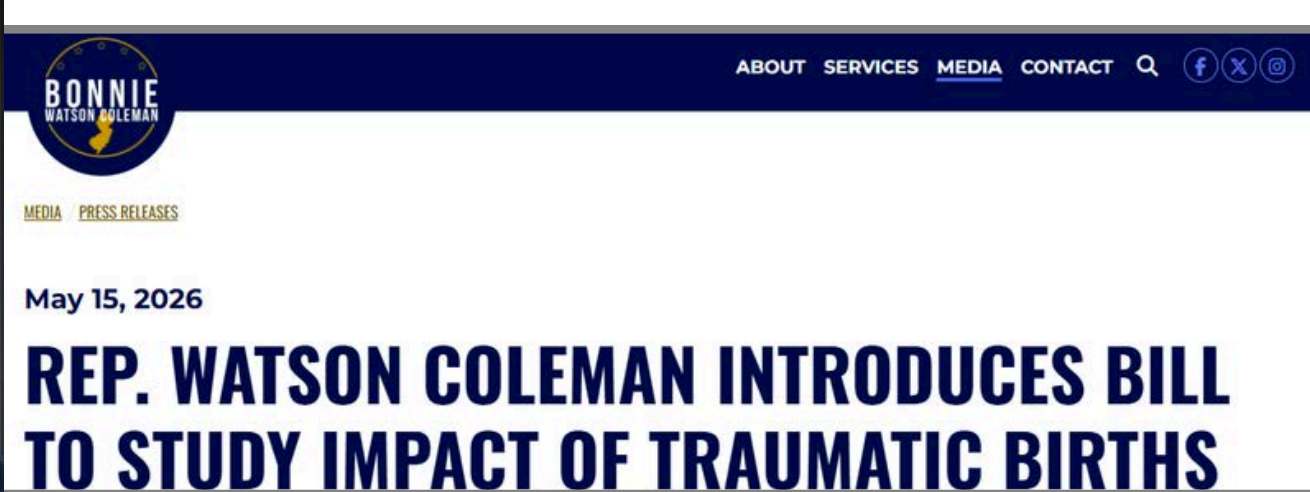
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)
***Bridging the Gap: Improving Access to
Maternal & Reproductive Healthcare
for Stronger Futures***

PROPOSED LEGISLATION



May 15, 2026

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)
Traumatic Births Research Act



May 2026: “Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12) introduced the [Traumatic Births Research Act](#), legislation that would authorize research on the impacts of traumatic birth experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder on mothers, infants, and their families, as well as evaluate how midwife-driven care can improve maternal health outcomes.

The bill would also include research into how midwife-driven care can decrease the frequency of traumatic births and improve outcomes for mothers. In many high-income countries, midwives serve as the primary maternity care providers, resulting in significantly better birth outcomes. Given their proven success globally, studying the impact of midwives and doulas in the U.S. could greatly improve maternal health and reduce MMH disorders.”

<https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/rep-watson-coleman-introduces-bill-to-study-impact-of-traumatic-births>

Cosponsor
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]*
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" [D-GA-4]*
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]*
Rep. McIver, LaMonica [D-NJ-10]*
Rep. Velázquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]*
Rep. Carson, André [D-IN-7]*

Rep. Kennedy, Timothy M. [D-NY-26]
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Currently there are 7 co sponsors in the U.S. House of Represenatives,(no U.S. Senate version yet.)
The only other NJ co sponsor is Rep. Monica McIver, (NJ-10).



June 16, 2026

REP. WATSON COLEMAN RELEASES NEW REPORT ADDRESSING CRITICAL ISSUES IN MATERNAL HEALTH REPORT INCLUDES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ADVISORY COALITION ON HEALTH EQUITY

Washington, D.C. **(June 16, 2026)** – Today, the Advisory Coalition on Health Equity (ACHE), under the leadership of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), released "[Bridging the Gap: Improving Access to Maternal and Reproductive Healthcare for Stronger](https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ache_report.pdf)

https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ache_report.pdf

FEDERAL REPORT



BRIDGING THE GAP

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MATERNAL
AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE
FOR STRONGER FUTURES

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ache_report.pdf

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STATE AND LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATES

S4170/A4843: "Community-led Birthing Justice and Equity Resource Initiative Program Act;" appropriates \$12 million. (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake as Senate prime and Asw. Speight as Assembly prime).

- This bill ultimately establishes a state-funded program to reduce racial disparities in Black maternal and infant health outcomes by creating community-led birthing and wellness centers in underserved communities.

Key Details:

- Contracts with a minimum of 5 community-based initiatives in Mercer, Union, Atlantic, and Essex counties
- Services include prenatal/postpartum care, midwifery, doula support, mental health, lactation counseling, parenting classes, and referrals to housing and legal services
- Requires more than 50% of hired health care professionals to identify as Black or African American to ensure culturally congruent care
- Establishes training programs for midwives and doulas
- Appropriates \$12 million, with \$5 million designated for faith-based organizations



STATE AND LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATES CONT.

S4228/A4844 Establishes "Targeted Midwifery Workforce Development Act"; appropriates \$12 million. (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake as Senate prime and Asw. Speight as Assembly prime).

- This bill establishes a state workforce development program to recruit and train midwives from historically marginalized communities, addressing the racial gap in maternal and infant health outcomes while building a sustainable midwifery pipeline in underserved areas.

Key Details

- Creates the Targeted Workforce Development Program for Midwifery Training in the Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
- Prioritizes Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), followed by Certified Nurse Midwives and Certified Midwives
- Financial incentives include:
 - \$30,000 annual subsidy to employers for each midwife hired
 - \$50,000 annual payment to midwives running their own practices
 - \$150,000 in family support assistance per student/midwife
- Loan forgiveness for those who commit to serving underserved communities for 5+ years
- Provides childcare, housing, and relocation assistance for nontraditional students
- Establishes mentorship networks and community partnerships with medical schools and birthing hubs
- Appropriates \$12 million from the General Fund, including \$1 million for administration and outreach

VOICES FROM THE FIELD





MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCE SECTION

- **Apply by July 15:** The American Association of Birth Centers is offering Diversity & Inclusion Scholarships to support Members of the Global Majority, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities in accessing birth center education. Scholarships are available for the How to Start a Birth Center Workshop and the AABC Birth Institute, both taking place in Indianapolis.



**Funding and
Scholarship
Opportunities**



MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCE SECTION

- [Turning Policy into Progress: How New Jersey Is Advancing Maternal and Infant Health](#) (January 16, 2026): A new report from Rutgers School of Public Health and the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute finds that New Jersey has made substantial progress implementing maternal and infant health policies enacted between 2018 and 2025. The report reviews 72 laws and two Assembly resolutions across six priority areas, including health care access, family supports, family planning, education, legal protections, and data and quality improvement.
- [Maternal Health Investments in New Jersey Show Progress, but Barriers Persist](#) (February 19, 2026)
- [New Study Reveals Progress in Hospital Maternity Care Access in New Jersey, with Opportunities for Continued Improvement](#) (December 9, 2025)



**Research
Hub**



MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCE SECTION

- [State variations in maternal and child health workforce support](#)
- [Comparison of Medicaid financing for birth centers: a nine-state policy analysis](#)
- [Approaches for Modernizing the Midwifery Profession: New Jersey's Regulatory and Licensing Structure](#)
- [2025 March of Dimes Report Card for New Jersey](#)

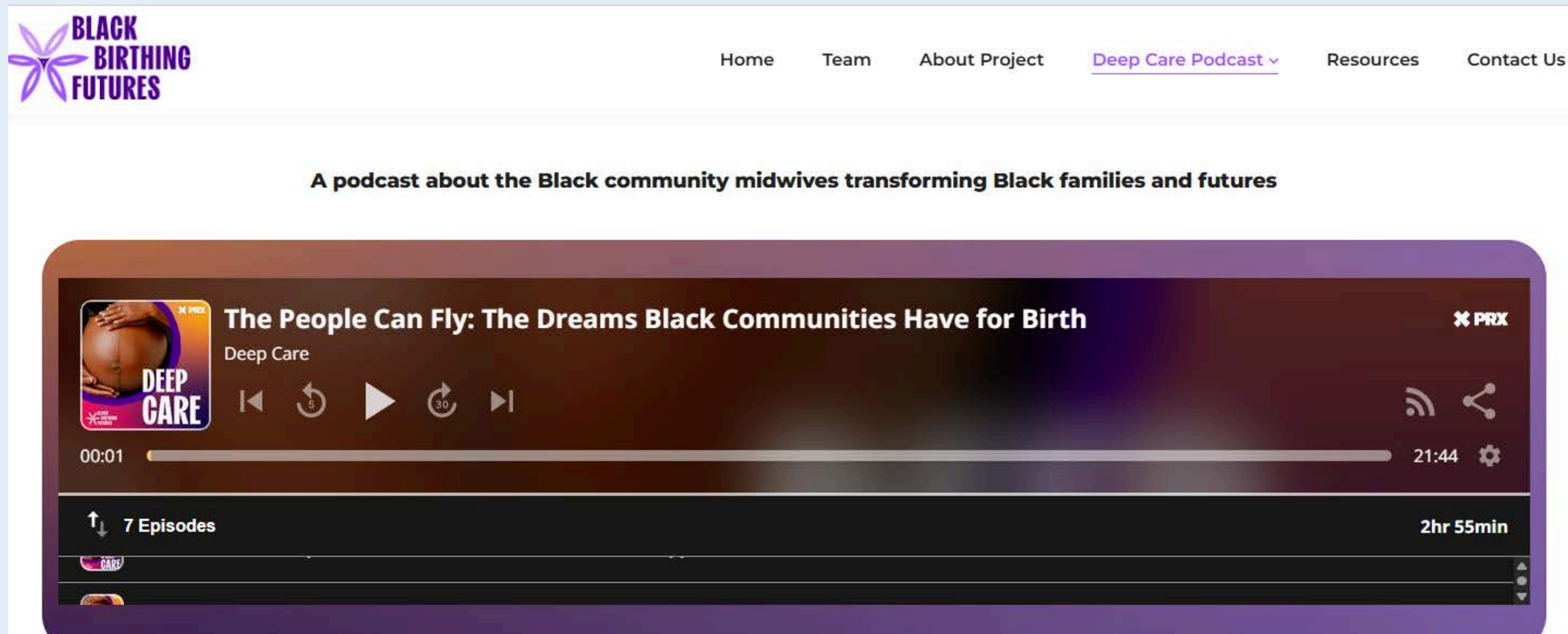


**Research
Hub**

MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCE SECTION

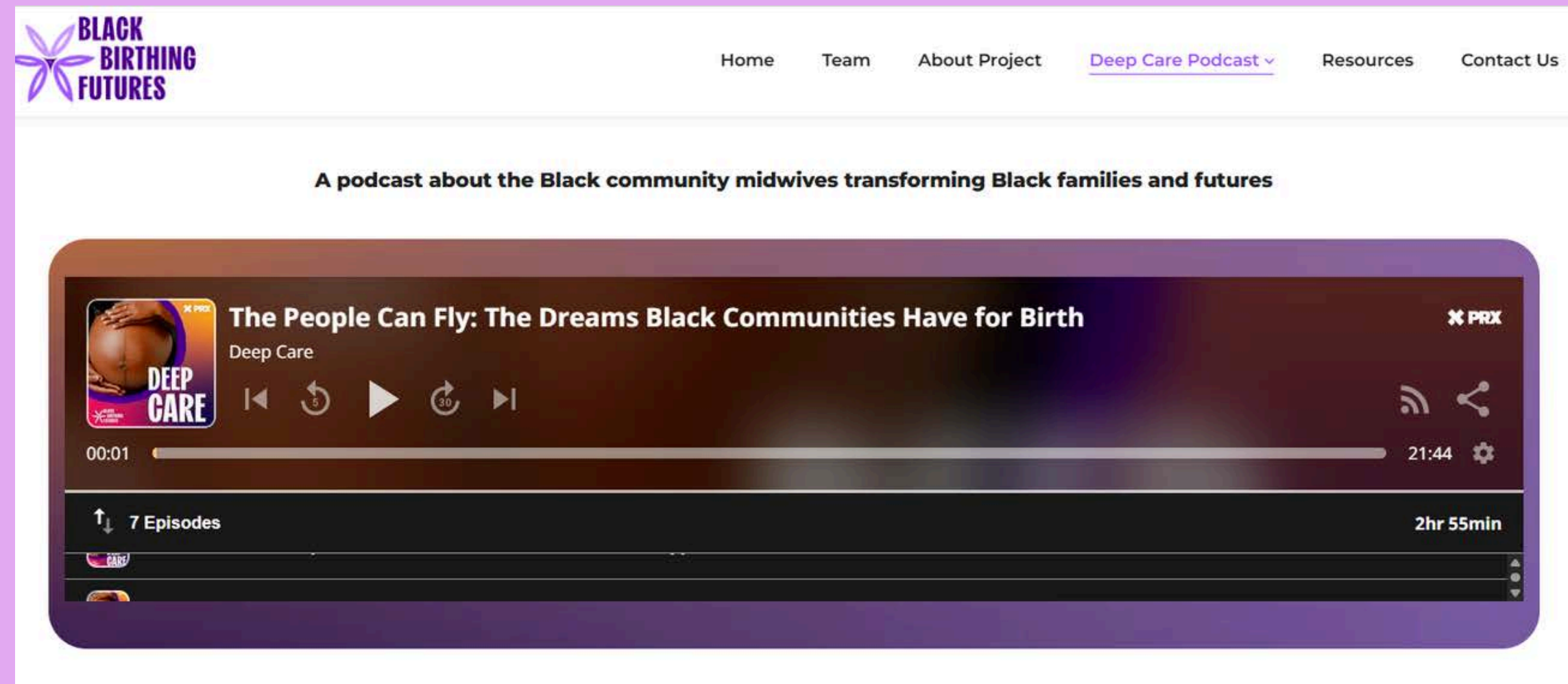
- [Deep Care Podcast](#) is a podcast about Black community midwives transforming Black families and futures. You can [listen here](#), and the [Instagram page](#) has terrific promos and people from the episodes.

Digital
Media



Thinking ahead to July 23 -ACNJ MIH 10:30 meeting: features Dr. Kaytura Felix, Deep Care Podcast- a podcast about the Black community midwives transforming Black families and futures

Deep
Care
Podcast



Upcoming Sessions

**THE
10:30
AM
CALL**



Join the Call!

tinyurl.com/ACNJ1030CALL



Thursday, July 23

Deep Care Podcast

Session 3

Thursday, August 27

Breastfeeding Awareness

Session 4

Thursday, September 24

Advancing Birth Center Equity: Building Leadership & Expanding Access

Session 5

Thursday, October 22

Community Midwifery Education

Session 6

Thursday, November 19

Mental Health

Session 7

Thursday, December 17

KidsCount Maternal Health Data