

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
Breastfeeding Workgroup Presents*

**Physician Training and Engagement:  
Optimizing Breastfeeding and Early Nutrition at the  
Point of Care**



**July 27<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm EDT**

**Presenters:**

**Kera Beskin**, MPH, MBA, AAP Program Manager

**Ngozi Onyema-Melton**, MPH, CHES, AAP Manager of Equity Initiatives

**Jeanne Lindros**, MPH, AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight Director

**Mala Thapar**, MPH, AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight Manager

**Participating in Q&A:**

**Joan Meek**, MD, MS, RD, FAAP, FABM, IBCLC, Orlando Regional Campus Dean  
& Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

**Zoom Info:**

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600502822?pwd=dmxmY0U5L0pDTjIDWWFMWFV2V0htQT09>

Meeting ID: 160 050 2822

Passcode: 8@\$9n!3f

*Presenter Information:*

Kera Beskin works as a Program Manager at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). She supports CDC & HRSA grants focused on increasing breastfeeding rates and medical/dental integration. She holds dual master's degrees in public health and business administration. Before obtaining her graduate degree, she worked for the US Peace Corps for five years internationally and domestically. Her bachelor's degree is in social work and grew up on a 3,000-acre farm in rural Minnesota. She has been at the Academy since 2018.

Ngozi Onyema-Melton is the Manager of Equity Initiatives at the AAP. She manages AAP initiatives focused on advancing health equity including efforts concentrated on minority child health and underserved children. She serves as the primary staff person for the Committee on Native American Child Health, the Section on Minority Health, Equity, and Inclusion and the Council on Immigrant Child and Family Health. Before taking on this role she served as the Manager of Maternal and Child Health Initiatives where she staffed the Section on Breastfeeding, the Section on Oral Health, and managed the Physician Engagement and Training focused on Breastfeeding project, a cooperative agreement between the AAP and CDC. Ms. Onyema-Melton obtained her MPH degree from Benedictine University. She has been with the Academy since 2006.

Jeanne Lindros is the Director of the AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight (Institute). She oversees all strategic, operational, and programmatic work of the Institute. The work of the Institute is focused on the translation of obesity prevention and treatment recommendations and policy into practice within communities, homes, and primarily clinical practice. The Institute's work is supported through numerous federal, foundation and corporate grant and contract programs. Ms. Lindros has her Master of Public Health and has over 18 years of experience focused on obesity prevention, assessment, and treatment. She has been with the Academy since 2003.

Mala Thapar is the Manager of Obesity Initiatives at the AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight (Institute). As such she is the primary staff person for the AAP Section on Obesity, a membership entity within the AAP of approximately 600 pediatricians, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children and families by reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity and promoting healthy active living. In addition, she oversees a number of Institute's early obesity prevention initiatives. Mrs. Thapar has her Master of Public Health with a dual concentration in Epidemiology and Behavioral Science and Health Education from Saint Louis University. She has been with the Academy since 2010.

Webinar point of contact: Sahra Kahin, [Skahin@cdc.gov](mailto:Skahin@cdc.gov)