Press Release – September 28, 2021

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**Free program:**

**AAUW Sponsors Public Zoom “Birth Justice – Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County”**

**6:30 pm, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021**

The Benicia-Vallejo of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a free, public Zoom presentation regarding the findings of the Maternal and Infant Health working group of the Solano County Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG). The program will review data shared in the Commission’s Status Report from May, 2020. It states, “Prenatal and birth risk factors in Solano County vary by race or ethnicity, with Hispanic/Latina and African American women being the least likely to access prenatal care within the first trimester. Asian/Pacific Islander and African American children are the most likely to be born preterm and with low birth weight.”

To register to attend for the Oct. 14 program, contact Benicia-Vallejo AAUW website: <http://beniciavejo-ca.aauw.net/> . Alternatively, users may go to the link [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and enter the following information:

The Meeting ID is 857 4304 5142.

The Passcode is 087356.

Featured co-speaker will be Dr. Shandi J. Fuller, Solano County Deputy Health Officer, who advocates and administers equitable care so that all children and families live to their greatest potential. Also sharing the presentation will be Davon Crawford, a certified doula, who contracts with expectant clients for services locally. Doulas are labor and delivery partners who spend time getting to know their clients’ specific needs and helping them construct their birth plans. They are not medical providers, but most practicing doulas undergo training and certification in prenatal, birth and postpartum care.

Ms. Crawford was featured in a *New York Times* article in 2020. It noted, “In several studies, doula care has been shown to improve outcomes for women who are more likely to experience pre-term birth, low birth weight and birth complications and to decrease the use of epidurals “

The pair will also address an action plan the SCWG Maternal and Child Health working group will take to improve outcomes for citizens in Solano County. Those interested in learning how they might support the SWCG action plan are especially welcome to attend. A question and answer session will follow the program.

The American Association of University Women was founded in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women’s career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education. AAUW’S mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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