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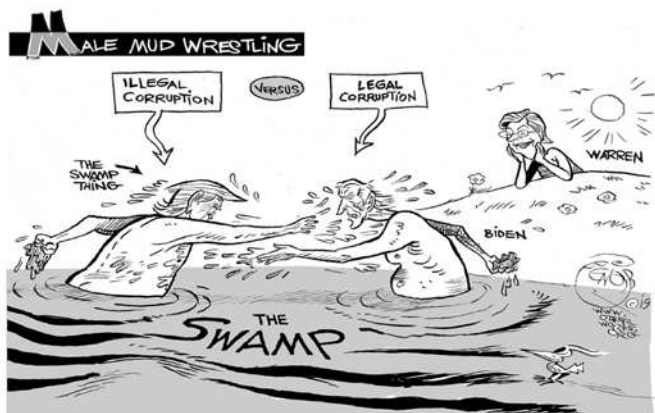
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A healthcare worker and a breastfeeding mom are pictured in this public domain photo from Wikipedia Commons. Portland's Black Parent Initiative has partnered with Multnomah County to provide culturally impactful support for breastfeeding mothers in the Portland area.

For Healthy Moms and Babies

Advocates help women choose breastfeeding

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

African-American women tend to breastfeed their babies less than other groups, but a local nonprofit and Multnomah County are working to see those numbers increase to help improve health outcomes.

Linda Bryant-Daaka of the Black Parent Initiative said her nonprofit has partnered with the county's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program to provide

support for black breastfeeding mothers in the Portland area. They have collaborated on a new community effort, called the Sacred Roots Lactation Pilot Program, which began this month and hopes to increase the rate of breastfeeding among women of color.

New mothers are usually given advice on breastfeeding at the hospital, but some don't follow up because of cultural differences, Bryant-Daaka said. There are few black lactation experts in Portland except for her, she said, but she hopes to hire a recent graduate of Portland State University's lactation degree program to assist her who is also black.

"Hospitals have lactation on staff, but none are black, so some (new mothers) don't go back for their next assessment, so they are not consistently using these services," she said.

To bridge that gap, the Sacred Roots program is offering free home lactation visits for new moms, Bryant-Daaka said, a service that is usually expensive. Black Parent Initiative also offers doula services, she said, which is where most of her current clients come from, but she is hoping to get more referrals from hospitals in the future.

When she goes into a home, Bryant-Daaka can observe the

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New Youth Violence Prevention Leader

Mayor Ted Wheeler has appointed Nike Greene as the new director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention. Greene is currently the director of Education and Community Engagement for the Portland's Center for the Performing Arts, is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and co-pastors with her husband Herman Greene at the Abundant Life PDX Church.

Greene, who has four children and coaches girls' basketball at Roosevelt High, will bring "heal-



Nike Green

ing, inspiration and a message of hope to all she serves through her tireless community engagement," Wheeler said. "We're confident she will continue the positive and powerful work being done by the OYVP to support communities to live free from violence and to offer trauma informed care to those who need it most."

Greene will start her new job on Nov. 12. She replaces Antoinette Edwards who retired in July after 10 years as director of the office.