



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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David Baker
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Executive Director

A.Jonathan Porteus, PhD
WellSpace Health
Chief Executive Officer

RE: Statement Against Racism, Hatred and Violence Toward AAPI Communities

The Birth & Beyond Collaborative stands in solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander communities and the protesters making their voices heard against hatred and racism that has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a country, we are witnessing violence and threats of violence towards our most vulnerable communities. This includes the Atlanta-area mass shootings that led to the killing of eight people, including six Asian women. We cannot ignore these threats, intimidation, assaults, injuries, and deaths fueled by anti-Asian discrimination and hate crimes and rooted in White supremacy. During the past year, since our global pandemic, Asians and those of Asian descent have been the target and victims of increased racism and xenophobia.

Birth & Beyond is committed to social justice. We acknowledge the contributions made by Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have endured decades of persecution and bias while seeking a better life for their families and communities. We recognize the pain that arises for them as a result of the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes and violence. We urge all leaders to uphold the human rights of all people and to take action against such acts.

Birth & Beyond cannot embrace business as usual; the status quo is often stunting the futures of the people we serve, and too often killing them. We will continue to take further steps to strengthen our connection to the community and build on the trust we have established through individual, family and community empowerment. We recognize there is much work to do in building this trust in our local community, and we are committed to further action to better our own practices in Cultural Responsiveness to create more inclusive and bias-free services.