

The ARIAH Foundation Fundraising Landscape Analysis, August 2023

Deborah L. Kaplan, DrPH, MPH, PA - Bio

Dr. Deborah Kaplan is a public health leader, advisor and consultant with expertise in maternal, infant, sexual and reproductive health, prioritizing racial and gender equity in perinatal outcomes. She has over forty years of public health experience in clinical care, health education, program and policy development and advocacy, and program leadership.

Dr. Kaplan is the former Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, serving in that position from 2003 until June 2020. From 2021-2023 she served on the Women and Gender Subcommittee of the Institutute for Medicaid Innovation. Currently Dr. Kaplan is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy. She is a member of the Postpartum Awareness Day Campaign Collective, with the goal to create awareness for the necessity of quality, safe, and respectful care environments for Black, brown and Indigenous women and other pregnant and birthing people during the postpartum period; and a Board member of the ARIAH Foundation (Advancing of Reproductive Innovation through Artistry and Healing). She was recently appointed by NYS to be a member of the Unmet Health and Resource Needs Facing Pregnant Women Task Force.

Dr. Kaplan is committed to actively speaking out and participating in efforts to dismantle structural racism, gender oppression, patriarchy, white supremacy, and wealth inequality as the root causes of health inequities affecting Black, Latino/a/x, Indigenous and other people of color, with a focus on inequities in perinatal, reproductive and sexual health outcomes. She received her training as a Physician Assistant at Johns Hopkins University, holds a Master's in Public Health from Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY), and a Doctor in Public Health from the CUNY School of Public Health & Health Policy. She is the proud mother of two daughters, Emma and Zoë, and delighted grandmother of Olive.