

Corinthia Gladstone M. Ed, Ed. S Educational Psychology
Jermaine Gladstone Licensed Psychiatric Technician

Title & Organization:

Parent advocates for Arrowhead Regional Medical Center NICU Colton, California

Brief background:

Jermaine was born in Guyana, South America and came to the the United States when he was 4 years old. With a strong desire to work in the medical field, Jermaine began his work career in food service at Loma Linda University Medical Center. He currently serves in behavioral health as a psychiatric technician at Dignity Health Community Hospital of San Bernardino. Corinthia was born and raised in California and developed a strong interest to work with at risk youth. She began her career as a para professional educator and currently pursuing a career as an educational psychologist for local school districts. Jermaine and Corinthia share two beautiful boys together. Mattias (1yr old) and Moses (4yr old) who is a NICU graduate after a 5 month stay, and will embark on preschool this 2021-22 school year.

Objective:

1. To Provide knowledge and experience of the NICU from a dual parent perspective.
2. Provide insight on how NICU medical professionals can best assist the parents.

Brief description of your presentation:

1. Labor and Delivery Experience
 - a. Incompetent cervix diagnosis
 - b. "Safely surrender" based on negative prognosis
 - c. Realizing baby was alive and reinstating parental rights
2. NICU experience
 - a. Managing emotions in the NICU environment
 - b. What negatively impacted us
 - b.i. Incongruent reporting from team members
 - c. What helped us
 - c.i. Kangaroo care
 - c.ii. Building rapport with nursing staff

c.iii. Nursing staff explanations of interventions and providing literature

c.iv. Allowing hands on care including bathing and diaper changing

3. Hindsight

- a. Provide full prognosis both negative and positive.
- b. NICU experience doesn't end in the NICU. Place follow- up calls to parents
- c. Invite parents to participate in "Rounds"
- d. Advocate for kangaroo care or empower parents to advocate for kangaroo care.