

Fall 2013

## Planned Parenthood Implements Health Care Reform



**Medical staff receiving EHR training in Greensboro (NC).**

After years of advocating for health care reform, Planned Parenthood is now implementing the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare). Doing so requires affiliate-wide technology upgrades and in-depth training for every member of our staff.

We are currently installing a powerful Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. Our clinicians have begun reviewing and recording medical histories, lab

results and diagnoses on sophisticated electronic platforms. In the process, we are phasing out our use of paper medical charts.

Our EHR system requires new hardware and software as well as many hours of intensive training. The effort is worth the expense. Patients are already benefiting from our increased capacity to bill for insurance, provide telemedicine services and collaborate



**Internet kiosks in our health centers (including Charleston, SC) allow patients to sign up for ObamaCare**

with other medical providers to increase continuity of care.

Many of our patients, Education clients and Public Affairs advocates remain uninsured or underinsured. To help our clients seek more affordable health care, PPHS has trained every staff person across all four of our states. We have also established Internet kiosks in our health centers so clients can sign up for ObamaCare.

Of course, our advocacy work for health care reform will continue. Only West Virginia has agreed to expand Medicaid in order to cover its most impoverished citizens. Currently, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina have not taken this vital step. Yet regardless of what state governments decide to do, Planned Parenthood will be here to provide the quality, affordable care our clients need.

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Planned Parenthood Health Systems is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating in four states and headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Our organization is an accredited affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the world's largest and most trusted voluntary reproductive healthcare organization.

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# Message from Walt

I returned from my sabbatical in September excited and delighted that the Staff and Board were able to continue making great strides to further the Planned Parenthood mission. I remain deeply appreciative of the leadership provided by Board Chair Al Knighton and by Bonnie Smith, who served as Interim CEO during my absence. I am also grateful to all the Board members, senior management, employees and volunteers who continue the work of Planned Parenthood every day.



Walter Klausmeier

That vital work must continue in earnest. Open enrollment in the new health care reform marketplaces has begun and PPHS must assist our uninsured clients to access more affordable medical options. We must also continue serving as a safety net provider to families that are being denied access to medical services for political purposes.

In Virginia, we've begun renovating our Roanoke and Charlottesville health centers to meet unwarranted state-imposed architectural changes that will do nothing to further patient safety. Over the summer, North Carolina passed a statute that will likely force us to make the same unwarranted changes in several other health centers. The pressure on Planned Parenthood and the demands on our supporters have never been greater.

One thing that did not change while I was away is the continued attempts to impose senseless burdens on the reproductive health of women and their families. Fortunately, the tenacity of these attacks is matched at every turn by the dedication of our supporters, our volunteers and our staff.

Walter Klausmeier, President/CEO

## 30th Anniversary Celebration in Greensboro

This fall, over 350 supporters joined Walt and MS-NBC television host Melissa Harris-Perry (pictured here) for PPHS's annual Health Heroes awards dinner in Greensboro (NC). Dr. Harris-Perry, a national advocate for women's issues, served as the featured



speaker in honoring local heroes who demonstrate courage and dedication to ensure access to reproductive health care. This year's award recipients were instrumental in the establishment of Planned Parenthood in Greensboro 30 years ago: founding board members Kay Stern, Linda Carlisle, and Ron Johnson and founding Executive Director Gail Hoffman-Hornsby.

# Greater Access in Virginia

In July, PPHS began offering federally subsidized family planning services in our three Virginia health centers: Blacksburg, Charlottesville and Roanoke. These centers can now offer contraceptive care, cancer screenings, STD treatment and other preventive reproductive health care for little or no cost to individuals and families living in poverty. Already, medical visits at these health centers have jumped by as much as 21%.

Due to partisan politics, Virginia banned Planned Parenthood from receiving public funds (including federal funds that flow through the state). Undaunted, PPHS successfully competed with the state for these family planning dollars. PPHS will always place the welfare of patients ahead of political gamesmanship. Our mission, first and foremost, is to provide care – no matter what.



**Charlottesville Nurse Practitioner Catherine Quick (left) is now able to provide preventive health care at lower costs, even for teens.**

# TRAPPED!



**Within the state capitol rotunda, more than 300 supporters rally against TRAP in West Virginia.**

In 2011, Virginia passed a TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) law that forces women's health centers to meet unwarranted and expensive architectural requirements. The law has already led to the closure of two centers with many more likely to follow in 2014.

We will not shut our doors. Our Roanoke Health Center (completed in 2000) and our Charlottesville center (2004) were the first Planned Parenthood facilities in the nation built to be "TRAP-resistant." Nevertheless, we now have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade these health centers.

TRAP has now spread to other states. On October 1, North Carolina's TRAP law went into effect. Though the architectural requirements have not been finalized, we fully expect this law will also close women's health centers. Such closures will place even



**Planned Parenthood supporters rally against TRAP in North Carolina.**

more pressure on PPHS to insure that this legal health care option remains accessible.

This summer, West Virginia's Attorney General announced consideration of another TRAP initiative. That prompted PPHS and our coalition partners to hold a massive protest rally at the state capitol. We have since been mounting an enormous grassroots campaign to prevent yet another state from being TRAPPED.



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## Planned Giving: *A Legacy of Caring*

Connie Dulaney has made a generous bequest to PPHS in her will. Here is her story:

*"Though I didn't date boys until college, I began supporting Planned Parenthood with my school allowance when I was 13 years old. Ever since I can remember, I've believed unplanned pregnancy results in too many children. The world is so overcrowded, which leads to climate change and poverty and so many other problems. Good family planning and education are the solutions. The more we can educate our students, the better off we'll be. That is why I'll always support Planned Parenthood."*

Please consider supporting our mission and our future by making a planned gift to Planned Parenthood Health Systems. For information on planned giving options, please visit our website: [www.pphs.org/plannedgiving](http://www.pphs.org/plannedgiving). Thank you.



**Connie Dulaney, PPHS supporter**  
(Photo Copyright ©Eduardo Galliani)

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