

We're Here.



Planned Parenthood | WE'RE HERE.™

A publication of Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region | www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis | Fall 2012



Support reproductive health care for the women of the Mid-South
www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis
(901) 725-1717

Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region (PPGMR), founded in 1938, is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Our mission is to ensure broad public access to reproductive and related health care through health center services, education, advocacy, and community partnerships serving 42 counties in West Tennessee, North Mississippi and East Arkansas.

Chasing truth

“Opt-in” means kids get left out in the dark



Barry Chase, CEO

The truth is young people in Memphis need greater access to information about HIV and sexually transmitted infections, not less. But a new Memphis City Schools policy makes it more likely that students will miss this information. MCS is switching from an “opt-out” policy for HIV prevention to an “opt-in” policy. Under the old policy, a parent would have to ask that their child be excused from classes, but in practice few parents did so. Under the new rules, parents will have to “opt-in” or give active permission for their children to attend HIV prevention classes.

Unfortunately, many parents are absent or not involved in their child’s schooling and not available to sign a permission slip. Yet many of those students are the ones most at risk and most likely to need sexuality education from the schools.

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States says an “opt-in” policy places an unnecessary barrier between young people and the knowledge they need to navigate their teen years to become responsible adults. “Opt-in” puts the health and lives of our young people at risk. During 2010, metropolitan Memphis had the nation’s fifth-highest proportion of residents newly infected with HIV. We should be opening doors for young people to access information, not creating obstacles for them to overcome.

Decisions by Shelby County and State Put More and More Women in a State of Emergency

Last October, when the Shelby County Commission was debating the health department’s contract with Christ Community Health Services (CCHS) to provide reproductive health services through the Title X family planning program, Planned Parenthood supporters warned the Commissioners it would mean some women would go without the preventive health care they need.

Now there’s proof that hundreds of Planned Parenthood’s former Title X patients went without care for at least several months after the county contract made it impossible for them to get subsidized care at Planned Parenthood.

Memphis Flyer reporter Hannah Sayle wrote a well-researched exposé in the weekly newspaper’s August 23–29th issue. Ms. Sayle reports there was a substantial decline in Title X visits from October 2011 to March 2012. In December 2011, Christ Community only saw 27 patient visits at all four of its Title X locations. In contrast, in December 2010 before the funding was disrupted, Planned Parenthood had 666 Title X patient visits. The Shelby



Dozens of Planned Parenthood supporters attended a rally preceding the Shelby County Commission meeting on October 17 during which the contract with CCHS was approved.

County Health Department’s clinics did not see an increase in patients during that time frame, indicating that hundreds of women and teens were simply not going anywhere for the health care they need. Worse yet, almost half of the \$1,345,000 allotted to Shelby County for Title X services in FY2012 appears to have gone unused. According to Ms. Sayle’s follow up story published in the August 30th issue of the *Memphis Flyer*, \$572,000 in funds that should have gone to pay for much-needed services for women

Continued page 2 >

Calendar

National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
September

Global Female Condom Day
September 13th

Sexpert Training for College Students
September 17–18th, 4–8pm
at 2430 Poplar Avenue
Please RSVP to Elokin CaPece at ecapec@ppgmr.org or 901-725-3033 (college students only)

James Award Reception
September 19th
Contact Aimee Lewis for tickets at alewis@ppgmr.org or 901-725-3051

Hulu Hooping for Health Free Workshop
October 3rd, 6-7pm
Planned Parenthood Health Center waiting room
Please contact Joan Carr at jcarr@ppgmr.org or 901-725-3008 to RSVP

National Family Sexuality Education Month
October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October

National Health Education Week
October 21–27th

Abstinence 101 Training for Educators
November 6th, 9am-5pm
Please contact Elokin CaPece at ecapec@ppgmr.org or 901-725-3033 to register

World AIDS Day
December 1

Hooping for Health

Planned Parenthood supporter Chloe O’Hearn enjoys hulu hooping. It’s a great way to get fit and stay in shape, but for her, it is so much more. In fact, Chloe has established a well-known troop of hoopers named HoopStatic who perform at events like the Cooper Young Festival, the Memphis Music and Heritage Festival and the Mid-South Pride Parade.

To Chloe, hooping is more than just exercise. It’s a way energize, find inner peace and build a better community. Her troop teaches hooping at Youth Villages – lessons that have had a positive impact on the young women who live there.

On October 3rd, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Chloe is bringing her troop to Planned Parenthood for a beginner’s lesson in hooping. The class is free.



HoopStatic founder Chloe O’Hearn hoops for Planned Parenthood!

Hoops will be available for use during the class and can also be purchased for \$15. Because class size is limited, please reserve your space by contacting Joan Carr at (901) 725-3008 or email jcarr@ppgmr.org. Don’t miss this opportunity to have a hooptastic time!

Continued from page 1 >

and teens in Shelby County are now lost – they do not roll over to the next fiscal year.

The importance of Title X preventive health services cannot be overstated. Most Title X patients have incomes of less than 100% of the federal poverty level. They may not have health insurance. They may be students who need confidential services. By disrupting the care they used to get at Planned Parenthood, hundreds, perhaps thousands of young women in the Mid-South were put at risk of unplanned pregnancies and illnesses that threaten their health and fertility. Ultimately, the tax payers will be saddled with the cost of unintended pregnancies, untreated STDs, and cancers that went undiagnosed during that time.

The good news is, Planned Parenthood bypassed state and local officials and applied for funding to provide Title X services as a direct grantee of the federal Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS). In July, the Department announced that Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region would receive \$395,000 per year in Title X funding for the next three years.

That amount is only about half what Planned Parenthood previously received from the Tennessee Department of Health. But it will allow Planned Parenthood to once again provide these vital preventive health services at no cost to the people who are least able to pay. It will allow patients to once again get their health care from the provider they can rely on for unbiased and non-judgmental counseling and care.

“If all the patients we lost after the funding loss come back to Planned Parenthood, we will quickly run out of Title X money,” said PPGMR CEO Barry Chase. “That’s where our donors come in. We need their support to serve all the patients.”

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James Award Reception to Honor the Gilliland Family

PPGMR will present the Gilliland family with the annual James Award on Wednesday, September 19, at a reception at the Dixon Gallery & Gardens’ Hughes Pavilion from 6–8 p.m. Each year, PPGMR honors those who have shown unwavering support of the ideals of Planned Parenthood.

For the Gillilands, philanthropy and service are a family affair. Kate Gilliland Connell recently completed her third term on the PPGMR board, including a term as board chair. Kate also served on the Brooks Museum board for many years.

Her parents, Lucia and Jim, have a long history of community involvement. They have hosted past Planned Parenthood Federation chair, Elena Marks, in their home for PPGMR. Jim served on the PPGMR board and has been a frequent and vocal supporter on our behalf, writing Op-Ed pieces and letters to the editor to local media.

Additionally, Lucia worked in the Washington office of Vice President Al Gore; served on the staff of former Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter; founded the Grant Center; and on serves the Tennessee Arts Commission, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the Riverfront Development Corporation. Jim is a former officer of the U.S. Navy, who also served President Clinton’s administration as general counsel to the Department of Agriculture. He has also served on the boards of Lemoyne-Owen College, the Memphis Arts Council, the Environmental Law Institute, and the M.K. Ghandi Institute.

The James Award is named for Memphis City Councilman and business leader Bob James, a long-time supporter



of Planned Parenthood who bequeathed \$1,000,000 to create an endowment fund at the Community Foundation to support PPGMR. His

generosity allows PPGMR to continue its mission of serving clients regardless of their ability to pay.

Tickets to the James Award celebration are \$75 per person, \$65 of which is tax deductible. To purchase tickets, contact Aimee Lewis at 901-725-3051 or alewis@ppgmr.org.



Planned Parenthood’s college peer counselors, known as “Sexperts”: (left to right) Sammie Bowens, Christian Brothers University; Joseph Mitchell, University of Memphis; Ayeisha Cole, LeMoyne-Owen College; Michael Walker, LeMoyne-Owen College; Xany Moore, Rhodes College; Zoe O’Bryan, Christian Brothers University.



If birth control doesn't happen,
you've lost control of what does.

Services are free if you qualify. Ask us.

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