PPNNE WELCOMES MEAGAN GALLAGHER AS NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

I am delighted to share the exciting news that, following a nationwide search, Meagan Gallagher has been selected as PPNNE’s new President & CEO! The Board of Trustees’ CEO Search Committee spent more than six months executing a thorough, multi-step process, seeking input and guidance from both staff and trustees and vetting an impressive pool of top candidates. Given the critical timing, and intersection of health care reform and the new leadership required to strategically position our organization for the future, our mandate was to find the right leader that our patients, staff, donors, and communities need and so richly deserve.

In Meagan, we have found that rare leader with the vision, capacity, experience, and management philosophy needed to bring PPNNE to new heights in service delivery and advocacy for women’s health care. Her love of big challenges -- as well as her unparalleled creativity, skill, and determination in meeting those challenges -- has been evident during her previous tenure as PPNNE’s Sr. V.P. of Business Operations since 2010. In these last three years, Meagan played a prominent role in repositioning PPNNE to be bold and visible as the provider of choice for our patients and to take advantage of the opportunities health care reform will bring.

Prior to joining us in northern New England, Meagan, a graduate of Tufts University, served with distinction and success at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts as Sr. V.P. of Strategic Initiatives and Chief Operating Officer (2004-10) and as Chief Financial Officer (2000-04). This foundational experience, along with her talent for collaboration and passion for best practice in every aspect of management, made her the premiere choice for PPNNE. We are eager for the journey forward with Meagan as our leader. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating her as this new and exciting chapter begins for PPNNE!

- Joanne D’Arcangelo, Chair PPNNE Board of Trustees

NEW PPNNE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Donna Burkett, PPNNE’s new Medical Director! Dr. Burkett is a family physician who has specialized in women’s reproductive and sexual health for many years. In residency, she helped create an abortion training curriculum for OB-GYN residents, and has explored the overlap of reproductive health and primary care ever since. She has served as the administrative partner in an OB-GYN group practice, taught family medicine residents about vasectomies and childbirth for 8 years, and previously served as the Planned Parenthood Medical Director at PP Health Systems in the Carolinas and Virginia.

On the national level, she enjoys exploring opportunities for improving health care for women by integrating primary care into women’s health care settings, and serving on numerous national advisory committees.

-Meagan Gallagher, President & CEO

A NAKED NOTION REACHES 1 MILLION VIEWS

Our sex education project, A Naked Notion with Laci Green, hit a milestone by garnering more than one million views on YouTube! The project launched in April of 2012 and aims to engage young people through non-judgmental, medically accurate sex education videos. The “Birth Control Basics” series -- which examines the effectiveness, the cost, and the pros and cons of each method -- is very popular, as are other videos related to relationships, body image, pleasure and sexuality.

www.youtube.com/ananakednotion
www.facebook.com/ppnneann
PPNNE HELPS THE COMMUNITY NAVIGATE THE NEW HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Over the summer, PPNNE was selected to serve as a Navigator Organization in both New Hampshire and Vermont, to provide in-person health coverage enrollment assistance. Our reputation as a trusted health care provider made us a natural fit for starting conversations with people about their insurance options.

Our 10 Vermont Navigators and 17 New Hampshire Navigators received 20-30 hours of extensive training in order to serve the public in this capacity. Certification was issued to each Navigator once training concluded.

Navigators spent the summer educating the public about the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the health care Marketplaces where individuals would buy insurance beginning October 1st. Navigators raised awareness through outreach at nearly 100 different community events July through September, ranging from baseball games, to farmers’ markets, to festivals and fairs, conducted door-to-door canvasses, and reached 3,673 individuals. On October 1st, the enrollment period began. Our Navigators have been holding in-person appointments at our health centers to assist people in finding insurance that fits their budget and signing individuals up for plans.

We are already seeing the positive impact of this historic change in health care. For example, a woman recently came into our Williston, VT health center for assistance after learning her current insurance plan would cost upwards of $700 next year. She worked with our Navigator, Michelle, who helped her find a plan in the Marketplace for only $87 per year. Michelle said, “My client cried tears of joy when she saw her monthly premium. She gave me a hug and said, ‘I can finally sleep at night.’”

If you or someone you know need assistance navigating the new health care system, please give us a call at 1-866-476-1321 or visit www.ppnne.org for more information.

PATIENT SAFETY ZONE PASSES IN PORTLAND, ME

On Monday, November 18th, the Portland City Council voted unanimously to pass a 39-foot Patient Safety Zone Ordinance for our downtown Portland Health Center. Patients can now access critical health care services without facing intimidation and harassment. More than 100 supporters came to the standing-room only council chambers for the vote. 27 supporters told deeply personal stories about their experiences with the protestors and urged the Council to pass the safety zone.

Over the last 13 months, protestors were outside our health center on 93 different days. It was 93 days of shouting; 93 days of graphic signage and pamphlets thrust in patients’ faces; 93 days of feeling unsafe; and 93 days of walking a harrowing gauntlet just to enter our front door. Because the Council voted to make the Patient Safety Zone Ordinance effective immediately, our Portland patients won’t have to endure a 94th day.

We thank the Portland City Council for this vote, and thank all of our courageous, passionate supporters. Thank you for standing with us.
Dr. Hildreth supports Planned Parenthood for many reasons, one of which is our ability to serve patients regardless of their backgrounds or income. He said, “There is a huge gap for uninsured women. These women deserve equal treatment when it comes to their health care and well-being. They are our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters. And Planned Parenthood helps fill that gap.”

The apple didn’t fall far from the tree, as the saying goes. Dr. Hildreth’s daughter Anne is also passionate about women’s health and has worked for PPNNE since 1989. She has worn many hats during her time with us, serving as a Regional Health Center Manager in New Hampshire and as a Physician Assistant, providing family planning, limited primary care and abortion care. She formerly provided prenatal care at PPNNE as well.

For Anne, it is the patients who keep her going and inspired. “I love that I am able to provide safe, non-judgmental health care to my patients,” Anne said. “They know that PPNNE is a place that will respect them and meet their needs.”

“We are pleased to share with you another Planned Parenthood family! Dr. Eugene “Pat” Hildreth is a retired internal medicine doctor who was head of the American College of Physicians, was President of the American Board of Internal Medicine, served on the National Academy of Sciences, and was elected teacher of the year at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and at Reading Hospital. His daughter Anne is a long-time Physician Assistant (PA-C) at PPNNE.

Dr. Hildreth is a long-time supporter of women’s health, reproductive rights, and Planned Parenthood. His passion began in 1969 while his wife Dee volunteered at the Planned Parenthood in Reading, Pennsylvania as a pregnancy counselor. He was impressed with both his wife and with the young women she was assisting.

After graduating from the University of Virginia Medical School, Dr. Hildreth went on to a 12-month medical internship at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. After serving our country in the Korean War, he eventually became chief medical resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and served on the faculty from 1955 until 1969.

During his time at these hospitals, he witnessed firsthand the tragic implications of illegal back-alley abortions. Dr. Hildreth recalled that there were special OB-GYN wards where many of the women were septic (suffering from severe infection) or were hemorrhaging (suffering from profuse bleeding). Because abortion was illegal, most women did not seek medical help in time and many died.

One patient stuck out in Dr. Hildreth’s mind: a 15-year-old girl who was hemorrhaging from an illegal abortion. She didn’t make it through the emergency room doors before she died. “It was obvious to me that this girl would risk almost anything to end an unwanted pregnancy, even death,” he said.

“But there is a huge gap for uninsured women. These women deserve equal treatment when it comes to their health care...And Planned Parenthood helps fill that gap.”

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EMPLOYEE PROFILE: KRISTIN DODD

Position: Call Center Coordinator
Location: Burlington, VT Administrative Headquarters

Why do you work for Planned Parenthood?
I strongly believe in our mission. I’ve been a patient at PPNNE since I was 16, and I’ve always admired the staff’s hard work and dedication. They took great care of me when I needed it most and I wanted to work here and help make that same difference in someone’s life. Making sure patients have access to preventative and reproductive health care is incredibly important. Unfortunately it’s a struggle for a lot of people financially and geographically to get the health care they need.

What is the most gratifying thing about your job?
I work with a wonderful group of women in the Call Center. We are a unified team and really support each other. We are the first point of contact for most patients, and I am very proud of the way we create a warm, welcoming environment for patients looking for PPNNE services.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?
My husband and I recently adopted two rescue dogs from the south. We have spent much of the summer and fall taking them on adventures and making them a part of our family. They are a constant reminder for me that there is good in the world if you look for it.

What do you like to do for fun?
I play co-ed soccer with a fantastic group of friends. As a team we have also completed a few Spartan obstacle races in Vermont, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. I also enjoy traveling and photography and spend as much time as possible behind the lens.