

The Nurse in Your Purse

By Chris Charbonneau, CEO

For years, my colleagues and I have been trying to answer the question, “How do we see people who either can’t or have difficulty getting to bricks-and-mortar sites, to at least get them started on birth control or begin investigating a potential sexually transmitted infection?” We asked ourselves: Do we really need to make getting birth control and disease screening harder than it already is?

For 85 percent of our patients, Planned Parenthood is their primary-care doctor. Years of effort have resulted in our pilot program, Planned Parenthood Care. You may have seen recent articles about this virtual doctor system, accessible by app, making available real-time “office visits” that bring patient and medical provider face to face on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer.

Currently, we’re offering birth control methods and at-home sexually transmitted infection testing. We should be able to start billing insurance for patients starting in December 2014. We set about trying to figure out what would be legal, what would be possible, and what would be good care. We feel like we wrapped that all up in a bow in Planned Parenthood Care.

For more information, visit plannedparenthood.org/get-care

Setting the Agenda for the Future!

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” – Eleanor Roosevelt

As we approach Planned Parenthood’s national 100-year anniversary in 2016, we are dreaming big about all that we want to accomplish, not only to serve more people, but also to change the landscape in which we work. It’s time for us to set the agenda and create a bold vision of how, in partnership with our supporters, we will create a better future for women, men, and teens in the Northwest and beyond.

This fall, over 350 supporters gathered at our Annual Check-Up events in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Boise, Sun Valley, and Bellevue. These intimate events were opportunities for us to connect with key partners, share powerful stories of impact, and thank those who make it all possible. We also shared some preliminary ideas for big projects we might launch in the future and gathered really helpful feedback, both at these events and through surveys that over 2,000 supporters took the time to complete. We’re reviewing all that feedback now and using it to shape our future vision.

We couldn’t be more grateful to have our supporters be a part of this extraordinary moment. Thank you to all who participated in the events and survey!

If you’d like to learn more about our plans for the future, please contact Chris Charbonneau, CEO, at 206.328.6812. ■



The ribbon cutting ceremony at our new Bellevue health center.



Executive Update

A message from
Christine Charbonneau, CEO

We're approaching Planned Parenthood's 100 year anniversary. It's unbelievable that we are still fighting many of the same battles, and struggling to hold the line against regressive anti women's health politics. The 2014 general election was a tough one for supporters of women's health and rights. Many champions of reproductive justice lost to politicians who want to interfere in women's personal medical decisions.

It is important to note that our opponents, who won in these close races, only did so by asserting that they were opposed to the personhood legislation they had previously sponsored (claiming life begins at the 'moment' of conception and curtailing women's choice as a result) and in favor of over-the-counter birth control pills (which sounds like a great idea but is actually a ruse to get out of covering birth control in insurance plans). While we avoided losing any seats in Idaho, the Washington State Senate changed to a strong anti-women majority. Additionally, Alaska U.S. Senator Mark Begich narrowly lost his intense reelection campaign;

the loss of that seat and others means that both houses of Congress will also have anti-women's health majorities. On the positive side, even in races that were lost, the groundwork that we've laid to build grassroots volunteer support and power for the issues most important to women and families in neighborhoods and communities across the tri-state area will shore up efforts for 2015 and later.

We're already preparing for the 2015 legislative sessions in all three states, to ensure that women's essential health care decisions are protected. With your help we will continue to hold legislators accountable and work as hard as we possibly can to ensure that abortion access and birth control coverage are protected.

When the recent King County budget crisis meant that the County would have to close some family planning health centers, we built on our 30+ year track record of working collaboratively with Public Health of Seattle & King County (PHSKC) and were a natural fit to step in and ensure continuity of care in the Greenbridge

site, located in White Center, south of Seattle. As services are transitioned to Planned Parenthood, we're acutely focused on ensuring that women, men, and teens in the White Center community and surrounding areas continue to receive high-quality, affordable reproductive health care. We're excited to share the former PHSKC clinic space with the PHSKC Women and Infant Care office. Additionally, we've formed a new committee with King County, which will bring together important leaders and stakeholders to champion access and availability of contraceptive methods, STD services, and cervical cancer screening for area women.

In the last year, we helped over 6,720 people get insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act, and many of those were able to then be seen for same-day appointments; we're so excited to be able to help our communities access the full range of health care benefits! PPGNW once again has In-Person Assistors at our health centers, ready to help our communities enroll in health insurance coverage. ■



Nearly 200 rising leaders from seven western states came together for the 2014 Planned Parenthood Generation Action Power Tour in Olympia

Legislative Update

By Elaine Rose, CEO, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

It's been a busy summer and fall for Planned Parenthood advocacy and political organizations as we worked on a number of activities in all three states to support the 2014 general election and elections for years to come. While we were disappointed with much of this year's results, we remain committed to continuing the fight for women's health and rights into 2015 and beyond.

Power Tour 2014

This summer, Planned Parenthood Generation Action – Planned Parenthood Action Fund's youth and campus engagement programs — brought together 1000 young activists and emerging leaders in seven cities across the country for a series of Youth Organizing Power Tours.

The local stop for the 2014 Power Tour was in early August on the campus of the Evergreen State College, with nearly 200 rising leaders from seven western states (including Washington, Alaska, and Idaho) coming together for an intense series of trainings and issue briefings.

We couldn't have been more proud to bring so many young leaders together for this incredibly important weekend. With ongoing attacks on women's health care happening across the country, we were so inspired to see that young people are engaged and focused on protecting access to women's health care and reproductive justice. The Power Tour was a unique opportunity for each and every attendee to take new skills and knowledge back to their home communities in the fight for reproductive health and rights.

Fair Pocatello

Advocates for equality across Idaho celebrated election results in Pocatello in May after voters upheld their city's non-discrimination ordinance making it illegal to discriminate against people for being gay or transgender in the areas of employment, housing, and public places.

PPVNW played a critical role in Fair Pocatello, the successful campaign to support fairness. Besides providing one of our organizers as the Campaign Manager, we served as a leader on the coalition table, recruited numerous volunteers, and provided support with dozens of like-minded volunteers calling into Pocatello from all over the state.

If the measure had passed, LGBT Pocatellans would no longer have been protected from discrimination, meaning they could have lost their jobs or their housing simply for being gay or transgender. In October, Lewiston became the ninth city in Idaho take matters into its own hands by passing a local non-discrimination ordinance due to the state's unwillingness to act on amending the existing Idaho Human Rights Act (IHRA) to simply add the words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity".

Get Out the Vote

PPVNW devoted a large amount of resources this election season to a civic engagement program focused on urging people to vote across all three states. We launched a successful Pledge to Vote website that allowed voters to receive updates and reminders about their voting information, and we called over 35,000 voters and sent 24,000 pieces of direct mail to ensure that people knew when and where to vote.

What's Next?

Now that the election is over, our tri-state team is transitioning towards working on support for open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act and preparing for legislative sessions. We're still working on our agendas, but we look forward to working hard in all three states to continue the fight for legislation and funding that protects women's health and rights. ■

International Program Update

PPGNW Staff Train Sexuality Educators in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam

By Diane Bushley, International Program Manager

This has been an exciting year of growth for the PPGNW International Program. We supported sexuality education projects with local partners in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam, and teams of PPGNW educators traveled to both countries to provide training for our international colleagues.

Vietnam

Together with our Vietnamese partners from the Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), we co-facilitated a summer camp training for middle school peer educators in the capital city of Hanoi at the end of June. With help from PPGNW, CCIHP began training the peer educators in March.

The 3-day summer camp, “My Body, My Future,” strengthened the leadership skills of 19 peer educators, instilled confidence in their presentation and teaching skills, and increased their understanding of their role as sexuality educators. The impact of the peer education program and the camp is evident in the words of the young people:

“I am more passionate and active (about sexuality education). Now I can talk to and understand other people are different on the outside, but similar on the inside.”

“It’s not a bad thing to learn about sexual and reproductive health – we should not be ashamed.”

Dominican Republic

In our ongoing collaboration with MAMI, a Dominican Non-Governmental Organization that provides sexual and reproductive health services and education for adolescents in the southeastern province of La Romana, another PPGNW education team traveled to the Dominican Republic in August. In a unique six-day workshop, they trained fifteen enthusiastic youth peer educators in Forum Theater, a problem-solving tool that enables participants to improvise solutions to social oppression. Since the training, MAMI has used Forum Theater to tackle topics such as safe sex, gender-based violence, and racism and discrimination. They have trained 20 additional peer educators in Forum Theater, and presented a session on the techniques at a national conference.

Since we began collaborating with MAMI four years ago, local thinking has shifted. In 2010, MAMI had to convince school administrators of the importance of sexuality education. Today, they are receiving requests from more and more schools. In 2014, MAMI provided comprehensive sexuality education to all middle and high school students—about 4,000 young people—at 15 schools in the region.

Around the globe, our educators are empowering youth and sharing expertise with our partners and their peer education groups. We plan to continue our partnership with both CCIHP and MAMI in 2015. ■

