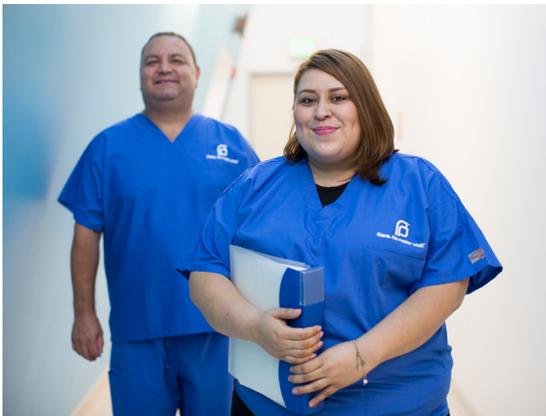




Planned Parenthood Northern California QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Letter from our CEO



We've all heard about San Francisco housing crisis – the skyrocketing rents, the tech boom, and the struggle to live and thrive in the city for many working people.

Housing and reproductive health may not seem linked at first. But one client at our health center in the Mission District in San Francisco reminds us just how important our compassion and expertise can be, even in unexpected ways. Here's her story, as shared with me by J.S., a client service manager at our [health center](#) on Valencia Street:

"I often think about this client because her needs are really unique. She's very kind and always extremely thankful – to the point that she drops in sometimes just to say hello and thank us again for seeing her.

She's in her early thirties and she's a Spanish speaker. We know that she has very limited reading and writing skills because we always have

to take extra time to help her fill out forms and explain things to her.

When she first came in to see us, she shared she was living in a precarious housing situation. Basically, her landlord opens all her mail but she can't afford to complain about it. She's worried that she would lose her home and that her whole building would find out about her medical needs.

We made sure to check in with her. We screened for intimate partner violence and sexual coercion, as we do, and she said she felt safe. Her concerns were more about privacy. So we made accommodations for her to give her extra time so we can deliver her test results in person. We will also provide her with renters' rights resources the next time she comes in. We do this all because we care about her, and because we take our commitment to confidentiality very seriously.

I'm really happy that she comes to us and that we can take care of her health without jeopardizing her living situation. It feels great to help her and I'm really grateful that we're here for her."

I'm glad to share one more story that shines a light on our commitment to serve everyone, from new immigrants in this beautiful and rapidly changing city, to adults and youth across Northern California.

Thank you for standing by us no matter what.

Heather Saunders Estes
President & CEO
Planned Parenthood Northern California

What's New at PPNorCal

Introducing nPEP!

We are thrilled to announce that we will begin offering nPEP, a combination of medications that can be taken to prevent HIV infection, at all our health centers in early March. Non-Occupational Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or nPEP, can be taken up to 72 hours after an exposure to the HIV virus. PPNorCal clients who want to prevent HIV infection after an exposure can take 2 pills (Truvada and Raltegravir) for 28 days.

This is an exciting addition to PrEP, another innovative service to prevent new HIV infections offered at PPNorCal. [PrEP is a way to help prevent HIV by taking a pill every day.](#) It greatly reduces the risk of getting infected. When PrEP is combined with condoms and other prevention methods it works even better. We will be able to provide prescriptions for both nPEP and PrEP.



Both these medications are highly effective but also very expensive for clients paying out of pocket. Medi-Cal, our state insurance program for low-income clients, covers nPEP as well as the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans and the private insurance plans we accept. nPEP is not covered by our state family planning program, Family PACT (FPACT), though FPACT may cover some costs associated with the visit. For those clients without insurance coverage, we can happily assist them in determining if they might be eligible for a medication assistance plan for uninsured, low income individuals.

HIV prevention is our business! When someone is exposed to HIV, these medicines can work to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection. We are proud to step up to help with this important public health opportunity.

2016 Legislative and Budget Priorities



On January 7th, Governor Jerry Brown released his proposed budget for 2016-2017. While it contained no cuts to our core services, neither did it offer any solutions to the ongoing inadequacy of health care funding. Most urgently, we need a fix for our state's shockingly low Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

A full third of Californians are enrolled in Medi-Cal and depend on it to cover their health care needs. Yet, our state continues to provide abysmally low reimbursement rates to providers who accept Medi-Cal insurance like Planned Parenthood. California reimburses providers to the tune of only \$16 for a regular, primary care visit. These rates have not increased since the 1980s even as medical costs have astronomically increased.

Moreover, California's legislature slashed rates another 10% across the board in 2011 as a response to the then-state budget crisis. Our reimbursement rates were already some of the lowest in the nation; California now claims an undignified 49th place out of all 50 states for reimbursement rates for medical providers who serve low-income patients. As a result, fewer medical providers are willing or able to take on Medi-Cal patients. This means longer waits for much-needed care, and for some – no alternative but the emergency room.

Many of our clients at PPNorCal rely on Medi-Cal and we, in turn, count on adequate state reimbursement to help us deliver our expert care to anyone who needs it. It's both fiscally prudent and the right thing to do – yet reimbursement rates for providers have remained stagnant.

Planned Parenthood's top budget priority in California for the third year running is to reverse the 10% provider rate cut. Along with our sister affiliates across the state, we continue to work in coalition with allies and supporters to bring Medi-Cal rates up so that the care we provide to millions of Californians can be sustainable.

Other legislative and budgetary priorities this year include efforts to:

- Require Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care plans to reimburse telehealth care visits done remotely to increase access in communities across the state;
- Streamline the process for new health center permit applications to the Board of Pharmacy in order to allow health centers to focus more on health services instead of bureaucracy;
- Ban the distribution of videos recorded without consent; and
- Fund sexual health education, STD prevention, and teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Choices Breakfast



In January, Planned Parenthood Northern California commemorated the 43rd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* with an inspiring event attended by 160 passionate supporters including members of our Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte Board of Advocates, PPNorCal staff from Eureka, and student members of our "Spare Change" Peer Education Program and Teen Theater Troupe.

Keynote speaker Celinda Lake, President of Lake Research Partners and a national expert on polling and messaging, shared her insights on the current landscape for reproductive rights and effective messaging in California. Former Assemblymember and reproductive justice champion Patty Berg received the PPNorCal Maggie Award in recognition of her exceptional contribution of both time and energy to help ensure reproductive justice for all.

Together with Patty and our dedicated supporters across the state, we continue to fight to make sure that abortion access is recognized as an essential part of a vision for a healthy future. Forty-three years after abortion was legalized in the United States, there is still much work to be done to do that, from Humboldt to San Francisco.

Acts of Courage

Our annual San Francisco fundraiser, Acts of Courage, will take place on the evening of Thursday, February 18th, at the St. Regis Hotel. This year's event will feature our distinguished guest, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, who will receive the first ever Planned Parenthood Northern California Lifetime Achievement Award for her steadfast support of reproductive health care. In addition, author Jonathan Eig, New York Times best-selling author of *The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution*, will be our special guest speaker in conversation with Chinaka Hodge, poet, educator, playwright and screenwriter whose work has been featured in Newsweek, San Francisco Magazine, and in two seasons of HBO's Def Poetry.

Acts of Courage is one of our most important annual fundraising events that helps support the important work we all do across our PPNorCal service area. Every year, 155,000 adults and youth depend on us for safe and high-quality reproductive health care, and bias free, medically accurate sex education and community services. Our generous donors and friends make it possible for us to continue to provide a wide range of health care options – including cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and birth control – to support all people as they build their futures and achieve their goals.



[Watch U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer's brilliant defense of federal funding for Planned Parenthood.](#)

Feature Story

California's Reproductive FACT Act



One of the most encouraging legislative achievements of 2015, the [Reproductive Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care and Transparency \(FACT\) Act](#), authored by PPNorCal champion Assemblymember David Chiu, went into effect on January 1, 2016.

The legislation requires all licensed medical facilities providing pregnancy-related services to post or distribute the following notice:

“California has public programs that provide immediate free or low-cost access to comprehensive family planning services (including all FDA-approved methods of contraception), prenatal care, and abortion for eligible women. To determine whether you qualify, contact the county social services office at [insert the telephone number].”

The law went into effect despite legal challenges from those who support [deceptive “Crisis Pregnancy Centers”](#) or CPCs. These centers usually appear to be neutral sites for counseling and some services for those facing an unplanned pregnancy. In truth, they advance an anti-abortion agenda and, in at least 40% of centers, are not even licensed to operate as a medical provider. California is home to approximately 170 CPCs statewide.

Prior to enactment of this law, these centers for deception have been able to represent themselves to the public as though they deliver accurate medical advice. Many CPCs pressure women against abortion, or even birth control, offer exams, and sometimes deliver questionable prenatal care.

The Reproductive FACT Act reins in these dishonest and dangerous practices, compelling such centers to disclose to their patients if they do not have a medical license or licensed providers on staff. Further, the FACT Act requires the centers to inform their clients that California and local entities offer affordable contraception, abortion and prenatal care—and they must also provide clients with information on how to get assistance in obtaining it.

Several CPCs sought injunctions to stop the bill from becoming law right after it passed last October. By mid-December, the courts had resoundingly upheld the law. U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller noted in her decision that “the public interest...favors ensuring California women are fully informed as to their reproductive health care options.”

Although there are a handful of similar local laws on the books across the United States, California has become the first state to successfully regulate these deceptive centers – once again establishing our leadership in protecting compassionate and bias-free health care for all.

Cheers and Jeers



Vindication for Planned Parenthood

On January 25, authorities in Harris County, Texas, announced that a grand jury cleared Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast of any wrongdoing after a lengthy and thorough investigation into claims related to a video smear campaign against all Planned Parenthood affiliates by an anti-abortion group calling itself the "Center for Medical Progress" (CMP).

[The grand jury instead handed down felony indictments against David Daleiden and Susan Merritt.](#) Daleiden is the head of CMP and the face of the smear campaign; Merritt is the true identity of a woman who appears in many of the attack videos with Daleiden. Both Daleiden and Merritt were named as defendants in a federal lawsuit filed by PPNorCal and six other California Affiliates along with Planned Parenthood Federation of America earlier this month in San Francisco. On February 4th, Daleiden posted bail.

"As the dust settles and the truth comes out, it's become totally clear that the only people who engaged in wrongdoing are the criminals behind this fraud, and we're glad they're being held accountable," said Planned Parenthood Federation of America Vice President of Communications Eric Ferrero. We, at Planned Parenthood Northern California, heartily agree. The videos attacking Planned Parenthood were based on lies and deception and they have had a destructive effect.

All of the completed investigations into Planned Parenthood have shown that there was no "wrongdoing" to find. No matter what lengths anti-abortion extremists go to, it doesn't change the truth: Planned Parenthood is a high-quality health care provider that millions of people rely on each year.



Texas versus Safe, Legal Abortion

On March 2nd, 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) will hear oral arguments in *Whole Women's Health, et al. v. Hellerstedt*. The Court's decision will determine whether Texas' notorious 2013 law targeting reproductive health providers (HB2) like Planned Parenthood will stand. A [new study](#) says the Texas law appears to have led to an increase in births among low-income women who lost access to affordable and effective birth control.

Beyond these serious implications, this decision has the potential to set a new precedent that could impact *Roe v. Wade* and therefore access to safe, legal abortion across the United States. The stakes could not be higher.

In 2013, HB2 was the target of Senator Wendy Davis' historic filibuster, and Planned Parenthood (including staff members from PPNorCal) rallied with her in the Texas state legislature. As predicted by Senator Davis and Planned Parenthood leaders, the repercussions from HB2 have been overwhelming:

During the two weeks in 2014 that all provisions were enacted, a dozen health centers shuttered their operations overnight. A total of 82 health centers have closed (a third of them were Planned Parenthood health centers) and Planned Parenthood's remaining health centers were inundated with desperate phone calls from women. HIV-prevention subsidies and cancer screening programs connected to federal funding have ended.

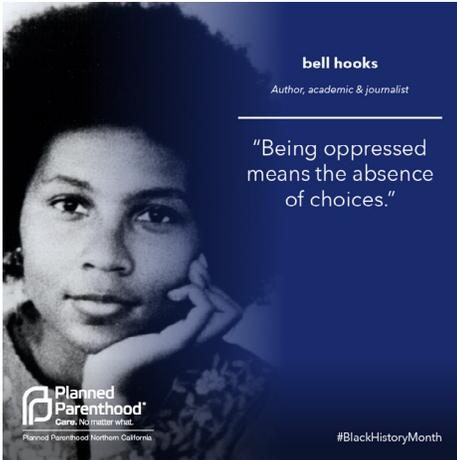
Delays threaten to nearly double the percentage of second trimester procedures. Clients are waiting as long as 20 days to access abortion services. Even more horrifying, up to 240,000 Texas women, faced with fewer and fewer options, may have attempted to end their pregnancy on their own, without medical assistance.

A decision is expected by June 2016.

PPNorCal Celebrates Black History Month

February, Black History Month, is an opportunity to recognize that access to quality health care is a fundamental right for all people to reach their fullest potential – regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation. We honor Black leaders of the past and present who have fought at the intersections of racial, gender, reproductive and LGBTQIA justice.

Here are a few examples of our celebration of Black history.



bell hooks
Author, academic & journalist

“Being oppressed means the absence of choices.”

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Planned Parenthood Northern California

#BlackHistoryMonth

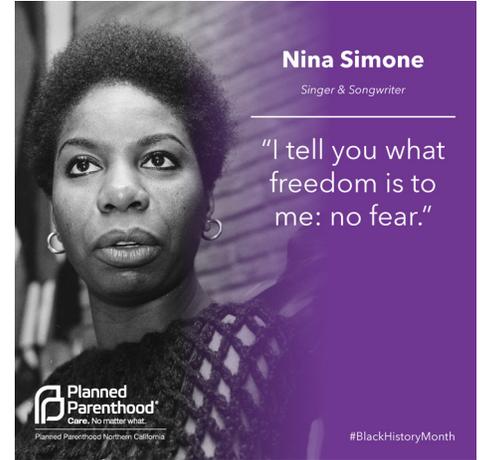


Laverne Cox
Film and Television Actress

“Healthcare for trans women is a necessity. It is not elective. It is not cosmetic. It is life saving.”

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Nina Simone
Singer & Songwriter

“I tell you what freedom is to me: no fear.”

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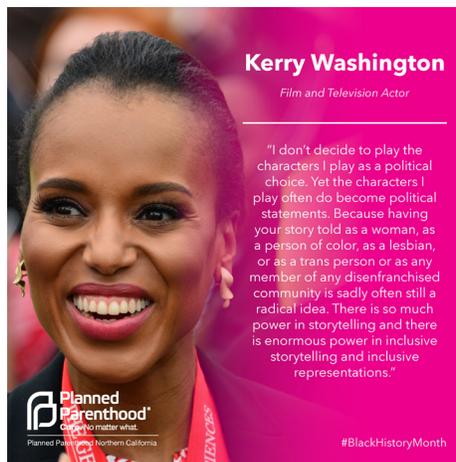


Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States

“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

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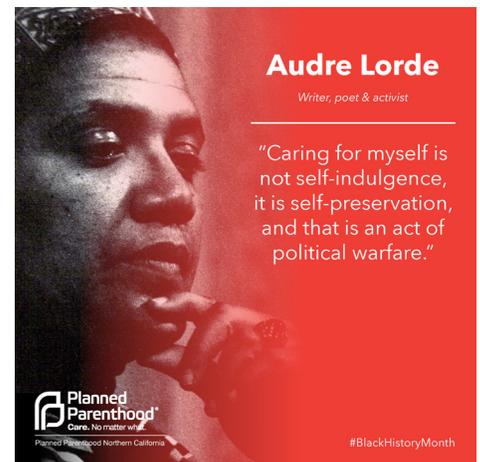


Kerry Washington
Film and Television Actor

“I don’t decide to play the characters I play as a political choice. Yet the characters I play often do become political statements. Because having your story told as a woman, as a person of color, as a lesbian, or as a trans person or as any member of any disenfranchised community is sadly often still a radical idea. There is so much power in storytelling and there is enormous power in inclusive storytelling and inclusive representations.”

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#BlackHistoryMonth



Audre Lorde
Writer, poet & activist

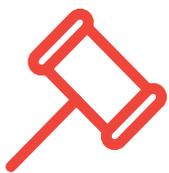
“Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.”

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#BlackHistoryMonth

View more on [Facebook](#).

Just In!



Federal Judge Blocks Release of Anti-Abortion Videos

There is continued good news related to the fraudulent videos released by an anti-abortion front group in their smear campaign against Planned Parenthood. On Friday, February 5th, a federal judge granted a motion for a [preliminary injunction](#) filed by the National Abortion Federation (NAF) to stop disclosure of two videos taped at NAF meetings. Judge William Orrick banned anti-abortion extremists from sharing footage from the annual meeting of abortion providers, saying that hundreds of hours of tape contain “no evidence of actual criminal wrongdoing.”

This is welcome news. We are grateful to NAF and to our allies for standing up and exposing this campaign for its real intent: to shame our clients, shut down Planned Parenthood, and seriously limit access to affordable quality reproductive healthcare.

Sex Ed Spotlight

Healthy Youth Act

Did you know that the vast majority of Californians support sex education?

A 2007 survey of California parents conducted by the Public Health Institute found support for sexuality education that includes instruction about both abstinence and contraception among:

- 89% of California parents including 86% of evangelical Christians;
- 90% of Latinos; and
- 71% of people who self-identify as "very conservative."

This is great news at any time but especially now as we work to implement the [California Healthy Youth Act, or AB 329](#) by Assemblymember Shirley Weber. This new law provides clearer guidance to school districts to strengthen and integrate HIV prevention and comprehensive sexual health education requirements, thereby ensuring that students receive education that is accurate, comprehensive and inclusive.

The law went into effect on January 1 and requires that public schools address healthy relationship skills, human trafficking risks, prevention of STDs aside from HIV, and unintended pregnancy. It also requires that sex education curricula be appropriate for students of all sexual orientations.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD DIRECT

Got caught up in the moment this Valentine's Day?

Order your STD test kit now with Planned Parenthood Direct, private testing by mail for \$120. Emergency contraception, oral contraceptives and prescriptions for urinary tract infections (UTIs) coming soon!



Planned Parenthood Northern California

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