

## *MD Takes Helm of Planned Parenthood*

### **PPFA Announces New President**

On September 12, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) announced that the Board of Directors voted unanimously to select Dr. Leana S. Wen to serve as the sixth president of PPFA. Dr. Wen is the first physician to lead PPFA in nearly 50 years, and she is the first Asian American woman to serve in this role in Planned Parenthood's 102-year history.

The PPFA search committee was impressed with Dr. Wen's powerful vision for the future of PPFA and her passion for fighting to make sure that reproductive care is treated as it should be—like mainstream medical care that should be accessible to all people.

Dr. Wen has worked as the Commissioner of Health for the City of Baltimore since January 2015. Under her direction, the Baltimore City Health Department leads the nation in health innovations and has recently been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as the Local Health Department of the Year. Dr. Wen's experiences as Commissioner and practicing emergency room doctor have enabled her to see the consequences of people not having access to basic health care. Dr. Wen knows that health care is a fundamental human right, and she has fiercely defended and expanded medical access for women and families in our most vulnerable communities.

Dr. Wen was born in Shanghai, China, and immigrated to the United States with family just before her eighth birthday. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, earned her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, and became a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Wen received her master's degree from the University of Oxford and completed her residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. She has always had a heart for Planned Parenthood. Growing up, Dr. Wen relied on Planned Parenthood for health care, as did her mother and sisters. During medical school, she volunteered at a Planned Parenthood health center in St. Louis.



*Dr. Leana S. Wen*

All of the candidates who met with PPFA were formidable and impressive. But it only took one interview for Dr. Wen to shine. In her second interview, she had the search committee convinced that she would be the best fit. She dazzled her interviewers with her passion for women's rights, her strategic approach to problems, and her dedication to public health and reproductive rights.

Dr. Wen spent several weeks contemplating PPFA's offer of the new position, making certain that she would be up to the task of leading the organization and the movement. After speaking with each member of the search committee, as well as Cecile Richards, Dr. Wen made her decision. She told PPFA, "I'm all in."

We eagerly await Dr. Wen's first day as PPFA president on November 12.

# Title X: A Public Health Program Worth Protecting

*Dr. Virginia Siegfried*

As a result of expanded access to birth control, the United States is experiencing a 30 year low for unintended pregnancy, a historic low for pregnancy among teens, and the lowest rate of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*. A central contributor to this progress is the Title X Family Planning Program, which for over 40 years has enabled low-income women to access services such as breast and cervical cancer screenings, well-woman exams, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and birth control.

In fact, Title X is the only federal program dedicated solely to providing people with comprehensive family planning services and it has been life changing for millions of Americans. No other federal program ensures that every person — regardless of where they live, how much money they make, their background, or whether or not they have health insurance — has access to basic, preventive reproductive health care. It's a common sense public health program worth protecting.

Despite the success and public health benefits of this program, it is being targeted by the Trump-Pence Administration. In late May, the administration issued a proposed rule creating a domestic “gag” rule on Title X. The gag rule is intended to do three things:

- First, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and community health centers across the country would be prohibited from referring their patients for safe, legal abortion.
- Second, it would remove the guarantee that a Title X patient gets full and accurate information about their health care from their medical providers.
- Third, it would make it impossible for patients to get birth control or preventive care from reproductive health care providers like Planned Parenthood.

Bottom line, this policy is designed to block women from obtaining complete, accurate and unbiased information to make informed decisions with their health care provider. Planned Parenthood health centers serve 41% of the patients who get care through Title X—yet this rule is designed to block patients from going to Planned Parenthood health

centers for critical care like cancer screenings and birth control.

As a physician and medical director for Planned Parenthood, under the new proposed rule, if I have a patient who is pregnant and wants or needs an abortion, I would be prohibited from giving that information. Or if a woman's pregnancy would severely affect her health — for example, she discovers that she's pregnant after being diagnosed with cancer — I would be forced to withhold information about the full range of her medical options.

This new rule is not only an attack on the basic rights of my patients to access the care they need; it is an attack on my medical ethics and duty to provide the best care possible. No health care provider should be forced to put politics above the needs of their patients.

Medical ethics and standards of care require providers to give patients complete information about their health care so patients can make meaningful, informed, individual medical decisions. This bedrock principle is the foundation of the provider-patient relationship and critical to ensuring that patients trust the medical system. In addition, for nearly two decades, Title X law has been clear: health care providers cannot withhold information from patients about their pregnancy options. Under the proposed gag rule, they would be forced to.



*PPCCC Medical Director, Dr. Virginia Siegfried*

## Meet Our New Health Educators

Planned Parenthood California Central Coast is thrilled to welcome two new educators: Mariele Ignacio and Sarah Kravette. Mariele and Sarah join our five-member education team, headed by Director of Education, Cindy Cruz.

Mariele is the Community Health Educator for Ventura County and uses the gender-neutral pronouns they/them/theirs. Mariele is from Los Angeles, where they earned their bachelor's degree in Communication Studies at UCLA and volunteered as a sex educator for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. Mariele was inspired to teach sex education after working

with middle school students at an after-school program and seeing a great need for sex education among that group of students. Mariele also experienced that need firsthand, when they received sex education that was inadequate and used fear-based lessons. Mariele wants to empower youth and provide them with a safe place to ask questions and to learn medically-accurate, non-judgmental, and inclusive information. We couldn't agree more!

Mariele still lives in LA, where they enjoy hiking, going to the beach, spending time with their loved ones, and petting dogs (don't we all?).

Sarah uses the pronouns she/her/hers and is a native of Long Island, New York—but she has always wanted to live on the west coast. She was teaching comprehensive sex-ed and creating health programs for LGBTQ+ youth on Long Island. So, when she saw the position open for a Planned Parenthood Community Health Educator for Santa Barbara County, she knew it was an incredible opportunity to live on the west coast and to continue teaching sex education.

Sarah never thought that she would get into education; however, during her junior year at Ithaca College, she began following sex education bloggers and sex-positivity activists. Their careers fascinated Sarah. That, coupled with her public health degree with an emphasis in reproductive health and policy, taught her that one of the most effective methods of disease prevention is through education. And so, another sex educator was born!

Sarah enjoys yoga, live music, small hikes, always eating dessert, and is a self-described self-care enthusiast.

Mariele and Sarah, we are delighted to welcome the both of you to our PPCCC family!



*Mariele (left) and Sarah, new PPCCC educators*

## When we all help one another, everybody wins.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Safe, secure online donations:** Your gift to PPCCC is protected by VeriSign. Enjoy secure credit card convenience when you visit [www.ppcentralcoast.org](http://www.ppcentralcoast.org) and click the “Donate” link at the top of the page.

**Pledge your monthly support:** A small amount each month makes an important difference each year. Call Brittany at 805.722.1517 to start your monthly giving.

**Remember PPCCC in your will:** “Tomorrow’s dollars” are just as important as “today’s dollars.” Adding a charitable bequest to your existing will takes just a quick phone call to your legal or estate advisor. Or call Sherry Madsen, VP Development, at 805.722.1516.

We are always looking for volunteers for the **Mary Jane McCord Planned Parenthood Book Sale**. Our volunteers work year-round sorting and pricing books for the sale. If you are interested in volunteering please visit [booksale.ppcentralcoast.org](http://booksale.ppcentralcoast.org) or call Brittany at 805.722.1517.

Looking for other volunteer opportunities with PPCCC? Please email [volunteers@ppcentralcoast.org](mailto:volunteers@ppcentralcoast.org)



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## Planned Parenthood 101

We are excited to announce a new education program!

Planned Parenthood 101 (PP101) workshops are designed to introduce the community to the information they need to lead healthy lives and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. These one-hour long presentations deliver information on Planned Parenthood, including who we are, what services we provide, and how to access health care. PP101 presentations also provide an overview of sexually transmitted infections and cover all the different types of birth control methods.

PP101 will provide individuals with the basic resources and information they need to make informed decisions and stay sexually healthy!

## The Press Room Loves PP!



*Raff, Owner of The Press Room*

During each World Cup, one of our local Santa Barbara pubs, The Press Room, auctions off flags from participating countries. James “Raff” Rafferty, the owner of The Press Room, likes to donate these proceeds to a local charity. Our dedicated volunteer

and Press Room patron, Eloisa, suggested donating the winnings this year to PPCCC, and he did! Raff and his wife are avid supporters of PP and are past patients.

Thank you for standing with us, Raff!

## Translator Makes Care Accessible

A Mixtec woman traveled nearly three hours from Delano to visit our Santa Maria Health Center. She did not have an appointment, but she had heard that Planned Parenthood had a Mixtec translator and decided to make the journey in hopes of getting the health care she needed.

With the help of our Mixtec translator, Carlos Montar, our health center staff made sure she received care that day. She shared with Carlos that her partner typically translates for her. But she wanted privacy during her visit. Carlos ensured that she got her health care needs met in the private setting that she wanted.

Thank you, Carlos, for ensuring that our patients receive the care they need—no matter what.



*Carlos Montar, Mixtec translator*

*Save the Date*

Planned Parenthood California Central Coast  
Presents

*Birds  
and  
Bees  
Bash*

**Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the  
Hilton Beachfront Resort, Fess Parker  
Santa Barbara, CA**

[birdsandbeesbash.ppcentralcoast.org](http://birdsandbeesbash.ppcentralcoast.org)