

Letter from the CEO

Hello friends,

Before I update you on the latest attacks against abortion rights around the country, I want to focus on some good news instead: One of our leaders at PPMM has been singled out for recognition and appreciation!

VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb was just honored with one of this year's Trailblazer Hall of Fame Awards by the California Black Women's Collective (see *Milestones section in this edition of the Full Mar Monte*). Lauren received the well-deserved award, in part, for her work chairing the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, which promotes equality and justice for all women and girls.

In other positive news, I am so proud of the work PPMM is doing to close the health equity gap with our patients and in the communities where we live and work. PPMM's VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Arthur Chan has just named new staff members to our 2022 DEI Committee, including a work group that will focus on PPMM's DEI-related impact in the community.

And now for some discouraging - but unsurprising - news about anti-abortion legislation that continues to spread to states across the country, in advance of what many of us expect to be the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling to seriously undermine or overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Just this week, Oklahoma lawmakers passed an almost total ban on abortion that would punish anyone who provides an abortion, "except to save the life of the pregnant woman in a medical emergency," with a prison term of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$100,000. If the Oklahoma Governor signs the bill, which he is expected to do, the law would go into effect in August - barely a month after the U.S. Supreme Court will likely torpedo abortion rights.

Oklahoma is one of the states where many people from bordering Texas have sought abortion care since passage of Texas law SB 8, which bans abortion after six weeks and deputizes vigilantes to file lawsuits against those who facilitate access to health care. Idaho also recently passed an SB 8 "copycat law."

Already there has been incalculable harm done to people in Texas who have been denied their constitutional right to abortion, and public opinion polls have shown that even most Texans don't approve of SB 8. But that didn't stop Oklahoma and Idaho politicians from passing their own version of this cruel and dangerous law.

Now, almost four times as many patients are expected to travel from Idaho to neighboring Washington to seek abortion care, and more than twice as many patients will likely travel from Idaho to Oregon. These are in line with huge increases in the number of patients who are projected come to California from our neighboring state of Arizona if *Roe* is severely altered or overturned entirely.

As you know, PPMM is already preparing for a potentially massive influx of people needing this essential health care. By continuing to train more clinicians in abortion care and expanding our health centers, we are working hard to serve more Californians and Nevadans who live in "abortion deserts," where there are very few providers, as well as ensuring that we don't have to turn anyone away who comes here from a state where abortion may be outlawed.

As always, thank you all for everything you do to ensure that we can protect and care for our patients and others in community who need us. You are simply amazing partners.

With deep gratitude,

Stacy

CAPITAL DINNER

2022 VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES:
ACCESS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE



Thursday, May 19, 2022 • 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

As we anticipate that *Roe v. Wade* will be gutted or completely overturned in a few short months, PPMM has ambitious expansion plans to move boldly ahead to provide abortion care to people who may no longer have access in the states where they live. PPMM's President & CEO Stacy Cross will share how we are charting the path forward.

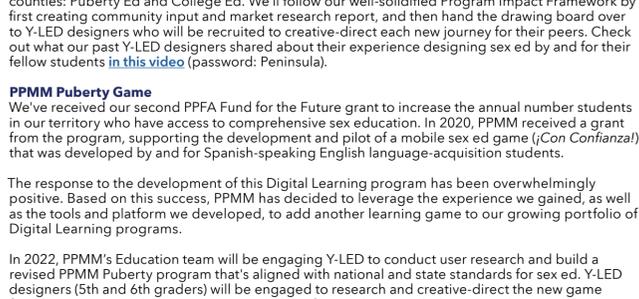
Join us for a memorable evening of speakers, performers, and an insider's look at PPMM's expansion work in Reno. The Capital Dinner is the third and final event in our 2022 Access Is Non-Negotiable virtual event series. Proceeds from the Capital Dinner will help ensure that PPMM can continue providing care, no matter what.

Sponsorship and Individual Tickets available now

FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

Coming soon from PPMM Education

PPMM Education is thrilled to announce some exciting new/expanding programs that will be coming in FY 2023!



PPMM Education's brand new sex ed e-course

PPMM Digital Learning

Based on popular demand, we'll be offering two new digital learning journeys to partners in our 42 counties: Puberty Ed and College Ed. We'll follow our well-soldified Program Impact Framework by first creating community input and market research report, and then hand the drawing board over to Y-LED designers who will be recruited to creative-direct each new journey for their peers. Check out what our past Y-LED designers shared about their experience designing sex ed by and for their fellow students in [this video](#) (password: Peninsula).

PPMM Puberty Game

We've received our second PPFA Fund for the Future grant to increase the annual number students in our territory who have access to comprehensive sex education. In 2020, PPMM received a grant from the program, supporting the development and pilot of a mobile sex ed game (*iCon Confianza!*) that was developed by and for Spanish-speaking English language-acquisition students.

The response to the development of this Digital Learning program has been overwhelmingly positive. Based on this success, PPMM has decided to leverage the experience we gained, as well as the tools and platform we developed, to add another learning game to our growing portfolio of Digital Learning programs.

In 2022, PPMM's Education team will be engaging Y-LED to conduct user research and build a revised PPMM Puberty program that's aligned with national and state standards for sex ed. Y-LED designers (5th and 6th graders) will be engaged to research and creative-direct the new game for their peers to explore important topics specific to puberty, including reproductive anatomy, hygiene, and how to get support from trusted adults.

Like *iCon Confianza!*, the game will include a supplemental module for parents and caregivers, as they support their children's paths through puberty. The game will be available in English and Spanish. And with additional funding, our goal is to offer it in Vietnamese in 2024.

Peer Education: Teen Council

We're excited to announce that the Peer Education Institute, which created Teen Council, has agreed to let affiliates like PPMM continue to offer the program virtually in FY23. As a result, PPMM Education will be recruiting high school students from our entire territory for the first time in history for the Teen Council program!

Learn more about the program [here](#).

Being Memorable

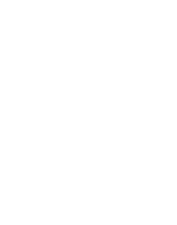
In this space, we spotlight health center staff members who have been mentioned by name in patient surveys for delivering a fantastic patient experience.

Making patients comfortable to ask the most sensitive questions
San Jose HSS Angelina R.

Here is what patients had to say recently about HSS Angelina R. in San Jose:

"Angelina made me feel cared for and comfortable! She was very kind and would listen to everything I was concerned about. Thank you so much Angelina!"

"Angelina is great!!! Definitely was very compassionate, too. Amazing staff, I am very grateful!"



HSS Angelina R. in San Jose

For Health Services Specialist Angelina R., one of the most important first impressions she can make on patients is for them to feel they have come to a place where they won't be judged.

"By my tone and what I say, I want them to know right away, 'I'm going to be working with you today, and this is a place where you can feel safe and ask any question you want,'" Angelina said. "With a lot of young people, especially, they don't necessarily have anyone at home who they feel they can ask sensitive questions. I want them to know, they can do that here."

Angelina said that once patients begin asking her questions and see that she answers them in a forthright manner, they often start asking other health questions as well. "It may start with someone asking about a certain kind of birth control," she explained. "But then maybe they'll start asking questions about STIs and other things they really want to know more about, symptoms and how to protect themselves."

One of the things Angelina always keeps in mind is the questions she had about her health when she was a teenager and things she's learned since being a parent of four.

"It's really helpful to remember how important it is to have this information and feel comfortable talking about it, asking questions," she said. "Patients know they'll get what they need from us."

COVID Care STORIES

These are stories about how our amazing staff is caring for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read more on the PPMM blog at [ppmarmonte.org/blog](#).



Clinician Nora E., Fresno

Clinician Nora E.: Making the most of patients' appointments

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, PPMM health care staff have found new ways to serve patients as conveniently as possible. "We always try to be as comprehensive as we can," said Fresno clinician Nora E. "If a patient comes into a health center, the feeling is, 'Let's make the most of it.'"

"We'll check to see if there's anything else they might need, even if it's not the reason they came in for. Maybe they need refill of a birth control prescription or they're due for a breast-screening. I tell people, 'We can get it all done today so that you don't have to leave home or take time off work.'"

Nora said the pandemic has shown is all the "no-touch" services our clinicians can provide. "Using tools like telehealth and contraceptive-delivery is not only more convenient for patients, but it also means fewer people inside health centers," she said. "That makes it safer for everyone."

"People are often really pleasantly surprised that they can leave their appointment here with even more health services taken care of than they expected."

In Memoriam, RN Theresa Fuentes

In March, the PPMM family lost Theresa Fuentes, an outstanding registered nurse and beloved member of Fresno's Fulton Street health center staff who dedicated 35 years as well as her heart and soul to Planned Parenthood and our patients.

Anyone who worked with Theresa knew her true gift of empathy and mentorship that transformed the lives of her patients and many of our staff members as well.

Theresa helped launch a journal for abortion-care patients, which has been kept for years. While patients were in the recovery room, they were invited to write messages in the journal only for one another, people bonded by their shared experience who would probably never meet. The journal captures PPMM's mission within its pages, and Theresa truly loved spending time with these patients whom she helped by arranging pre-op care, ultrasounds, and recovery.

Theresa began her career here as a medical assistant and, a few years later, was awarded a Planned Parenthood scholarship to obtain her nursing degree from Fresno City College. Since that time she had many roles as an RN at the health center that included providing hormone therapy and contraception as well as STI-testing and treatment.

She also took a deep interest in inspiring her talented colleagues to develop and continue their careers at Planned Parenthood as she had done. This is another invaluable gift that Theresa has given to our affiliate and a tribute to her remarkable legacy here.

Rest in power, Theresa.



Fresno Fulton St. RN Theresa Fuentes with her beloved dog, Bella

Milestones & Events

VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb honored by California Black Women's Collective

Here's how the California Black Women's Collective honored the 2022 Trailblazer Hall of Fame Award-winner - including PPMM's own VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb: "These California Black women leaders are experts in their fields and represent the best and the brightest California has to offer. Thank you for being a beacon for us all!"

One of Lauren's most notable leadership roles includes chairing California's Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. The commission promotes equality and justice for all women and girls by advocating on their behalf with Gov. Gavin Newsom, the State Legislature, and other public policymakers, including educating the public about economic equity issues.

We're lucky to have you, Lauren!



VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb, with State Capitol in the background

2022 Peninsula Breakfast breaks fundraising record-again!

The annual Peninsula Breakfast, held in March, raised an amazing \$1,490,654—just inches away from \$1,500,000—with donations still coming in! PPMM's Development team managed to break last year's record, making it the affiliate's single most successful fundraising event ever.

This year's event honored Rep. Jackie Speier with a Lifetime Achievement Award for a career dedicated to Planned Parenthood, women's equality, LGBTQ rights, and social justice. Rep. Speier, whose congressional district includes most of San Mateo County, said in her acceptance remarks, "I can tell you without fear of contradiction that the honor you are bestowing on me today is the greatest award I've ever received."

Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois also joined the program as our featured speaker. Rep. Underwood, the youngest Black woman to ever be elected to Congress, is co-founder of the Black Maternal Caucus and sponsor of the Mommibus Act – the largest investment in U.S. history to eliminate preventable maternal mortality, end racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes, as well as advance birth equity across the country.

Other program highlights included our emcee, Keesa Ocampo, founder & CEO of WeSparq, a women-led communications firm in San Francisco, as well as artistic performances from the Bay Area's popular Bollywood dance group, the Mona Khan Company.

The success of this year's event is due to the extraordinary support and participation of our donors. Your commitment is so inspiring, especially during this bleak time for reproductive rights in our country. On behalf of all the patients and communities we serve, thank you for your life-changing generosity and dedication.



The Big Picture

Public Affairs team rallies supporters in Visalia

Despite last-minute opposition, we're committed to finding a new site for our health center

Early in March, PPMM supporters and friends joined us at the Visalia Convention Center to gather in support of a new, much larger building for the PPMM Visalia health center. A vocal group of people who oppose Planned Parenthood's mission had raised an eleventh-hour objection to the health center location, and we were determined to show there are many local residents who want PPMM to continue serving the community.



PPMM's Public Affairs team and supporters outside the Visalia City Council meeting

Many who attended had been longtime friends of PPMM and came to show their solidarity by publicly testifying at a meeting of Visalia City Council. At our gathering, VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb rallied the crowd, assuring everyone that PPMM remains committed to expanding in Visalia and Tulare County, where there is a huge shortage of health care providers.

Lauren was followed by prayers from two PPMM faith leaders before we all walked to City Hall, carrying pink candle lights. Cars honked in support as we marched, waving hand-lettered signs with messages like, "Don't take away my care!"

At City Hall, we encountered anti-abortion protestors, but did not engage with them. We had dozens of supporters who spoke passionately about their personal experiences with PPMM, the importance of having our services in the area, and why they trust us to be their health care provider.

After hours of truly inspiring and heartfelt public testimony, we all met outside, took pictures, and celebrated that we had showed up for each other. Even though the City Council meeting didn't go our way, we left with a true sense of accomplishment. Our voices were heard loud and clear through the chamber, and our stories could not be silenced.

Many local Visalia supporters know that we are determined to find a site for a health center in town that will serve many more people who desperately need it. Our support in Visalia is very strong, and with blockbuster turnout out at City Hall that night we proved it.

Good Reads

April 1, *Visalia Times-Delta* (op-ed by PPMM Central Valley Community Organizer Karina Gallardo-Montoya) I needed Planned Parenthood when I was growing up in Visalia – the community still needs it

April 4, *The Hill* Advocates sound the alarm on abortion rights ahead of midterms