A Message from PPRM’s Former President & CEO Vicki Cowart

Dear Friends,

As you may have heard by now, I’ve announced my plan to retire after serving Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) with pride for the past 18 years. I believe the time is right for new leadership to step in and take the organization into the future, continuing to ensure that every person has access to compassionate, high-quality reproductive health care.

Looking back upon my time at PPRM, I beam with pride over the work we’ve done together. Because of supporters like you, we have ensured that our region is a safe haven for reproductive health care. Our recent fundraising efforts have significantly increased our endowment and our patient assistance fund, and our robust public affairs efforts have been more important than ever as we await the decision from the Supreme Court this summer that will likely reverse Roe v. Wade. In short, because of all this, I am able to leave PPRM even better than I found it, in a position of great strength, with solid leadership, an engaged, committed Board Chair, and a Board of Trustees who share a passion for the critical work we do.

I’m delighted to share that Adrienne Mansanares took the helm as President and CEO in mid January. I couldn’t be more delighted with this selection and have every confidence that Adrienne will lead the organization with heart and vision. You’ll be hearing from her personally in the next Dialogue.

The years I’ve spent at PPRM have been the pinnacle of my career. Working with such a talented, passionate team that truly impacts people’s lives every day has made me a better person. I am grateful to you and to everyone who has been part of this journey, and whose efforts make a difference for so many.

Sincerely,

Vicki Cowart
Former President & CEO
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
PPRM Receives Largest Gift in 106 Year History!

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is honored and delighted to share the momentous news that we are the recipient of an exceptional gift for our endowment. An anonymous donor has given PPRM $10 million in support of health care education. The donor has valued PPRM’s education of youth and patients for many years. In fact, the donor has been giving to PPRM for as far back as our electronic records go. Their first gift to support our work was $500.

The donor’s mother was an early supporter of Planned Parenthood and they shared that their own support of women’s health care was only natural because of their upbringing. The donor was an avid follower of the news and often shared news clippings of stories about Planned Parenthood and access to reproductive health care.

PPRM’s outgoing CEO Vicki Cowart said of the donor, “It was my privilege to have many meetings with this donor over the years. The interest in and commitment they showed for PPRM during those visits and through the donor’s gifts is now highlighted by this remarkable gift for PPRM’s future. What a joy and honor it has been to help facilitate our donor’s commitment to PPRM’s work.”

This contribution is the largest ever made to PPRM in our 106-year history. It is thrilling to receive a gift of this magnitude. Molly Williams, Chief Philanthropy Officer at PPRM says, “Knowing that a member of our community believes so strongly in PPRM’s work and our ability to deliver our mission is exhilarating and inspiring for our staff.”

Since 2016, PPRM has been engaged in the Shaping Our Second Century campaign, with the dual visions of creating a durable community presence while expanding access to our services across our region. This gift to endowment adds substantially to PPRM’s resilience and furthers our mission in a meaningful way. The impact of this gift is immeasurable but here is one way to think about it: If PPRM educates 50,000 youth and youth-serving-adults and sees 100,000 patients annually, then over the next 105 years this gift will have an educational impact for 15,750,000 people.

PPRM has always relied on the generosity of our supporters. Having been founded by private citizens, the community quickly recognized PPRM’s commitment to access to health care education for all people. This early tradition has continued and now, in PPRM’s second century, a growing number of people who see great resilience and resourcefulness in PPRM are investing in our future through endowment.

As Planned Parenthood Federation of America President and CEO recently wrote in her weekly newsletter to staff, “Education isn’t just one of our pillars: it’s a portal to the future of our movement. Our educators are often the first point of contact with the next generation of Planned Parenthood staff, supporters, patients, and advocates.” This impactful gift of $10 million has made a substantial contribution to opening that portal and assuring our continued and durable community presence.
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is wrapping up our Shaping Our Second Century Campaign, the comprehensive campaign launched in 2016 with the intention of creating a durable presence across our region and expanding our capacity to care for more patients, educate more youth, and advocate for better access to care and education.

With an initial goal of raising $85 million over five years, we aimed to expand access to reproductive and sexual health care services, increase the impact of critical education programs, and broaden advocacy efforts to protect and promote reproductive health care and comprehensive sex education. Through the campaign, we are solidifying our position as a safe haven for care, reaching even further into the communities we serve, expanding access to critical health care services to more patients than ever before, and creating a health care experience that continues to reinforce those values upon which we were founded so many years ago: equality, human dignity, and autonomy.

We are thrilled to say we have achieved these goals and continue to build on them even as the campaign formally closes. With the generous support of donors, we increased our campaign goal to $100 million and will exceed that with total commitments of more than $105 million. This exceptional support adds to our resilience as we meet the growing needs of our patients and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Texas-style restrictions to access.

Here are just some of the things we have achieved during this campaign:

- We’ve greatly expanded annual operating support which is essential to our day-to-day work.
- We have completed the renovation of our Fort Collins, CO health center and will soon be starting a renovation on our Albuquerque health center.
- We expanded TeleHealth by creating and fundign the operations of a Virtual Care Center.
- We established our first endowed Distinguished Nurse Practitioner position, and funded endowments in support of our essential providers.
- We added more than $5 million to Patient Assistance Fund Endowment while also providing nearly $5 million for current patients in need of assistance.
- And we established endowment funds for both education and public affairs to give each program a jump start for their budgets each year.

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HEALTH CARE

Direct to Patient TeleMAB Study

The Direct to Patient TeleMAB study launched at PPRM in March of 2019 and has now concluded. This study analyzed the satisfaction of patients receiving medication abortion care through TeleHealth. Patients who chose this option cited staying safe through the pandemic, taking less time away from work or family, eliminating childcare costs, privacy, being in quarantine or caring for family members, and the fear of abortion stigma as reasons why they chose this option. We were able to show high rates of satisfaction for patients who received this care remotely, and meet our mission of providing abortion care to all patients within the 3 states where we provide direct health care. Recently, the FDA lifted some restrictions on Mifepristone, allowing us to pursue additional avenues to provide patients with medication abortion through TeleHealth.

Beginning in March 2019, the research team screened 713 patients and enrolled 415 of those patients into our Direct to Patient TeleMAB study. Patients from throughout Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada were seen in a timely manner, allowing us to establish a precedent to continue to see patients remotely outside of the study model.

As we return to our mission, the Direct to Patient TelAbortion model is a perfect example of our ability to provide patients greater control over their health care needs and the flexibility to schedule their appointments at times that work for them. We are grateful to have participated in a study that strives to increase access to abortion care by meeting patients where they are, and we are excited to integrate what we’ve learned to further expand care for our patients.

PPRM’s Commitment to Language Justice

The Entre Idiomas (Between Languages) Program

Arriving at a health care facility when you don’t speak the language can feel overwhelming. You look at the walls, the posters, the bathroom signs, and the people, and you think about whether you see yourself there. And then someone talks to you, in your language, and you walk in.

Language justice refers to a person’s fundamental right to have their voice heard. PPRM strives to implement language justice practices for the diverse community of patients we serve across our four-state region. As a trusted health care provider, it is our responsibility to ensure equitable, high-quality, and compassionate care for patients of all racial and ethnic identities and economic standings, regardless of their primary language.

The Entre Idiomas (Between Languages) Program is an established and proven training that provides medical Spanish-language interpretation education to PPRM’s health center assistants and call center assistants who pass the Spanish-language proficiency exam. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we administered Entre Idiomas as a one-day in-person training for health center staff. Thanks to a grant from Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Consortium of Abortion Providers, PPRM will expand the program to a virtual platform, in line with PPRM’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity values and mission. The updated program will be offered on a quarterly basis to all bilingual health center and call center staff, in addition to quarterly cohort meetings during which staff can come together to share their experiences, learnings, and build confidence in their interpretation skills.

The Entre Idiomas Program will ensure all bilingual health center staff have the training and confidence they need to serve the thousands of Spanish-speaking patients PPRM sees every year. PPRM will build on past successes of this program to empower staff across our region and increase access to quality and equitable care for all patients.
Responsible Sex Education Institute Rises to the Occasion

The Responsible Sex Education Institute’s (RSEI) programming empowers community members to make informed choices by providing reproductive health information and education. Programs give individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and communities inclusive, medically accurate, and culturally appropriate information and skills to foster healthy relationships, safer sex, and linkages to care, working in collaboration with community partners to help reduce health disparities. RSEI offers multiple options for youth-facing programming, including recorded lessons, self-guided learning modules, and the option for educators to join a live virtual classroom. RSEI adjusted to a COVID environment by becoming exclusively virtual, and has been working back toward in-person options in recent months while keeping the flexible virtual offerings.

The Native Community Health Network (NCHN) has grown significantly this year - making connections with a virtual Native Mamas talking circle to support caregivers during COVID and beyond. This year, NCHN will engage Native communities by adding an Auntie talking circle and one for Brothers, Uncles, and Dads (BUD). These circles provide the opportunity to learn about a variety of sexual health topics and resources and offer a space for connection and sharing about issues affecting Native communities.

“Promotores love their communities and their people, and that cannot be taught.”

- Liliana Davalos, Education Program Manager

Promotores de Salud program staff have adapted plat-icas (community conversations) to the virtual world so staff can continue facilitating one-on-one conversations, connecting to care and resources for Latinx communities, and providing direct sex education to youth through partner organizations.
New Mexico

The 2021 legislative session was historic for PPRM. The challenge of a remote legislative session allowed the New Mexico Public Affairs team to think outside of the box, ensuring our legislators heard directly from community members. With your help, we increased efforts to engage people from rural areas of the state New Mexico into legislative advocacy activities. PPRM worked with communities heavily impacted by low broadband, providing resources for people to access the internet and participate in virtual testimony.

After years of statewide advocacy and collaboration with community partners, we finally repealed the state’s pre-Roe abortion ban! The Respect New Mexico Women & Families Act (Senate Bill 10) officially removed the 1969 state abortion ban when it was signed into law on February 26, 2021. The passage of this historic act solidified New Mexico’s status as a safe haven for abortion care for community members and those who need to travel across state lines to access care.

Nevada

Nevada’s 81st legislative session culminated in the successful passage of several pieces of legislation expanding access to health care. PPRM provided testimony on important legislation, prepared activists to lead virtual lobby meetings, and worked with coalition partners to achieve impactful policy wins.

With your help, Nevadans will be able to obtain self-administered hormonal birth control pills through their local pharmacist without a doctor’s prescription. This is a significant win for low-income, Black, Indigenous, and people of color who are disproportionately affected by systemic barriers to health care.

In a significant step to expand health care access for rural communities, patients will be able to utilize standard telephone lines as a key component of telehealth, and insurers will cover these services to the full extent of in-person care. PPRM also worked to successfully include access to menstrual products in public and charter schools, and to modernize state law so people living with HIV are no longer criminalized for their health status.

Colorado

PPRM was proud to have played a significant role in the 2020 general elections. Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, Coloradans broke records when 87% of those registered voted. Proposition 115, a proposed ban on abortion after 22 weeks of pregnancy without exceptions, was defeated by a significant 18-point margin, even more important as restrictions at the state level become more and more prevalent.

During the 2021 legislative session, PPRM worked alongside community partners to expand reproductive health care access by highlighting the voices of those most impacted by harmful barriers. One of those barriers was that there was previously just one location – one building, to be exact – in the state where sexual assault survivors who rely on Medicaid could access abortion care covered by their insurance. Patients in rural Colorado faced long drives, including one patient from Cortez who had to drive seven hours over a mountain range to access services. With the passage of Senate Bill 142, survivors who are on Medicaid can now access care in the same locations and with the same providers as those with private insurance.
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Our Dialogue newsletter is available via email. If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to info.development@pprm.org.

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CARE.
No matter What.

Did you know you can donate your car to support the work of PPRM?

Visit one of our participating auction sites to learn more: DonateForCharity.com, DonateCarUSA.com, and CarsHelpingCharities.org and for our friends in New Mexico, visit OneCommunityAuto.com.

Putting Patients Firsts

Donate to our Patient Assistance Fund at wearepp.org/SupportPatients or give an unrestricted gift at wearepp.org/PPRM.

Planned Giving

Email info.development@pprm.org to learn more about the impact of planned and estate giving.