

Impact Update

JULY 2021

PPKeystone.org



Planned Parenthood Keystone

Message from Melissa Reed, President and CEO

It is my five-year anniversary at Planned Parenthood Keystone! I am overcome with so many emotions thinking about this milestone.

The past 5 years have been incredible – filled with ups and downs – and you’ve been there with me. I want to express my appreciation for the faith you’ve had in my leadership.

To celebrate my anniversary, I thought I would share with you the accomplishments I am most proud of since joining PPKeystone in 2016:

Expanding abortion access in our 37-county territory: With the help of my team, PPKeystone has expanded abortion access throughout PA. Our health centers in Wilkes-Barre and Bensalem now offer medication abortion, a huge milestone as medication abortion is among the safest and most convenient ways to get abortion care. PPKeystone also launched telemedicine abortion care, which means patients from anywhere in our affiliate territory can access abortion care through telehealth, once they’ve completed their labs and 24-hour waiting period. The launch of telemedicine abortion last year paved the way for our new, first-in-Pennsylvania medication abortion by mail. Through the incredible power of telehealth, patients can meet virtually with our doctors and then receive the abortion medications in the mail, once they complete their labs and 24-hour waiting period.

Expansion of our service offerings: PPKeystone adapted to meet the needs of our changing patient population. We now offer menopause care, PrEP and PEP, and later this year we will be launching our most exciting program in year.

Launch of telehealth: Telehealth has made abortion more accessible for our patients and it’s also made health care more accessible! Telehealth means our patients can get birth control via our mobile app, PPDirect, order at-home STI testing, and get other health care services remotely.

Investing in our health centers: We are nearly 100 years old and some of our health centers have seen the better part of that 🍌. PPKeystone embarked on a capital campaign to invest in our facilities to ensure the next generation of care is here to stay. Our new health centers in Reading and Wilkes-Barre and renovations to Allentown and Warminster centers offer that 21st century feel. And later this year, our new health center in Lancaster will open.

Investing in ourselves: PPKeystone embarked on an internal journey to undo biases, prejudice, and racism from within our walls. Our race equity work, which happens at the Board-level and all the way to our frontline health care heroes, provides education and resources so that PPKeystone is able to deliver compassionate, non-judgmental care, no matter what.

I hope you are as proud as I am about these past 5 years. Here’s to the next five!

In this together,

Melissa Reed



"I need to stress how amazing the staff is here. These people were absolutely beautiful, and treated me so kindly and with so much compassion. This is what health care should be about, making scared patients comfortable and that's exactly what you all did. Every single person I interacted with from this practice was A+ In every department from compassion to knowledge. I would absolutely recommend your practice to any woman who was in my position or even just wanted a better women's health provider. I will be coming to planned parenthood for all my gynecological needs."

– Wilkes-Barre Health Center Patient

WE ALL HOPED SOCIAL DISTANCING WOULD CURB THE SPREAD OF STIs OVER THE PAST YEAR, INSTEAD, THEY'RE STILL RISING AT THE PRE-PANDEMIC RATE.

Why have rates of sexually transmitted infections been rising like home prices right now?

Over the course of the pandemic, we had initially been seeing reduced rates of STIs and unintended pregnancies – less parties to attend means less socializing, means less casual or impromptu sex.

And though we're closer to "normal life" than we've been in a year and a half, we've been seeing this troubling trend since long before restrictions were lifted.

Like any social issue, there are multiple contributing factors at play here.

The loss of Title X funding for healthcare organizations who provide or even tell a patient where they can receive an abortion put a huge hole in the safety net that would normally be there to help patients detect and treat STIs, thereby reduc-

ing the spread of such bacterial infections.

Additionally, state and local restrictions on comprehensive sex ed programs has reduced the number of young people who are learning about safe sex practices and barring them from the opportunity to ask myth-busting questions from trained health educators.

Case in point is the current court battle over a 2019 law passed in the Indiana state legislature barring Planned Parenthood from providing sex ed in public schools.

Proponents of the law even claim that allowing sex ed to be taught by Planned Parenthood would somehow be detrimental to their goal of reducing teen pregnancies.

As harmful as these policy-related dampers are, our teams have been brainstorming ways to address the consequences.

Enter Rapid STI testing.

Traditional STI testing is critical to stopping the spread of infections like gonorrhea and chlamydia, but making the results available within only half an hour of sampling means less stress over waiting for results, less missed phone calls with follow up, and higher rates of successful treatment.

With rapid STI testing, we can test and prescribe treatment all in one visit, leading to an easier course of action for patients – and a lower likelihood that something could get in the way of following up with medications.

PPKey is launching Rapid STI testing in all nine of our health centers starting July 13th.

TALKING ABOUT ABORTION

We know that sexual and reproductive health care is inextricably linked to people living the life they want to live.

In the face of unprecedented attacks, we want to equip you with the information you need when someone confronts you with misinformation about abortion.

Check this column monthly for myth-busting and stigma-breaking facts and talking points.

At Planned Parenthood we see young people, brimming with potential, for their whole selves – their passions, their identities, their dreams. We provide sexual and reproductive care to support the life they envision for themselves, because we know that they need access to health care for their bodies to thrive and to become all they can and will be.

No matter one's personal feelings about abortion, we can all agree that it is not the place of politicians to make this decision for someone else.

Abortions in the United States are happening earlier in pregnancy than they used to: Two-thirds occur within the first eight weeks of pregnancy. Medication abortion helps make this possible.



Percent of *women in the United States that will have an abortion by age 45



Percent of women in the U.S. who obtain an abortion are mothers



of women 13-44 live in a state **hostile or extremely hostile to abortion rights



Seven out of every ten people in the U.S. support abortion rights

**Data collection did not include gender identities other than women*

***As rated by the Guttmacher Institute <https://www.guttmacher.org/united-states/abortion>*



Abortion Access in PA

An Advocacy Update

On June 10th, Signe Espinoza, interim Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates, the advocacy organization for our state, was joined by Governor Wolf and other reproductive rights advocates in Philadelphia to publicly discuss the dangerous legislation that has been working its way through our state legislature.

While these bills are not an immediate threat to the essential healthcare that is abortion in our state, since the Governor has vowed to veto all such legislation, they are only a prelude to what is to come in the very near future.

Special interest, anti-abortion groups are a very loud minority of Americans attempting to tyrannize all of us with their draconian and misguided ideals.

The swaths of anti-abortion legislation making their way across our country make this a critical time for reproductive rights.

We are so grateful to have your strong support during this pivotal moment.

Resources for standing with us can be found along with a replay of the rally in Philadelphia with the links on this page.

Resources to push back against anti-abortion legislation

Gov Wolf, Stakeholders Sound Alarm on Anti-Choice Legislation

WATCH

Find your representative and their contact info

SEARCH

Sign the petition to tell SCOTUS that you stand with the majority who support reproductive freedom

SIGN



Keystone 2021 Cares

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Planned Parenthood Keystone's annual signature fundraising event

2021 is our second annual affiliate-wide virtual fundraising event. We are so excited to unveil who our special guest speaker will be this year.

Your sponsorships and gifts at this event support our vital programs, services, and tools that help us fulfill our mission.

Help us guarantee access to essential reproductive health care in this time of an uncertain political climate by supporting our services so we can continue to deliver care. No matter what.

Stay tuned for the link to our upcoming sponsorships webpage.

If you would like more information prior to the link going out, please reach out to development@ppkeystone.org for more information.

Intersectionality at PPKey

As part of our ongoing commitment to addressing social justice and equity, our employee-led Racial and Social Justice Committee hosts a monthly all-staff training session to provide a space to learn about the history and experiences of various communities and people.

In lifting up the voices that belong to the valuable members of our society that identify with the LGBTQ+ community during Pride Month, our team was joined by guest speakers from Corajus, a Philadelphia-based organization that “[i]s a collaborative of capacity-building facilitators organizing to build a collective analysis of injustice. [... and whose...] ultimate goal is to heal, rebuild, and fortify the communities [they] live in and love.”

June’s training was intended to improve staffs’ skills in providing care to our transgender and gender non-conforming patients.

One attendee noted that staff were very engaged with and excited for this topic. Plans for additional trainings around providing care to the transgender and gender non-conforming community are already in the works.



July Observances

Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act	7/2
Independence Day	7/4
World Population Day	7/11
Parents Day	7/25

Notes on July Observances

Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act

Though we still have so much further to go, and in some ways have regressed further than we've been, the anniversary of the Civil Rights Act in the U.S. stands as a reminder that, as Dr. King said "the arc of history bends toward justice".

Independence Day

As we celebrate our freedom from British colonialism, we must not forget that the land we call home was not a barren "new world" that needed to be settled.

The establishment of our country was at a great and violent cost to indigenous people and built on a doctrine of absolute domination over our fellow human beings.

*World Population Day

A United Nations observance, commemorated every year on July 11. The day was created with the intention of raising awareness and attention to population issues around the globe, such as gender equality, human rights, maternal health, poverty, and family planning.

*Parents Day

"In 1994, Congress unanimously passed "The Parents' Day Resolution" establishing the fourth Sunday of July as a perennial day of commemoration.

On this day each year, Americans recognize outstanding parents, celebrate the teamwork in raising children, and support the role of parental guidance in building a strong, stable society."

—parentsday.com

At Planned Parenthood Keystone, our Mission is to provide and promote access to essential services and education that people need to live healthy lives and build strong communities.

We know that planning for parenthood is important and that most of our patients are parents already when they first come to our health centers.

We acknowledge the challenges inherent in parenting and celebrate the efforts of all those who call themselves "parent".

**Details taken from*

<https://www.calendar.com/united-states/calendar-july-2021/>

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