

Spotlight

Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania • Fall 2021



Message from Dayle Steinberg, President & CEO

PPSP continues to meet our communities' needs including those of the most vulnerable populations, while safeguarding the health of our staff, patients, clients, advocates and volunteers.

Events of the last two years have highlighted inequities in the healthcare system. We have embraced our responsibility to advocate for racial and social justice, and have put this into action both externally and through practices and policies that support equity in the workplace.

On October 2nd, marches and rallies for abortion access and justice were held in 650 cities and towns across the country. PPSP joined coalition partners to hit the streets in all four of our counties in protest of Texas' unconstitutional Senate Bill 8 and similar bans pending in state legislatures, including PA. Many bold and courageous speakers shared powerful testimonies of their own abortions. Stories like these are powerful tools for breaking down abortion sigma, and Planned Parenthood is creating the space for people to share their stories without fear.

On November 1st the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two challenges to Texas' S.B. 8. Our patients and providers from Texas finally had their day in court. Lawyers for the providers and for the United States clearly made the case for why S.B. 8 should be blocked and why this private enforcement scheme is not only a threat to abortion access but to every other constitutional right we hold dear.

On December 1 at 12 PM PPSP will be collaborating with partner organizations, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates on an event in response to the start of the Supreme Court's oral arguments on December 2nd in Jackson Women's Health Organization, a Mississippi abortion ban intended to challenge Roe v. Wade. This event is just one of hundreds planned for this National Day of Action and will center patients, providers, and people most affected -- including BIPOC communities, rural communities and people living with low-incomes. This action will build on the momentum from October 2nd and demonstrate that the vast majority of people support abortion access and will rise up to defend it. Our supporters will also be taking action to protect abortion access when the PA legislature returns in January.

On the good-news front, on November 8th, the Biden-Harris administration's new rules for the Title X federal family planning program went into effect and the gag rule was eliminated. Although there will be court challenges mounted, this is an important victory, enabling the rebuilding of the Title X network with Planned Parenthood re-entering.

This fall, the PPSP Board and staff are embarking on a strategic-planning process. Although the unstable environment presents multiple obstacles and unknowns ahead- including the long-term impact of the pandemic, election outcomes, and the real possibility of Roe being overturned- we know we must engage in the effort to assess and adjust our direction in response to the everchanging environment.

Daunting challenges lie ahead, but our resolve is steadfast. The courage, resilience and perseverance of all of PPSP's staff remains inspirational, as does the dedication of our supporters. You continue to stand strong with our communities and have been unwavering in your generosity. We thank you for that.

We continue to stand strong with help from generous supporters like you.

More than ever, people need trustworthy, high-quality care and information to make decisions about their lives and futures. Your support ensures PPSP's ability to continue to deliver that care throughout our communities.

An Update on Our Education Programs

PPSP's Education programs create a supportive environment for young people to understand themselves and their bodies, explore attitudes and values, and develop into healthy adults. We provide a range of programs to help meet the need for comprehensive sexuality education in Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.

In response the constraints presented by COVID-19, we pivoted to virtual learning, understanding how critical it is to stay connected during a difficult and confusing time for many young people. Now, as each school and district makes its own reopening policies, our Educators are providing virtual, hybrid, and in-person learning options to ensure that we are accessible to all of our community partners.

Interested in scheduling a program?

Our highly-trained, professional Education team will work with you to design a program that meets your needs.

Email education@ppsp.org to get started!

Our Educators have been developing new resources and services to help meet the need for non-judgmental, evidence-based sexuality education. For example, we are creating a new online video series, which will be available through our website (ppsp.org) in December. These videos reduce health disparities by providing free, accessible information on topics including contraception, safer-sex practices, consent, and healthy relationships. By making our brand of sexual and reproductive health and education widely available, we aim to equalize access to our programs, engage new audiences, and spread the word about PPSP's programs and services.

We also launched a new suite of "Askable Adult" programs designed to help build a supportive community around young people, as they grow into happy, healthy adults. We designed "Askable Adult" programs for parents and guardians, youth-serving professionals, and teachers. These workshops and resources provide accurate information to trusted adults as they also develop skills for discussing sexual and reproductive health with young people, free from bias and judgment.

Volunteering at PPSP



Our volunteer programs are critical to PPSP's ability to support our patients and staff, stay connected to our communities, and defend our rights. Amid this era of ceaseless new abortion restrictions and attacks, our supporters are as engaged as ever, standing with us as we face opposition to our work and mission.

We are experiencing a huge surge in interest from people who want to protect our work and mission. Since January 2021, PPSP received 110 volunteer applications-approximately half of these were received since Texas' S.B. 8 abortion ban went into effect on September 1st. We are working to swiftly connect with our supporters to position them as volunteers.

Our Patient Escorts provide a strong and vital presence outside of our health centers in the face of heightened and hostile protester activity. After scaling back this program earlier in the pandemic, we are now expanding our programming and training for patient escorts in order to provide a consistent and supportive presence for our patients.



Our organizing work pivoted primarily to digital engagement in early 2020, and our volunteers remain essential to our policy and advocacy work through voting reform education, non-electoral Get Out The Vote work, and storytelling initiatives. We are keeping volunteers informed on anti-sexual and reproductive health legislation, and they are contacting their elected officials and educating their networks on the harm of these bad bills. Our volunteer groups -- including PP Generation Action college chapters, Young Advocates, and Leadership Advocacy Group -- are convening book clubs, mutual-aid drives, "Lunch and Learns", and more, in order to stay connected and serve their communities as they face compounding crises.

We are looking forward to bringing back additional inperson volunteer opportunities when safety permits including our Handholding Program, Health Center Advocacy Program and Healthy Neighborhood Canvassing in the coming months.

Our Patients

PPSP's Patient Services teams have consistently and creatively risen to the challenges of the pandemic, often with innovative new approaches to ensuring our patients have Care. No Matter What.

Telemedicine

After rapidly implementing telemedicine services in 2020, we have fully integrated video and phone-based telemedicine into our patient care model, offering a range of services to meet demand and increase timely access to care. Our patients greatly appreciate the convenience of telemedicine, and telemedicine visits accounted for 34% of all visits in the past 3 months. With telemedicine, patients have access to all locations and more easily find same-day appointments.



Gender Affirming Care (GAC)

We provide transgender and gender-diverse individuals with comprehensive care that affirms their gender identity so that they can live with self-determination, autonomy, and agency. PPSP began providing GAC in 2017 in response to demonstrated community need for affordable, accessible, and compassionate hormone therapy and inclusive reproductive and sexual health care in our region. Since launching GAC, PPSP has provided more than 5,400 visits to over 1,200 individuals.

When COVID-19 reached our service area, we transferred GAC to telemedicine, which eliminated the need for our patients to travel to our health centers, made the service more convenient for existing patients, and expanded our geographic reach to additional underserved areas. This alteration to our operations also presented an opportunity to build capacity through an innovative centralized GAC program, enabling us to serve additional patients, and reduce wait times to initiate care.



Language Interpretation

We have recently improved patient experience by rolling out a new and easy to use portable video-based language interpretation service at all health centers, replacing our previous telephone-based service. These enhanced services provide patients with more personal, quicker connection, and the ability to read body language, and confirm understanding. This service eliminates language barriers and furthers our commitment to equity of care.



In the past year...

of our patients received care through telemedicine visits.



74.9 percent of PPSP patients have received free-or-reduced care appointments.

PPSP's Virtual Fall Gathering with Alexis McGill Johnson



On Thursday, November 4th, PPSP hosted our Virtual Fall Gathering, featuring a keynote address from Planned Parenthood Federation of America's President and CEO, Alexis McGill Johnson, followed by a dynamic conversation with PPSP's President and CEO, Dayle Steinberg.

Throughout her life, Alexis has been a catalyst for social change and a warrior for justice and equity. In her two years as CEO, Alexis has steered Planned Parenthood though some of the most difficult times in our history: the loss of Title X, the onset of COVID-19, the national reckoning on white supremacy, and the coming Supreme Court decisions challenging abortion access.

Alexis spoke to more than sixty attendees about her longstanding commitment to sexual and reproductive health -- and how to ensure continued access when it is threatened like never before. She spoke to the real-life, devastating impact on patients in Texas who, since September 1st, have been unable to obtain abortions in their state after six weeks of pregnancy - and how this is setting the stage for other states to enact similar laws. She addressed the relationship of access issues to those of equity and social justice. Alexis answered many questions from the audience, including one on Planned Parenthood's research programs, where she showed enthusiasm for this important work. She also offered inspiration for our future, noting, "Movements are built in dark times, and through pain there's purpose, and through purpose there's power."

We offer our deepest thanks to all of our sponsors and attendees. We sincerely hope at this time next year we will be reflecting on the success of our first in-person Fall Gathering since 2019.

In Memoriam

PPSP acknowledges and remembers several longtime donors and board members who recently passed away. Their dedication to Planned Parenthood and reproductive freedom has left an enduring legacy. We are forever thankful for the impact they have made.

Sally Pew

Sally served on the PPSP Board of Directors for more than 18 years, on the steering committee for the 2004 Owning Our Future Capital Campaign, and as an active volunteer stewarding and cultivating fellow Planned Parenthood donors on our Development Council. Sally was always willing to open her home to Planned Parenthood supporters and staff for social gatherings and meetings.

Rogie Dickey

A tireless advocate for reproductive rights, Rogie was awarded PPSP's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement award in 1999. Rogie served on the PPSP Board of Directors for numerous years, eventually becoming Board Chair. She additionally served on the 2004 Capital Campaign advisory committee and helped solicit numerous donations in support of the campaign.

Alvan Markle, III

Alvan served as PPSP's Board Chair for multiple years, and in 1999, he received PPSP's Freedom Keepers award in honor of his commitment to reproductive rights. He was an enthusiastic event attendee and always welcomed PPSP to his retirement community at Beaumont.

Eva Verplanck

Eva served on the Planned Parenthood of Chester County (PPCC) board, eventually becoming board president. When PPCC merged with PPSP, Eva became a member of the PPSP Budget and Finance committee, which she served on until her death at the age of 97. Always eager to share her passion for reproductive rights, Eva would often coordinate speaking engagements at Kendal Crossings where she resided, to spread the word about the important work PPSP was doing in the community.

Dr. Kaighn Smith

Dr. Smith served on PPSP's Board of Directors as well as the Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania Advocates board in the early 2000's and on the facilities and business planning committee of the 2004 Capital Campaign. As a prominent OB-GYN who began his career pre-Roe, Kaighn knew the transformative powers of access to reproductive health care and was committed to ensuring the right to an abortion.

