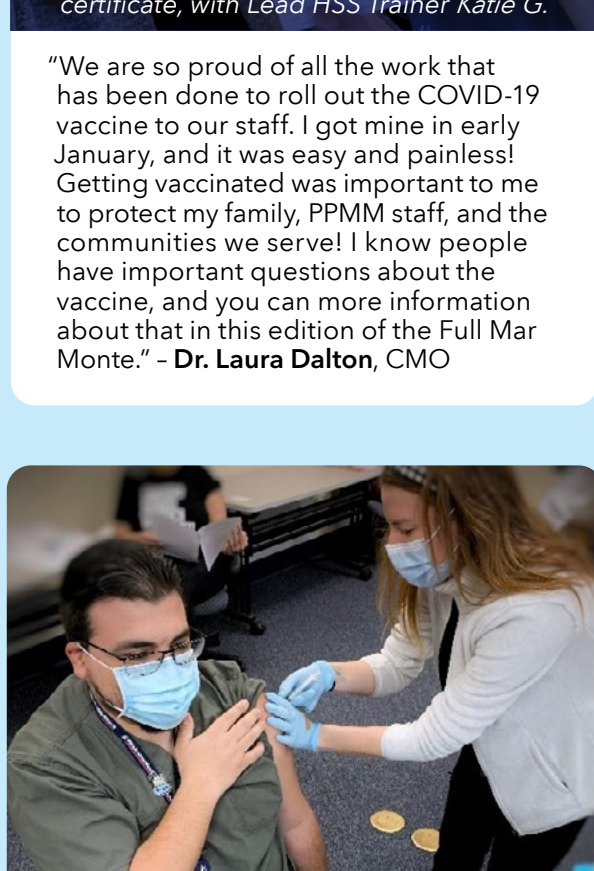


# The Full Mar Monte

SUPPORTERS EDITION

## COVID vaccine rollout for frontline health center staff!

Check out this photo gallery of PPMM frontline health center staff, who care for patients every day, getting their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. They were able to get the vaccine as soon as the county public health departments where these sites are located made it available. Not all counties are providing the vaccine at the same time, but our staff is closely monitoring when it is available and bringing it to health centers ASAP!



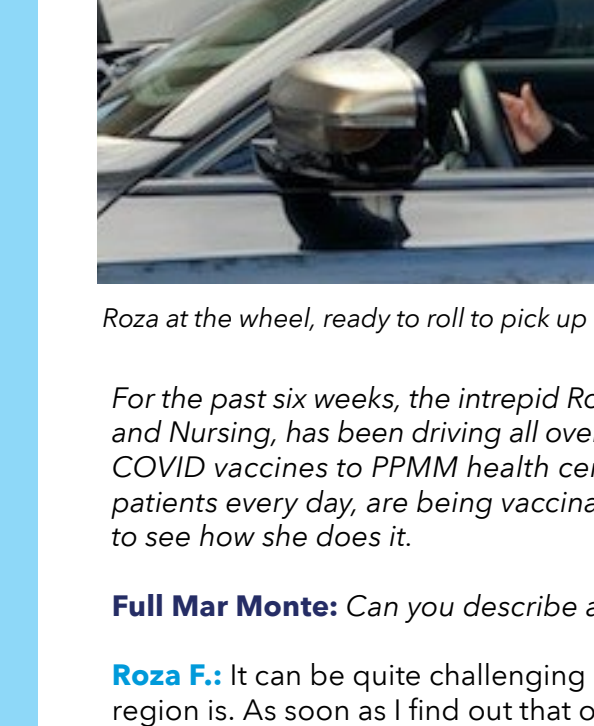
Dr. Dalton (left) holding her COVID vaccine certificate, with Lead HSS Trainer Katie G.

"We are so proud of all the work that has been done to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine to our staff. I got mine in early January, and it was easy and painless! Getting vaccinated was important to me to protect my family, PPMM staff, and the communities we serve! I know people have important questions about the vaccine, and you can more information about that in this edition of the Full Mar Monte." - Dr. Laura Dalton, CMO



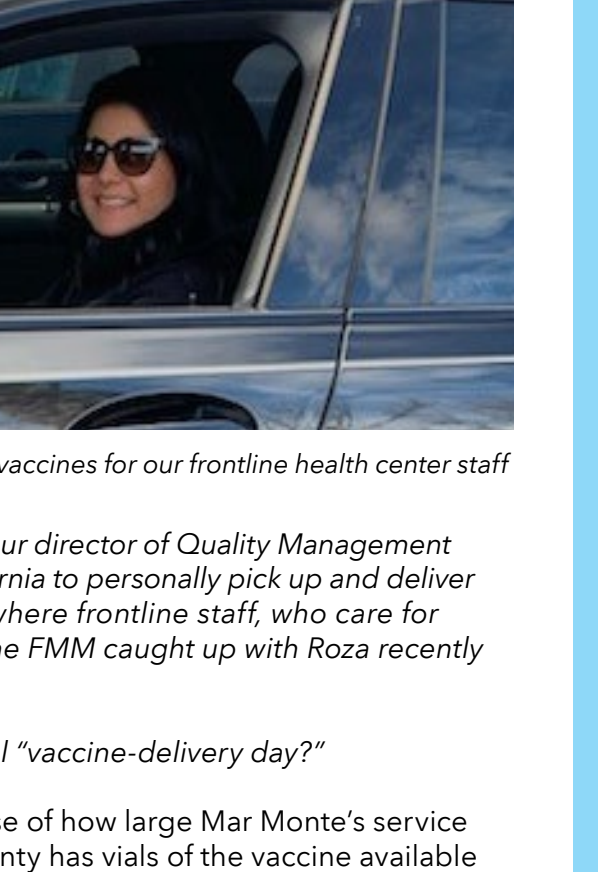
Very pregnant Clinician Joy E. gets her vaccine

"Painless!" - Clinician Joy E., health center in San Joaquin County



Center Manager Alex B. getting his vaccine shot from RN Sam W.

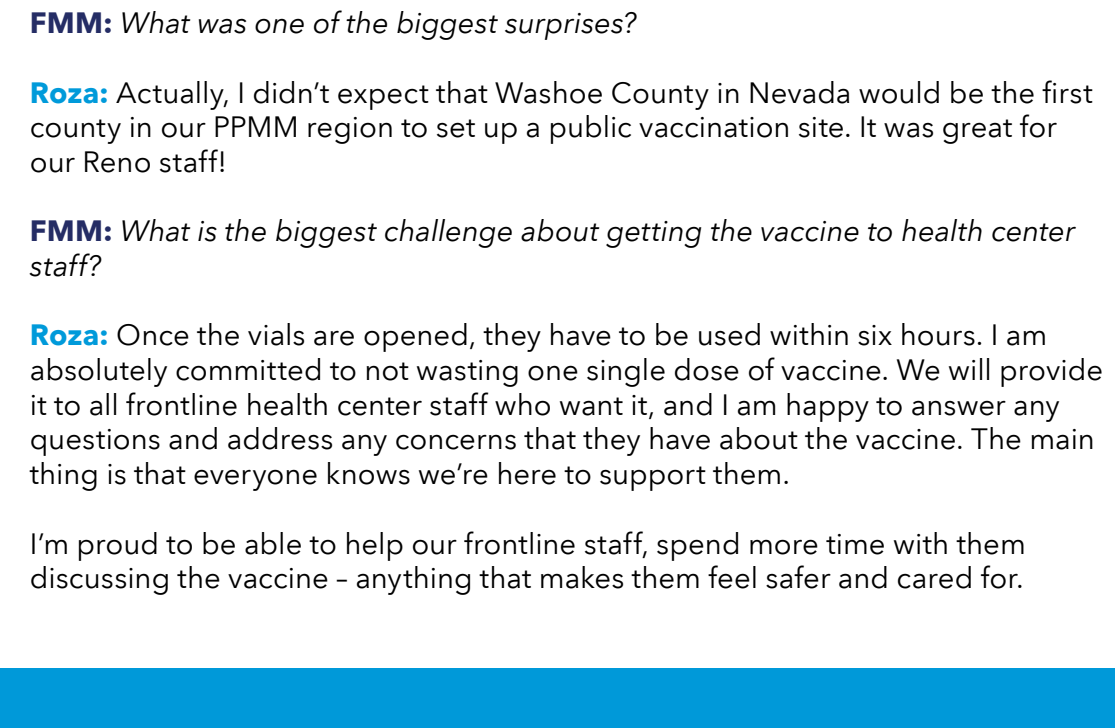
"Didn't feel a thing! Sam, the RN, is the best!" - Alex B., health center in Sacramento



HSS Sheida K., Blossom Hill HC in San Jose

"I just got the COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna. No pain during the injection! I have fatigue and a little muscle soreness in my arm which is not unusual with any shot." - HSS Sheida K., health center in San Jose

## Dir. of Quality Management and Nursing Roza F.: One-woman vaccine-road warrior for health center frontline staff



Roza at the wheel, ready to roll to pick up COVID vaccines for our frontline health center staff

For the past six weeks, the intrepid Roza F., our director of Quality Management and Nursing, has been driving all over California to personally pick up and deliver COVID vaccines to PPMM health centers, where frontline staff, who care for patients every day, are being vaccinated. The FMM caught up with Roza recently to see how she does it.

**FMM:** Can you describe a typical "vaccine-delivery day"?

**Roza F.:** It can be quite challenging because of how large Mar Monte's service region is. As soon as I find out that one county has vials of the vaccine available through the public health department, I make arrangements to drive to pick it up, knowing that I have to be there at a certain time. Then the clock starts ticking for how long I have to get it to a health center, while it's been kept in a special super-cold container, before we open the vials and start administering it to staff.

It's precious cargo! I feel like I'm transporting very fragile, valuable Fabergé eggs or something!

**FMM:** What was one of your most recent trips?

**Roza:** Since late December, I've logged hundreds of miles transporting COVID vaccines. I live in Lodi, and a few weeks ago I found out that I needed to go to Fresno to pick up a shipment. I was on the road at 4:45 a.m. to make my 7:30 a.m. pick-up time.

**FMM:** How did you feel when the vaccine was first available and you started picking it up for our health center staff?

**Roza:** I was really kind of nervous. I knew I just couldn't let anything happen to it. On one of my first trips, taking some vaccine to San Jose, I was even scared to drive over railroad tracks! I didn't want to jostle it. I'm more comfortable with it now.

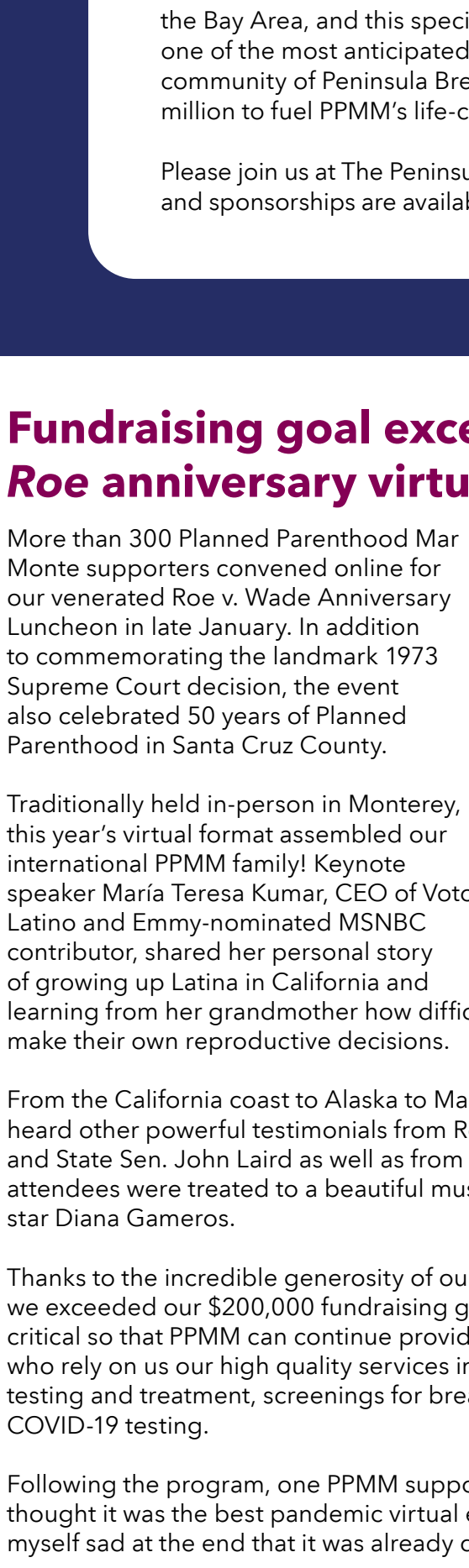
**FMM:** What was one of the biggest surprises?

**Roza:** Actually, I didn't expect that Washoe County in Nevada would be the first county in our PPMM region to set up a public vaccination site. It was great for our Reno staff!

**FMM:** What is the biggest challenge about getting the vaccine to health center staff?

**Roza:** Once the vials are opened, they have to be used within six hours. I am absolutely committed to not wasting one single dose of vaccine. We will provide it to all frontline health center staff who want it, and I am happy to answer any questions and address any concerns that they have about the vaccine. The main thing is that everyone knows we're here to support them.

I'm proud to be able to help our frontline staff, spend more time with them discussing the vaccine - anything that makes them feel safer and cared for.



## 2021 VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES MOVING FORWARD, FIGHTING BACK

### Peninsula Breakfast Friday, March 5, 2021 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

featuring guest speaker  
**Meena Harris**  
Founder and CEO of Phenomenal  
and New York Times bestselling author

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte invites you to be a guest at the **2021 Peninsula Breakfast**, with a virtual format that will make this popular event more inclusive and accessible than ever.

We're thrilled to present this year's keynote speaker, Meena Harris, founder of the Phenomenal female-powered lifestyle brand that has been bringing awareness to social causes, including health care equity, and has established a digital audience of over 625 million. Meena is also a New York Times best-selling author of two children's books.

The Peninsula Breakfast is a time-honored tradition for PPMM supporters in the Bay Area, and this special event has grown from its humble roots to be one of the most anticipated events on the Peninsula each year. Our generous community of Peninsula Breakfast donors and volunteers raise more than \$1 million to fuel PPMM's life-changing programs!

Please join us at The Peninsula Breakfast on Friday, March 5th at 8:30 AM. Tickets and sponsorships are available today at [ppmmonte.org/PenBreak2021](http://ppmmonte.org/PenBreak2021).

## Fundraising goal exceeded at January Roe anniversary virtual event

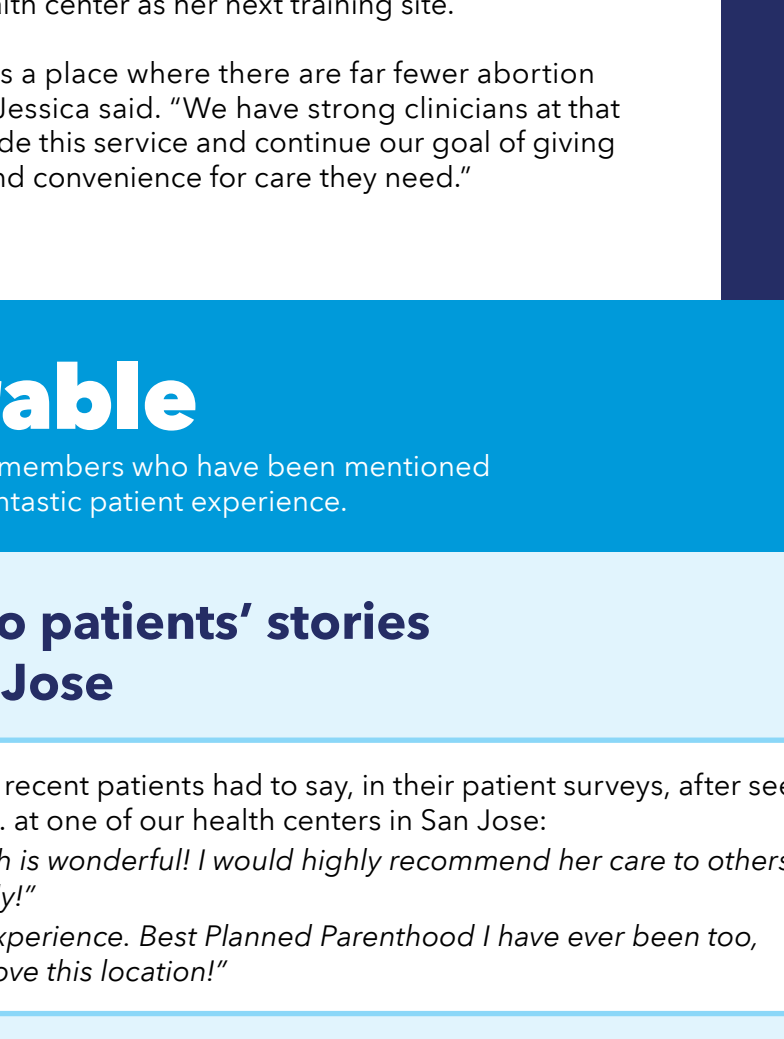
More than 300 Planned Parenthood Mar Monte supporters convened online for our venerated Roe v. Wade Anniversary Luncheon in late January. In addition to commemorating the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision, the event also celebrated 50 years of Planned Parenthood in Santa Cruz County.

Traditionally held in-person in Monterey, this year's virtual format assembled our international PPMM family! Keynote speaker Maria Teresa Kumar, CEO of Voto Latino and Emmy-nominated MSNBC contributor, shared her personal story of growing up Latina in California and learning from her grandmother how difficult it was for women to make their own reproductive decisions.

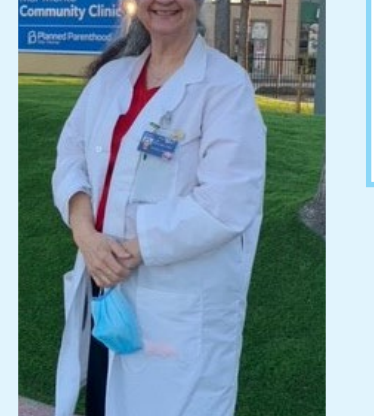
From the California coast to Alaska to Maine and Germany, viewers heard other powerful testimonials from Rep. Jimmy Panetta and State Sen. John Laird as well as from patients and staff, and attendees were treated to a beautiful musical performance by rising star Diana Gameros.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our family of supporters, we exceeded our \$200,000 fundraising goal! These resources are critical so that PPMM can continue providing over 180,000 patients who rely on us our high quality services including abortion care, STI-testing and treatment, screenings for breast and cervical cancer, and COVID-19 testing.

Following the program, one PPMM supporter shared, "I really thought it was the best pandemic virtual event I've seen yet. I found myself sad at the end that it was already done!"



Keynote speaker, Voto Latino CEO Maria Teresa Kumar, onscreen during PPMM's Roe event in Jan. 2021



## Kandy calls the counties - weekly Just one way Kandy L., Exec. Assistant to the CMO, aids vaccine rollout

Helping manage PPMM's vaccine rollout for frontline health center staff takes patience and tenacity. Just ask Kandy L., Executive Assistant to Chief Medical Officer Dr. Laura Dalton. The FMM grabbed a phone-chat with Kandy to find out more about what's happening behind the scenes.

**FMM:** What's a crucial part of the careful coordination and persistence it takes to help with the PPMM vaccine rollout for staff?

**Kandy L.:** It's really important that we keep on top of which county vaccine is making the vaccine available and when. They are all doing it on different schedules. I call these counties every week - sometimes every day - to make sure we know as soon as they have vaccines ready.

**FMM:** Is calling county health departments the only way to stay on top of this?

**Kandy:** Well, a lot of times they'll say to check their web sites, but they don't always update their web sites right away. If you only rely on that, you could miss a time the counties actually have vaccine available.

**FMM:** How much time does it take to stay current on all this information, from so many counties?

**Kandy:** When the vaccines first became available last month, I spent a good chunk of my day making these calls. It's only started to slow down a bit recently.

**FMM:** Are there other things you're doing to help make the health center staff-vaccine access process go smoothly?

**Kandy:** Because we have a large health care staff, on the frontlines with patients, I've also been spending a lot of time setting up appointments for them. A lot of it is about figuring out how to fit staff in at an available site and at an available time. It actually takes a lot of time scheduling. It's up to the counties to decide when the vaccine is available and where it's going. But, once it's here, we're going to make sure it's available to all (frontline health center staff) who want it!

## Have questions about COVID-19 vaccines?

The approved COVID-19 vaccines have been rigorously tested on tens of thousands of volunteers from various age and race/ethnicity backgrounds. The vaccines have been determined to be effective and safe by the medical and scientific community who made it their highest priority to develop the vaccine as fast and safely as possible.

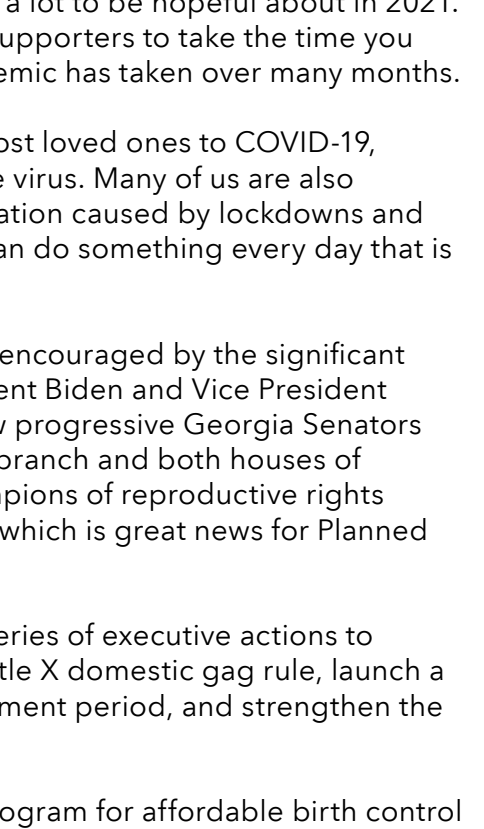
The three-phased testing process for vaccines is the same as every other vaccine approved prior to COVID-19. A safety board approved every study, and the FDA carefully reviewed the data from every phase of every vaccine trial. Data will continue to be collected two years after a vaccine is first administered to ensure that the long-term effects are safe.

You can review the evidence yourself by viewing the public information on the FDA's website, and check out the FAQ's at the CDC website. You can also check out PPMM's vaccine information on our website.

## Expanding integrated abortion services

In order further enhance patient care, more PPMM clinicians are being trained to provide aspiration abortion services in our health centers.

"With clinicians trained to do aspiration abortions, patients are now able to have an in-health center abortion any day of the week that provider is available," said Associate Director of Advanced Practice Clinicians Jessica D. She began piloting this training program several years ago at the Watsonville health center, aiming to conduct the trainings at more health centers - especially those in remote areas where abortion providers are scarce.



Associate Director of Advanced Practice Clinicians Jessica D.

Clinician Joy E. has recently completed the training at the N. Stockton health center and says she's glad that she can provide patients with this service so they don't have to come back on another day.

"Just recently, we had a patient who came in for a medication abortion appointment, but she had high blood pressure so that method really wasn't a good option for her," Joy said. "Because I'd had the training, I was able to provide an aspiration abortion for her that same day. She didn't have to come back for another appointment."

Clinicians Heather W. at the Merced health center and Madison B. at the Fruitridge site in Sacramento have also been trained recently to provide aspiration abortions, and Jessica said she will continue to expand the program. She's eyeing the Bakersfield health center as her next training site.

"That part of the Central Valley is a place where there are very few abortion providers than in other areas," Jessica said. "We have strong clinicians at that site who can be trained to provide this service and continue our goal of giving our patients greater flexibility and convenience for care they need."

## 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.

### Clinician Leah A. listens to patients' stories at one of our sites in San Jose



MMCC Clinician Leah A.

Here's what two recent patients had to say, in their patient surveys, after seeing Clinician Leah A. at one of our health centers in San Jose:

- "My NP Leah is wonderful! I would highly recommend her care to others, unreservedly!"
- "Amazing experience. Best Planned Parenthood I have ever been too, honestly, I love this location!"

**FMM:** What do you find unique about the kind of care that PPMM - and you - provide?

**Leah A.:** We have to help our patients negotiate several different health systems. During the pandemic, we're hearing from a lot more insurance who have lost their jobs and are worried about how they will get people and get their birth control pills or Pap tests. We can help them address all of that.

**FMM:** How do you approach patients to make them feel most comfortable?

**Leah:** I always start with a genuine welcome. "I'm glad you came here. How can I help you?" Sometimes people are surprised by how many questions I ask, but I really want to hear their stories, or why they came to us. And so many want to tell me, to be heard.

**FMM:** What are you most grateful for about being at PPMM?

**Leah:** I'm blessed to work with incredible HSS (health services specialist) staff and managers, the Central Follow-up Unit, Reproductive Health Coordinators, and NexGen staff. We are all taking care of patients together with great team work.

## FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

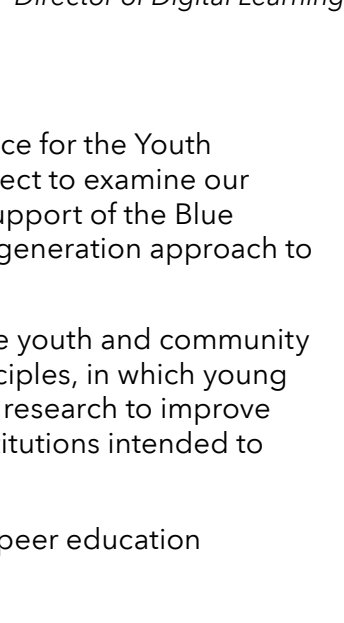
Here are just a few of the major accomplishments by the PPMM Education staff in recent months. With thousands of digital learners, our educators are making an amazing difference to our communities during the pandemic - and beyond.

- 13 Youth Advisory Board members ages 16-25 were welcomed and hit the ground running to review and provide feedback on Digital Learning channel content.

- The team developed a scope and sequence for the Youth Teen Pregnancy Action Research (YPAR) project to examine our Teen Pregnancy Support Program, with support of the Blue Shield of California Foundation, as a two-generation approach to breaking cycles of violence.

YPAR is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development, based in social justice principles, in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them.

- Expanded Teen Council, our high school peer education program in Southern Monterey County.



Leah C., PPMM Education Director of Digital Learning

## 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 [ppmmonte.org/blog](http://ppmmonte.org/blog).

### Treating victims of domestic violence

In the months since COVID-19 has changed the world and delivery of health care, Joana P., center manager of our Eastside site in San Jose, has seen firsthand the results of an often-overlooked side effect of the pandemic: Patients needing care who are forced to shelter-in-place with someone who abuses them.

Recently, a patient came in whose partner had insisted on coming with her to the Eastside health center. "He'd dragged her into the car and said he was going to watch her while she was here," Joana said. "He wanted to come inside, but we wouldn't allow that when the patient wanted it clear that she was afraid and didn't want him with her."

Staff at our health centers are familiar with this scenario. But it can be more threatening in the time of COVID-19, when someone facing domestic violence has even fewer options to leave and no protection.

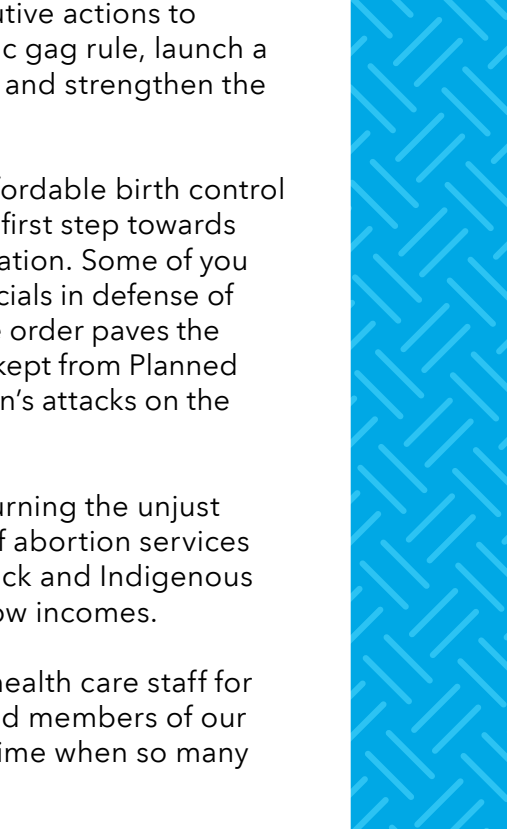
"The patient's partner continued to be very threatening, and we called the police. He ended up being arrested," Joana said. "Our patient told us she had agreed to come with him to see us because she knew she would be safe here. She knew that we would be able to help."

This is a privilege we have with our patients. We know we can make them feel safe, that they trust us and we will take care of them. Especially now, that is everything."

## The Big Picture

### Public Affairs team training more volunteer advocates

PPMM's Public Affairs team celebrated the 48th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision in January by mobilizing our volunteers and community partners and reaching out to elected officials.



Public Affairs Community Organizer Kelly K., Zooming at home with local activists and pooch, Fig

Alameda County Community Organizer Kelly K. prepped PPMM Clinician Debbie B., who is also a Berkeley resident, to address the Berkeley City Council at a virtual event while accepting a proclamation from the Council that recognized PPMM's work as well as the Roe anniversary.



## LETTER FROM THE CEO Mourning this pandemic - and taking time for grief

Hello Friends,

With new leadership in Washington, D.C. and a much more robust plan to disseminate the COVID vaccine, there is a lot to be hopeful about in 2021. But, I want to urge all of our dedicated supporters to take the time you need to grieve for the toll that the pandemic has taken over many months.

Some of our supporters and staff have lost loved ones to COVID-19, and some are in the hospital fighting the virus. Many of us are also grappling with acute loneliness and isolation caused by lockdowns and essential social distancing. I hope you can do something every day that is comforting and healing for you.

Meanwhile, I believe we should be truly encouraged by the significant change in the White House since President Biden and Vice President Harris have taken office and the two new progressive Georgia Senators have been sworn in. Now the executive branch and both houses of Congress are controlled by strong champions of reproductive rights and access to reproductive health care, which is great news for Planned Parenthood and the people we serve.

President Biden recently announced a series of executive actions to repeal the global gag rule, review the Title X domestic gag rule, launch a special Affordable Care Act open enrollment period, and strengthen the Medicaid program.

The review of Title X, the only federal program for affordable birth control and other preventive reproductive health care, is the first step towards undoing the harmful changes of the Trump administration. Some of you will recall volunteering your time to contact public officials in defense of Title X two years ago. The President's recent executive order paves the way to restoring access to care for patients who were kept from Planned Parenthood health centers by the Trump administration's attacks on the program.

We also have the best chance in many years of overturning the unjust Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion services and disproportionately denies abortion-access to Black and Indigenous people, other communities of color, and those with low incomes.

Closer to home, I want to say how proud I am of our health care staff for providing over 18,000 COVID tests to our patients and members of our communities! This is a remarkable achievement at a time when so many depend on us like never before.

I'm also exceedingly proud that we've made the COVID vaccine available to so many staff in health centers, which you can read more about in this issue.

Your support of PPMM's response to serve our patients and staff during this pandemic is another reason I'm honored to work side by side with all of you. Thank you, and please take good care of yourselves.

In this together,

Stacy

## Good Reads

January 28, *Washington Post*  
Biden drops Trump's anti-abortion global gag rule

January 26, *Ms. Magazine*  
Biden and Harris announce new White House Gender Policy Council

Support your local Planned Parenthood today! **DONATE** >