



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc.

Loss of Title X funds and its effect on serving Medicaid clients

Presentation to MAPOC: Women and Children's Health Committee
October 21, 2019.

PPSNE

Who are we? Who are our patients?

- A non-profit agency; an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.
- Operates 17 health centers in CT (16) and RI (1, Providence).
- Provides 125,000 visits to 78,000 women and men--
- More than half of PPSNE's CT patients are people of color.
- About two thirds are people with low income—at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.
- In Connecticut, 45% of patients are covered by Medicaid; 23% are uninsured/self pay.

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What services do PPSNE provide?

- Contraceptive care: Counseling and dispensing nearly all FDA approved birth control methods on site—including IUDs and hormonal implants.
- Testing and treating sexually transmitted diseases, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomonas.
- HIV prevention: HIV testing and referrals, PrEP/PEP services.
- Gyn care: Pap test and HPV typing, HPV vaccinations, diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections, yeast infections, bacterial vaginosis, clinical breast exams, pelvic exams.
- Preconception care: Blood pressure; diabetes and cholesterol screening; annual well woman exam; flu shots; T-DAP vaccinations; smoking cessation counseling and aids; drug, alcohol and depression screening.

PPSNE and Title X

Why was PPSNE forced to leave the Title X program?

- In August 2019, PPSNE—along with every other PP affiliate in the US—was forced out of the federal Title X Family Planning program, after having been the grantee in Connecticut since the program's inception more than 40 years ago. *(PPSNE stopped participating as of July 15)*
- The Trump-Pence Administration implemented a new set of rules (The Gag Rule) on Title X providers that would have prohibited PPSNE from providing high quality, medically accurate care to patients.
- The Gag Rule disregards patients' wishes and medical professionals' knowledge and undermines the patient-provider relationship.
- The Gag Rule forces providers to engage in the medically unethical and harmful practice of withholding information about abortion or mislead and lie to patients about their options.
- PPSNE received about \$2 million a year in Title X funding.

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What did Title X's \$2 million fund?

- Title X is an operating grant that subsidizes a portion of the overall cost of providing quality family planning and STD prevention services at Title X-designated centers, including:
 - Same day and walk in appointments
 - Evening and weekend hours
 - Stocking a broad range of contraceptive methods—including IUDs and hormonal implants—so they can be dispensed on site.
- Title X subsidized the additional costs associated with adhering to Title X rules, including:
 - A sliding fee scale for uninsured patients;
 - Offering services at no charge for those at or below 100% of the federal poverty level;
 - Conducting outreach and community education programs.

How does the loss of Title X funds affect the CT Medicaid program?

In two ways:

1. PPSNE's Title X funded health centers acted as a “gateway” for many uninsured women and men into the Medicaid program.
2. Title X funds subsidized the gap between what it costs to provide a Medicaid visit and what Medicaid reimburses.

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How does PPSNE serve as a “gateway” to Medicaid coverage for low income women and men?

- Many low-income women and men are attracted to PPSNE because of our sliding fee scale, no-charge category and policy of never turning anyone away due to inability to pay.
- PPSNE offer's on-site sign up for the Medicaid Family Planning Limited Benefit program and is able to get many uninsured patients immediate coverage for contraceptive care and STD prevention services.
- These patients are then directed to the AccessHealth CT website to sign up for on-going Family Planning coverage, full Medicaid or an ACA plan.
- Our internal studies have shown that more than half of those who received presumptive eligibility for Family Planning at a PPSNE health center, return with some health insurance coverage—such as on-going Family Planning, full Medicaid or an ACA plan.
- Our internal analysis also shows that women who have health care coverage are more likely to be using a moderately or highly effective method of birth control.

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Title X funds enabled PPSNE to provide care to Medicaid patients.

- PPSNE estimates that Medicaid reimbursement fees on average represent approximately 83% of the cost of providing a Medicaid visit.
- In addition to funding PPSNE's sliding fee scale, the Title X grant subsidized the gap between the full cost of providing medical services and Medicaid reimbursement.



Going forward

- PPSNE is not planning to close any centers or make significant changes to its sliding fee scale in the short term.
- However, in the long term, PPSNE will need to replace Title X funds if we are to maintain our current level of service to patients who are uninsured, and patients covered by Medicaid.

Thank you!

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