

2017: A YEAR OF RESISTANCE



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
HEALTH
NETWORK**

The Network strives to improve the health of all women by developing and promoting a critical analysis of health issues in order to affect policy and support consumer decision-making. We aspire to a just health system that reflects the needs of all women.

Raising Women's Voices (RWV) for the Health Care We Need

■ In 2017, we switched to an all-hands-on-deck defense of the ACA and Medicaid in the face of sustained GOP attack. We were proud of our role in defeating multiple Trumpcare proposals and bringing the voices of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people to the national debate. Throughout the year we crafted social media campaigns, talking points, and media outreach and mobilized our regional coordinator (RC) network of grassroots activists to make their voices heard.

■ Southern and conservative states with high numbers of uninsured are a special priority for NWHN. In partnership with RWV's co-leaders, we funded multiple mini-grant cycles for our RCs, helping them with the resources they needed to send letters to the editor, meet with state and federal legislators, host call-in days and rallies, and more. Our RCs helped win a historic ballot initiative to expand Medicaid in Maine; organized "Black Folks on the Hill" days in Tennessee, Texas, and Louisiana; trained women in Georgia on how to use and fight for their new coverage; and more.

■ In addition to this programmatic support, RWV co-founder Byllye Avery and NWHN staff continued to provide financial support and technical assistance for organizational development through the Working Against the Grain project to strengthen the capacity of people of color-led groups. In 2017 we worked with the Afiya Center in Texas and Trans Queer Pueblo in Arizona. As a result of their increased organizational capacity, the groups started new programs to address the health needs of immigrants, strengthened state-wide organizing, and secured a policy win for Black mothers.



Challenging Dangerous Drugs and Devices

■ In 2017 we put public pressure on the incoming commissioner for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to uphold high scientific standards for safety and effectiveness in the face of industry calls for deregulation. We submitted a petition to the White House signed by close to 2,000 of our members urging the president to nominate a commissioner with a demonstrated background in science and respect for women's health, and launched a media campaign to highlight our concerns with then-nominee Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former Bush official and long-time booster of Big Pharma. While we couldn't stop his confirmation, the campaign has been effective in limiting the kinds of pro-industry stances he's felt free to pursue.

■ Throughout the year we continued to highlight for our members and the media the ways that deregulatory efforts, such as shortcuts on patient safety studies and expanded off-label marketing, would particularly harm women. We also worked with allies across the progressive movement to ensure that women's health is recognized as part of the administration's ideological assault on scientific integrity.

■ In 2017, with the help of our first-ever policy fellow for our Challenging Dangerous Drugs and Devices campaign, Caila Brander, we launched an awareness and advocacy campaign around osteoporosis that included two newsletter articles, three fact sheets, and new advocacy information. She interviewed Executive Director Cindy Pearson on Facebook live for a conversational look at Big Pharma's role in shaping how we view and treat osteoporosis. And we were the lone voices of consumer skepticism at an osteoporosis summit developing recommendations to help women who've had one osteoporotic fracture from having another.

Securing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Autonomy

■ In 2017, we continued working to change the conversation around long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) such as IUDs and implants. Our "Statement of Principles" with SisterSong to guide the provision of LARCs (tinyurl.com/LARCprinciples) continued to gain recognition, including from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the New York City Department of Public Health. Guided by the statement, we held trainings around the country for clinicians, advocates, and policymakers, speaking at a number of conferences and convenings, including the national Sex Education Summit, the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association's annual conference, and the Health Care Education and Training annual meeting.

And we've started to see a real impact from our work. After one conference, a state health department employee approached to let us know that, as a result of our presentation, the department was going to change its website to remove coercive language.

■ We appeared in a number of media outlets over the year highlighting the influx of Trump's anti-science, anti-women's health political appointees, the scourge of fake women's health clinics, and Republican attacks on reproductive health, including an illegal Trump rollback of the ACA's contraception mandate.



“Over the past decade, NWHN has been an invaluable resource and ally as we carry out Consumer Health First’s mission to advance health equity. As a state-based policy, advocacy and education organization, we have come to rely upon NWHN to ensure that we remain laser-focused on ensuring that the health care needs of women are front and center. We applaud their leadership and look forward to an on-going and strong partnership.”

— LENI PRESTON, CONSUMER HEALTH FIRST, RWV PARTNER IN MARYLAND

10th ANNUAL BARBARA SEAMAN AWARDS FOR ACTIVISM IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Our annual event theme was "Fighting for the Needs of All Women" to highlight the struggles of women of color, lower-income women, and people part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Susan Wood and Renee Bracey Sherman were honored for their achievements in women's health activism while Monica Simpson spoke about how far we've come in protecting women's healthcare.

RIGHT: Guest speaker Monica Simpson, 2016 Lifetime Achievement Honoree Dr. Vivian Pinn, and 2017 Lifetime Achievement Honoree Susan Wood

FAR RIGHT: Network staff members and interns

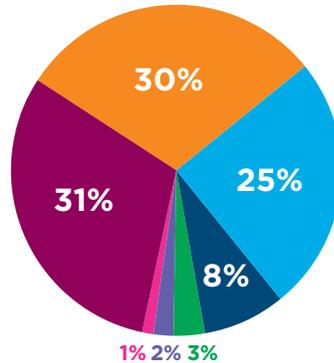
BELOW: Emerging Activist Honoree Renee Bracey Sherman with her parents, Elnora and Leo; L to R, Zipaty Mendoza, Charlea Massion, Frances Liau, Kate Ryan, and Ali Tweedt enjoying their time at NWHN's annual event!

PHOTOS BY MAGGUIR PHOTOGRAPHY



2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Income	\$1,307,875
Total Expenses	\$1,301,529
Beginning Net Assets	\$823,000
Change in Net Assets	(\$219,000)
Ending Net Assets	\$604,000

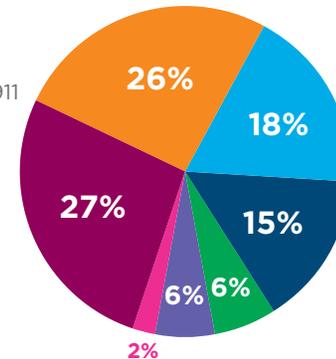


INCOME

- Grants** \$399,000
- Donations** \$386,418
- Membership** \$330,911
- Google Adwords In Kind** \$102,481
- Annual Event** \$39,775
- Fiscal Sponsor Fees** \$31,241
- Other Income** \$18,049

EXPENSES

- Raising Women's Voices** \$346,911
- Member Services** \$341,856
- Communications** \$239,070
- Health Policy** \$196,444
- Administration** \$75,882
- Fundraising** \$77,998
- Board/Governance** \$23,368



BOARD

The National Women's Health Network is governed by a committed and talented Board of Directors that is elected by the membership. The following individuals served on the Board in 2017:

- Mia Kim Sullivan, Chair (January-June 2017)
- Zipaty Mendoza, Chair (January-June 2017)
- Victoria Albina
- Erin Armstrong
- Dazon Dixon Diallo
- Shalini Eddens (January-June 2017)
- Anu Manchikanti Gomez
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- Sarah Christopherson, Policy Advocacy Director
- Erin Evans, Office Manager
- Michelle M. Lockwood, Development Director
- Kalena Murphy, RWV Regional Field Manager
- Sheniqua Seth, Health Communications Manager (2010-2017)
- Ali Tweedt, Interim Digital Marketing and Communications Manager

HELEN RODRIGUEZ-TRIAS AND EUNICE CORFMAN INTERNS

- Caila Brander, Policy Fellow
- Kelly Cuculo, Communications Intern
- Kara Cotto, Communications Intern
- Eliana Kosova, Policy Intern
- Kara Hapke, Policy Intern
- Allyson Paiewonsky, Communications Intern
- Mina Pulitzer, Development Intern
- Joanna Wood, Development Intern

STAFF

- The following individuals worked at the National Women's Health Network in 2017:
- Cynthia Pearson, Executive Director
 - Evita Almassi, Digital Marketing and Communications Manager
 - Cecilia Sanez Bacerra, RWV Regional Field Manager (2013-2017)
 - Christina S. Chereil, Policy Advocacy Manager (2015-2017)

NWHN FOUNDERS

- Barbara Seaman
- Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D.
- Belita Cowan
- Alice J. Wolfson, J.D.
- Mary Howell, M.D.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK

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**"As a scholar-activist
who strives for equality
and reproductive justice, the
Network has a vision and an
activist orientation that jibes
with mine. I'm proud of what
NWHN stands for, and all that
this organization has
accomplished thus far."**

— MEIKA LOE,
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Collective Legacy members
have included the Network in
their estate plans.

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