INDIVIDUAL ACTIVISM
COLLECTIVE CHANGE

The Network leverages health information to improve the health of all women. We work with individuals and organizations to create positive change, address inequalities and provide the tools for every woman to advocate for her health. Our unique approach is part of a national movement to empower and educate women and disseminate messages of health and justice.

Summer interns: Ariela Schner, Amy Wieczorek, and Subha Pillai protest the Supreme Court’s decision in Hobby Lobby.

Executive Director Cindy Pearson is a panelist at the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Program Coordinator Kate Ryan is among those advocating for women in clinical trials at the FDA.

Raising Women’s Voices Regional Coordinators convene in Washington, DC.

Interns Deshani Senewiratne (top) and Sara Eyman (bottom) at the Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby argument.

Celebrating the FDA Office of Women’s Health 20th Anniversary.

Network staff and interns support pregnant workers.
Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need

The Network aspires to a health care system that is guided by social justice and meets our diverse needs. Through the Raising Women’s Voices (RWV) campaign, we assure women’s voices are heard and concerns are addressed in health care reform implementation.

- In 2014, millions of women secured comprehensive health care coverage because of the Affordable Care Act. 4.3 million women signed up for insurance in the marketplaces. Plans were required to cover contraception, maternity care, and basic screening and prevention services. This is the biggest expansion of health care in a generation and we’re proud of the role RWV played!
- RWV’s network of state partners continue to engage in advocacy build support for closing the coverage gap in states that have not yet accepted federal funds to expand Medicaid. RWV regional coordinators in Pennsylvania had a big win, expanding access to health care for over 500,000 people.
- As part of our Mother’s Day outreach, the Network celebrated Mama’s Day to highlight real lives and experiences of the mamas in our lives. Through the campaign #RaisingMamasVoices, we customized eCards with messages about health coverage through the Affordable Care Act and the continued need to fight for Medicaid expansion. Thousands of people shared cards and media outlets extensively covered the campaign.
- We advocated for a number of federal rules that strengthen consumer protections for women, including provisions that would require insurance networks to have a sufficient number of reproductive health providers, culturally and linguistically competent outreach workers and prescription drug formulary designs that don’t price essential drugs out of reach of the women who need them.

Challenging Dangerous Drugs and Devices for Women

Women face health risks from unsafe and unnecessary use of drugs, medical devices and treatments. The Network challenges dangerous drugs and devices, ensures women have complete and accurate information about products marketed to them, and strengthens public protections against such threats.

- For the first time ever, the FDA publically released critical data about the number of women participating in clinic trials. The FDA’s new Drug Snapshots webpage makes demographic, sex, race and age data available. This advance, in large part due to our successful multi-year advocacy campaign to persuade policymakers of the need for public disclosure of this information, supports our goal of providing more reliable drug safety and efficacy information so that women can make informed decisions about the drugs and products they use.
- The Network spoke out against drug company manipulation of consumer information by publicly critiquing claims that the FDA has not approved drugs for female sexual desire disorder because of gender bias. Our critique of the “Even the Score” campaign was featured in articles on National Public Radio and the British Medical Journal, The BMJ.
- In our continued effort to fight against the marketing and women’s use of unsafe and ineffective drugs, the Network opposed the FDA’s approval of the controversial anti-obesity drug, Contrave. We argued that the FDA standard of review for anti-obesity drugs should be strengthened and drug manufacturers should demonstrate that their products offer drug-specific evidence of health benefits in addition to weight loss as research shows that drug-assisted weight loss in and of itself does not necessarily improve a person’s health.

Securing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Autonomy

To ensure every woman can make her own decisions about her reproductive and sexual health, the Network advocates for comprehensive, accessible contraceptive and abortion care, accurate information about sexuality and reproduction, and tools to protect against HIV and sexually transmitted infections. We promote access to safe and effective products and services, with complete information and without ideological restrictions.

- The Network activated our allies and supporters, rallying women to speak up with a loud, unified voice in support of legislature protecting women’s access to abortion care, such as the Women’s Health Protection Act. To build support for removing restrictions on public and private coverage of abortion care, we took part in the AIL* Above All campaign, which is building a new and more diverse constituency in support of this goal.
- We celebrated the announcement by the FDA that they would allow a generic version of Plan B emergency contraception to be sold over-the-counter without the requirement to show proof of age. This brings us another step closer to the goals the Network has been working toward for more than a decade: the full and unhampered access to emergency contraception for women of all ages.
- To ensure enthusiasm for long-acting contraceptive methods does not lead to inappropriate coercion or limiting of women’s reproductive health choices, NWHN Deputy Director Amy Allina co-authored “Women or LARC First? Reproductive Autonomy And the Promotion of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive Methods” which was published in the influential journal Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health. This commentary has sparked a productive dialogue amongst clinicians, advocates and funders.
- The Network continues to actively work in coalition to update Female Condom information on the FDA website and product label to reflect the current state of the evidence regarding the effectiveness and safety of female condoms.
2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Revenue .................................. $1,125,264
Total Expenses .................................. $1,378,213
Change in net assets ............................. ($252,949)
Beginning net assets ......................... $1,216,538
Ending net assets .............................. $963,589
