The Network strives to improve the health of all women by developing and promoting a critical analysis of health issues to affect policy and support women’s decision-making. We aspire to a health care system that is accessible to all, guided by social justice and reflects the needs of diverse women.

A HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
A FORCE FOR CHANGE.

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2015 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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.

• Since the establishment of the Affordable Care Act in 2013, more than 6.3 million women gained coverage through private marketplace plans and millions more are covered through expanded Medicaid. All plans have to cover women’s health needs, including screening tests, family planning and childbirth. No more treating women as pre-existing conditions.

• Thirty one Regional Coordinators (RCs) from 28 states worked to make this a reality for women — as 54% of newly insured are women. RCs continue to do conduct outreach to marginalized women and pressure state legislators to expand Medicaid.

• RWV launched a new national campaign: My Health, My Voice: A Woman’s Step-By-Step Guide to Using Health Insurance. The free guide helps newly-insured women use their health coverage to get the care they need, while avoiding unexpected costs. The guide will also be produced in Spanish in 2016.

• Despite legal challenges, women’s contraceptive coverage continued to improve. Our coordinated advocacy in the states and at the federal level resulted in an announcement by HHS clarifying that insurance companies have to cover all types of FDA-approved contraception, putting a stop to insurers using loopholes to avoid covering expensive methods. Thanks to our years of work on this issue nearly 30 million women have coverage with no extra fees.

• On June 25, 2015, the Network joined thousands of advocates to celebrate the win in King v. Burwell, the latest Supreme Court challenge to the Affordable Care Act. Regional Coordinators shared stories of individual women to demonstrate the importance of preserving access to affordable health insurance.

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.

• In addition to testifying at the FDA, the Network launched a powerful campaign in response to the market release of flibanserin (Addyi). The “Pass on the Pink Pill or Pass Out” campaign kicked off at our annual Awards Benefit and included a Change.org petition signed by more than 8,000 people. The campaign highlighted safety concerns and demonstrated how the drug company made a billion dollars by bringing an unsafe — and unproven — drug to market.

• The Network testified at a public meeting of the FDA on Essure, a permanent sterilization device. Following thousands of reports of severe adverse reactions, the Network asked the FDA to require a national registry of women implanted with Essure to ensure long-term follow-up, as well as calling for more accurate labeling for both users and providers.

• The Network continued to help women sort through the exaggerated claims still being made by physicians who claim that menopause hormone therapy helps women avoid heart disease and cognitive decline. We published our second expose of the KEEPS, carefully examining the exaggerated statements made by the study proponents and disproving the claims.

• Following recommendations made by the Network, the FDA created The Drug Trials Snapshots to provide consumers with information about who participated in clinical trials that supported the FDA approval of new drugs. This is the first time the public has an easy way to find out if new drugs have been tested on women and people of color.

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.

• As a member of the All*Above All coalition, the Network joined its partners and members of Congress to celebrate the introduction of the EACH (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance) Woman Act in the House of Representatives. This landmark bill is what undo the Hyde Amendment and prohibit restrictions in all public and private health coverage.

• On National Women & Girls HIV and AIDS Awareness Day, the Network published a policy brief to highlight the impact that our fragmented health care delivery system has had on women and girls living with HIV. The full brief, Ryan White and the Affordable Care Act: Advocating for Public Healthcare for Women Living with HIV, was co-authored with staff from Positive Women’s Network-USA and SisterLove, Inc.

• 2015 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the FDA’s approval of mifepristone — the medication abortion pill. Network staff and interns joined other reproductive justice activists and researchers to strategize and strengthen advocacy efforts for medical abortion (mifepristone and misoprostol). We’re working actively to reduce barriers to access, including those created by anti-abortion legislators falsely claiming that medical abortion is dangerous.

Network staff and interns join Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky at the launch of the EACH Woman Act
15% 4%
4%
22% 49%
4%
19% 8th Annual Barbara Seaman Awards for Activism in Women’s Health

1: Zipatly Mendoza, honoree Loretta Ross, honoree Laura Kirkpatrick, Cindy Pearson and guest speaker Judy Norsigian
2: Guests at the Awards Benefit
3: Shaniqua Seth, Devin Davis, Ariel Tazkargy, Amiraah Tyler and Christina Cherel
4: Members of the Network Board of Directors, Top (L–R) Charlea Massion, Dara Mendez, Kira Jones, Tiffany Reed, Dazon Dixon Dialogo; Bottom (L–R) Zipatly Mendoza and Mia Sullivan

PHOTO CREDIT: PETER CUTTS

NETWORK LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Women’s Health Network is governed by a committed and talented Board of Directors elected to a four-year term. The following individuals served on the Board in 2015.

Dara Mendez, Chair (January–June 2015)
Zipatly Mendoza, Chair
Ninia Baehr
Dazon Dixon Diallo
Emma Duer
Shalini Eddens
Andi Friedman
Anu Manchikanti Gomez
Kara Loewenthail
Charlea Massion
Tiffany Reed
Dipti Singh
Mia Kim Sullivan

STAFF

The following individuals worked at the National Women’s Health Network in 2015.

Cynthia Pearson, Executive Director
Frances Ampah, Office Coordinator (2013–2015)
Cecilia Sánchez Becerra, Regional Field Manager, Raising Women’s Voices
Christina Cherel, Program Coordinator
Devin Davis, Office Coordinator
Goldie Heidi Gider, Director of Advancement
Natalie Hagan, Membership Coordinator
Coco Jervis, Program Director (2014–2015)
Shaniqua Seth, Health Communications Manager
Amiraah Tyler, Membership Coordinator (2013–2015)

HELEN RODRIGUEZ-TRIAS WOMEN’S HEALTH LEADERSHIP INTERNS AND EUNICE CORFMAN INTERNS

Sydney Butler
Michaela Cohen
Dayan Flynn-Walsh
Zoe Kusinitz
Jenny Li
Amanda Lynen
Prisca Maldonado
Amy Randall
Kierstyn Smith

NWHN FOUNDERS

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

2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Grants: $829,000
Donations: $394,002
Change in net assets: $97,863
Beginning net assets: $963,589
Ending net assets: $1,061,452

Health Policy Program: $795,955

2015 REVENUE

2015 EXPENSES

48% 49%
4%
6%
19% 4%
3% Developing Leaders:
$49,421
3% Administrative:
$50,009
Fundraising:
$57,692

<1% Other: $1,377
Event: $69,643
In-Kind: $104,357

Membership:
$320,345

4% 15%
4%
22%
Member Services: $365,271
Board/Governance:
$61,470
Women's Health Voice:
$241,043

Total Revenue .............. $1,718,724
Total Expenses .............. $1,620,861
Change in net assets ............ $97,863
Beginning net assets ........... $963,589
Ending net assets ........... $1,061,452
