MISSION: The Network strives to improve the health of all women by developing and promoting 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.

FORGING AHEAD FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE

On the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, the Network pledged to #ReclaimRoe.
2016 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need

Raising Women’s Voices (RWV) is a joint initiative co-led by the Network with MergerWatch and the Black Women’s Health Imperative to make sure women’s voices are heard and women’s concerns are addressed in health reform. We have 30 regional coordinators in 28 states.

- Louisiana is feeling the impact of RWV!
- In 2016, we developed a community organizing toolkit to help our coordinators push for Medicaid expansion in the 19 states that have not yet closed their health care coverage gap for low-income adults. Our efforts contributed to expansion in Louisiana, and to the increase in public pressure for expansion in Georgia, Maine, and elsewhere.

- “Mi Salud, Mi Voz: Una Guía Paso a Paso Para Mujeres Sobre Cómo Usar el Seguro Médico” is the translation of our popular 2015 health literacy guide, “My Health, My Voice: A Woman’s Step-by-Step Guide to Using Health Insurance,” into Spanish to help even more women use their new health insurance effectively. We were able to distribute copies in 2016, as well as make it available for public download.

- We responded to the attack on women’s health care in the Supreme Court case Zubik v. Burwell by signing on as amici, coordinating the comments of multiple coordinators, and designing a social media campaign to be used during oral arguments. We provided our regional coordinators and our members with in-depth analysis of the case and its possible ramifications.

- Following the election of Donald Trump, we geared up for a long fight to save the Affordable Care Act from attacks by an incoming administration intent on dismantling its protections for women.

Challenging Dangerous Drugs and Devices for Women

The Network challenges dangerous drugs and devices, ensures women have complete and accurate information about the products marketed to them, and strengthens public protections against threats to our health.

- We continued to highlight the dangers of the female libido drug, Addy’s, by developing a report card for the one-year anniversary of its FDA approval. We drew attention to Addy’s dangerous side effects, high price, ineffectiveness, inadequate training for providers, and missed study deadlines. We also launched a social media campaign to counter the expected release of direct-to-consumer marketing. And we testified at the FDA on the need to include women and people of color in clinical trials. Addy’s alcohol trial, for instance, included only two women and 23 men, even though the drug is only approved for use in women. We also urged the FDA to tighten its criteria before approving any additional drugs to treat female sexual dysfunction.

- We pushed the FDA to strengthen and expand its Drug Trial Snapshots, which allow the public to see which demographic groups drugs were tested for. We also submitted comments to strengthen clinical trial diversity on devices and urged the FDA to include devices in the Snapshots transparency effort.

- Testifying before the FDA, we highlighted the dangers of allowing drug and device-makers to skip diverse clinical trials in order to market their products to women without evidence on safety and effectiveness — so called off-label marketing. Our May/June newsletter on hormones noted that off-label hyping of menopause hormone therapy had led to an increase in breast cancer cases that fell once clinical trials proved their dangers.

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, and accurate information about sexuality and reproduction. We promote access to safe and effective products and services, with complete information and without ideological restrictions.

- Our work with SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective resulted in a statement of principles to guide the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), with input from multiple reproductive justice groups. It was signed by over a hundred organizations, from providers such as Planned Parenthood to advocacy organizations like NARAL and the ACLU, by more than two dozen national and state reproductive justice organizations, and by individual champions such as Dorothy Roberts. An article in our November/December newsletter connected our long history of work on sterilization abuse with our work on LARC coercion and, making a parallel to our 1979 call to action for sterilization abuse, urged our members to share the LARC principles.

- As with the Zubik case, we were actively involved in building public pressure in support of the Whole Woman’s Health court decision. We organized grassroots lobbying to protect abortion access during a House vote. And we participated in both grassroots and direct lobbying efforts to shine a spotlight on the McCarthy-esque select panel the House majority is using to harass and threaten abortion providers.

- We lobbied Congress on behalf of the EACH Woman Act to permanently repeal the Hyde Amendment and allow women to access their constitutional right to an abortion regardless of how they get their health insurance. The Act has shattered original expectations for number of House cosponsors. We also joined the coalition working to update the label for the medication abortion pill mifepristone. In March, the FDA announced a new label eliminating some of the politically-motivated restrictions that had prevented some women from having a medication abortion.

Network staff and interns at the Zubik v. Burwell Rally.

Follow the National Women’s Health Network! Facebook, Twitter and YouTube: TheNWHN Pinterest: NWHN

1: Byllye Y. Avery, a co-founder of Raising Women’s Voices and founder of the Black Women’s Health Imperative, Cindy Pearson, Belita Cowan, guest speaker Sandra Kim, and honorees Dr. Vanessa Schick and Dr. Vivian Pinn.

2: Network staff members and interns.

3: Shaniqua Seth and Whitney Gray.

4: Board member Tiffany Reed.

5: Guests at the awards benefit.

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 2016.

Zipatly Mendoza, Chair
Victoria Albina
Erin Armstrong
Ninia Baehr (2014–2016)
Dazon Dixon Diallo
Emma Duer (2014–2016)
Shalini Eddens
Andrea Friedman (2014–2016)
Anu Manchikanti Gomez
Kira S. Jones
Kara Loewenthal
Charlea Massion
Dara Mendez (2014–2016)
Nadiah Mohajir
Tiffany Reed
Kimberly Robinson
Dipti Singh
Mia Kim Sullivan

STAFF
The following individuals worked at the National Women’s Health Network in 2016.

Cynthia Pearson, Executive Director
Cecilia Sáenz Becerra, Regional Field Manager, Raising Women’s Voices
Christina Cherel, Policy & Advocacy Manager
Sarah Christopherson, Policy Advocacy Director
Devin Davis, Office Coordinator (2015–2016)
Erin Evans, Office Coordinator
Goldie Heidi Gider, Director of Advancement (2012–2016)
Natalie Hagan, Membership Coordinator
Michelle Lockwood, Development Director
Shaniqua Seth, Senior Communications Manager

HELEN RODRIGUEZ-TRIAS WOMEN’S HEALTH LEADERSHIP INTERNS AND EUNICE CORFMAN INTERNS
Emily Capilouto
Sarah Eldiasty
Anna Gomez
Whitney Gray
Sion Habettemariam
Airelle James
Trish Kovach

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

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Total Revenue . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,283,858
Total Expenses . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,522,062
Change in net assets . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ($238,204)
Beginning net assets . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,061,452
Ending net assets . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $823,248

Donations: $463,718
Grants: $354,444
3% Developing Leaders: $42,124
3% Board/Governance: $45,260
Fundraising: $92,494
Administration: $95,719
Member Services: $222,818

Health Policy Program: $685,778
45%
Raising Women’s Voices: $337,869
22%

2016 EXPENSES

36%
28%
9%
23%
1% Other: $13,101
Annual Event: $37,430
In-Kind: $119,621
Membership: $295,544
