



# PA House of Representatives Republican Policy Committee

414, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 260-6144

**Rep. Joshua D. Kail**  
Chairman

## **PA House Republican Policy Committee Hearing “Pregnancy Resource Centers – Helping Mothers and Fathers”**

**June 7, 2023, at 9 a.m.**

**Room 205, Ryan Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m.                      | Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance  |
| <br><b>“How We Help” Panel</b> |   |
| 9:10 a.m.                      | Amy Scheuring<br><i>Executive Director, Women’s Choice Network</i>                              |
| 9:15 a.m.                      | Jill Hartman<br><i>Executive Director, A Woman’s Concern</i>                                    |
| 9:20 a.m.                      | Chelsey Youman<br><i>National Legislative Advisor and Texas State Director, Human Coalition</i> |
| 9:25 a.m.                      | Questions for the “How We Help” Panel   |
| <br><b>“Who We Help” Panel</b> |   |
| 9:55 a.m.                      | Quinn Laffin<br><i>Client, Women’s Choice Network</i>   |
| 10:00 a.m.                     | Crystal Morales<br><i>Client, A Woman’s Concern</i>   |
| 10:05 a.m.                     | Lindsay Smith and Nicholas Luccarella<br><i>Clients, A Woman’s Concern</i>                      |
| 10:10 a.m.                     | Questions for the “Who We Help” Panel   |
| 10:40 a.m.                     | Final Comments and Conclusion   |



## Testifier Biographies

PA House of Representatives Policy Committee Hearing  
*"Pregnancy Resource Centers—Helping Mothers and Fathers"*



**Amy Scheuring, M.Ed.**  
**Executive Director, A Woman's Choice**

Amy Scheuring began a lifelong calling to serve young moms in 1985 when a small team in Pittsburgh, PA established what is now Women's Choice Network. This network of medical clinics serves in some of Pittsburgh's neediest neighborhoods and has documented well over 7,300 lives that were spared from abortion.

She serves as the Executive Director of Women's Choice Network, is an author and highly sought after speaker. Her passion for those experiencing sexual brokenness has motivated several training projects and books. She published her first book *Sex: More Than a Plumbing Lesson* in 2003 and recently published a children's book on marriage titled, *Colton and the Big White Cake*.

Amy holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Amy and husband Tom love to hike and bike. They live near Pittsburgh and have two grown children.

**Jill Hartman**  
**Executive Director, A Woman's Concern**

Having served on the Board for AWC for over 17 years, Jill became Executive Director at A Woman's Concern 6 years ago.

Jill's professional background includes business development, marketing and fundraising with experience in both non-profit and business sectors. Jill holds an undergraduate degree in Marketing from Saint Joseph's University and an MBA from Lebanon Valley College.





**Chelsey Youman, Esq.**  
**National Legislative Advisor and Texas State  
Director, Human Coalition**

Chelsey Youman, Esq., serves the pro-life coalition, as well as women and their preborn children, by advocating for pro-life policies and jurisprudence; mobilizing and unifying local grassroots to strengthen the pro-life movement and its footprint; and engaging with the public to ultimately strengthen our community's desire to enable women and protect preborn children.

Chelsey's professional experience includes working as senior counsel and chief of staff for First Liberty Institute, concentrating on religious liberty matters and First Amendment rights. At First Liberty Institute, she litigated on behalf of and advised hundreds of clients regarding conscience rights nationwide. Chelsey has also worked in private practice, where she successfully litigated corporate fraud matters, complex commercial litigation, and consumer rights issues in both federal and state jurisdictions.

Chelsey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Texas A&M, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist University.

Chelsey is happily married with two children. Her family is active in their church, serving in the premarital and pro-life ministries there. They enjoy traveling, adventuring, and eating good food.





## Women's Choice Network

Our mission at Women's Choice Network is to reach those most vulnerable to abortion and empower them to choose life. When we opened our doors in 1985, the world was a very dangerous place for the unborn. Nearly half of all pregnancies in Allegheny County ended in abortion. Women's Choice Network continues to lead with programs and services that keep us relevant in today's ever shifting culture. And because of this, we can document 7,300 moms who once considered abortion but chose life for their little ones. We see approximately 100 new clients each month, performing

### We Believe These Three Distinctives Are the Key to Our Success:

**We Are Faith Based.** All of our services emerge from a belief that every person at every stage of life has purpose and value and is worthy of protection.

**We Value People.** We are intentional about loving people where they are while opening up opportunities to be all they can be. We serve both men and women regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or creed.

**We Are Medical.** Three Medical Directors oversee our team. Each Center is staffed by RNs and each center provides ultrasounds. Every ultrasound is performed by RDMS specialists and is read by our Physicians. STD testing and treatment is available at all of our locations. We provide pregnancy consultation with our nursing staff, and for those who've begun a medical abortion procedure, we provide Abortion Pill Reversal. All of the services are provided at no charge.

**We Are Transformational.** Our programs foster long term relationships. The Centers are located in easily accessible areas near those with the greatest need so that face to face encounters can continue. Each of our clients is encouraged to enroll in "Life Support," our ongoing accountability program that enables families to earn while they learn. Childbirth, parenting classes, and life skill programs are vital long-term resources that allow healing, growth, and life transforming relationships.

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Pregnancy Centers like Women's Choice Network exist across the State to serve those experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. We point families to needed services and fill the critical gaps.

## Our Services

### PREGNANCY TESTING AND ULTRASOUND

Pregnancy testing and pregnancy confirmation through ultrasound reaches women at the earliest stages of pregnancy. Onsite ultrasound at pregnancy centers affords women an earlier pregnancy diagnosis which in turn leads to earlier engagement in prenatal care. Ultrasound also allows for earlier detection of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, or other urgent pregnancy complications. By offering ultrasound inside our centers, couples see their tiny child, and 80% will choose to continue their pregnancy.

### ABORTION PILL REVERSAL

In this new world of access to abortion, “medical abortion” also known as the abortion pill has become the method of choice. No longer needing a clinic or a doctor to facilitate, those seeking abortion are supplied with online pills and “tele-health abortions.” Young moms taking this series of pills are alone at home as this painful procedure takes the life of their unborn child. Thankfully, our centers continue to provide abortion pill reversal (APR) to serve those who have regrets after beginning the abortion protocol. Many women immediately regret their abortion decision. Within a three-day window of time, women can reverse their abortion pill affects with this safe, simple protocol.

### STD TESTING AND TREATMENT

Those visiting for STD testing are at highest risk for unintended pregnancy and abortion. Young adults are tested at no charge and are introduced to strategies that address the whole person—physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual. We test for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV. Those with positive STD results are offered treatment in our Centers.

### LIFE SUPPORT

One on one or in small groups, our pre-natal, post-natal, and healthy relationship tracks open up opportunities for life transforming discussions, new direction and lasting change. We assure that after making the choice for life, moms and dads will have access to the resources they need.

### BREATHE AFTER ABORTION CARE

Those with an abortion in their past find healing and recovery in a safe confidential setting led by those who extend grace, forgiveness, and answers. Clients as well as friends in the community are welcome to enroll to find healing, hope and restoration.

### MEN'S OUTREACH AND DOCTOR DAD

When facing an unplanned pregnancy, the father of the baby is the most influential voice in a woman's decision. While a critical partner, he may be reluctant to enter the conversation. His voice is often sidelined or marginalized during the decision-making process and beyond. Our Men's Outreach seeks to meaningfully engage dads from the first moments of pregnancy and beyond. Doctor Dad is a four-

session seminar that teaches non-custodial fathers basic infant care and parenting skills in a small group setting.

## THE NEST

One in three women choosing abortion has older children at home. We are committed to care for the entire family so that families can grow and thrive. The Nest is a beautiful children's resale boutique on a main street in Pittsburgh's North Side that is directly connected to our Life Support program. The Nest gives our clients a huge selection of furnishings and clothing for children up to age 8 and gives moms with older kids at home confidence that she'll have ample resources.

## REAL TALK OUTREACH TO TEENS

REAL TALK is a 10 part video series developed by our Essential Speakers School Outreach Team. Born out of 30 years of experience reaching students, REAL TALK was a lifeline to teachers in 2020 when all of our local schools were shut down. Educators and students alike love the content, the fast paced video and the handouts. Now available as a streaming product online, youth leaders, parents and teachers can stream up to 10 presentations anytime from anywhere. REAL TALK is both entertaining and effective in reducing sexual activity.

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## By the Numbers

Our three Centers see approximately 100 new clients each month. In 2023, we have seen 467 new clients and have provided 200 young adults with STD testing. Just over 30 new clients will have a positive pregnancy test each month and will receive an ultrasound. That's nearly one baby every single day of the year.

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## About Amy Scheuring, M.Ed.

Amy Scheuring began a lifelong calling to serve young moms in 1985 when a small team in Pittsburgh, PA established what is now Women's Choice Network. This network of medical clinics serves in some of Pittsburgh's neediest neighborhoods and has documented well over 7,300 lives that were spared from abortion. She serves as the Executive Director of Women's Choice Network, is an author and highly sought after speaker. Her passion for those experiencing sexual brokenness has motivated several training projects and books. She published her first book *Sex: More Than a Plumbing Lesson* in 2003 and and recently published a children's book on marriage titled, *Colton and the Big White Cake*. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Amy and husband Tom love to hike and bike. They live near Pittsburgh and have two grown children.



# PA House Republican Policy Committee

## Pregnancy Resource Centers in PA

June 7, 2023

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## Thank You

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On behalf of A Woman's Concern's Board, Team and Volunteers, thank you for wanting to hear directly from our center and our amazing clients about what actually happens at a pregnancy and parenting resource center.

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## Background

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Over fifty years ago in a house in the city of Lancaster, a group of individuals gathered to discuss the court case of Roe vs Wade and the potential impact on our local community. Quickly it was determined that legislative and legal responses were needed; however, apart from anything political, women and families in our community that were facing an unplanned pregnancy needed help. From this astute group, some went on to be activists in defending life and others created our pregnancy center. For over 50 years, families facing an unplanned pregnancy have not been alone and our Center has been able to serve the most vulnerable while allowing “politics” to be handled by others.

With the fall of Roe last year – everything changed. As we all know, there is a cultural war across our world and in our local communities – a battle cry that has declared war on life and has pregnancy centers in their crosshairs. Over the past year, there have been numerous hearings and legislative actions targeted towards discrediting pregnancy centers and seeking to stop state funding for our programs. No longer can pregnancy centers remain silent and I thank you for this opportunity to share the story of our center and the impact we make on our local community.

In today's culture, everything seems to be polarizing, particularly abortion; however, I am here to tell you that when we focus on true women's health and supporting families, and are willing to stand strong on truth, we can find common ground. In October 2021, the Women's Law Project published ***Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Industry in Nine States*** in collaboration with The Alliance: State Advocates for Women's Rights and Gender Equality and California Women's Law Center. The irony of the name of this report and its false declarations and assumptions have been the catalyst for creating an even greater divide as is evidenced by their extreme language below:

**CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS (CPCS) ARE ANTI-ABORTION ORGANIZATIONS THAT SEEK TO REACH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE FACING UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES TO PREVENT THEM FROM ACCESSING ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION.** CPCs advance this mission by using deceptive and coercive tactics and medical disinformation, and misleadingly presenting themselves as medical facilities. The modern CPC industry, a well-resourced arm of the global anti-abortion movement, is rapidly expanding while evading public accountability, despite increasing reliance on public funds.

In this atmosphere, it has become important for pregnancy centers throughout the state of PA to come to an understanding of the concerns and viewpoints highlighted by the Women's Law Project and recent hearings and discussions related to the supposed “deceptive practices” of pregnancy centers and to respond to those concerns. Many misconceptions and falsehoods regarding pregnancy center operations have come out of these hearings and discussions. Clearing up these

accusations as they specifically relate to A Woman's Concern is a priority for our center. It is also important for us to foster a greater understanding of how we serve and of our importance to our community. In so doing, we can hope to highlight the common ground on which we stand with those who might oppose our efforts.

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## AWC's Impact

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### Supporting underprivileged women and families should not be controversial.

A Woman's Concern exists to empower those who may be struggling with unplanned pregnancies by providing them with the necessary support system to build strong families. As an important part of the Lancaster community, A Woman's Concern has been serving low-income women and families for more than 50 years. Founded in 1972, AWC has earned an overwhelmingly positive reputation for combining compassionate care with practical support and valuable education for women and families navigating their way through unplanned pregnancies.

### Transparency.

Suggesting that AWC is deceptive and not transparent, without having first-hand knowledge of our center, seems to lack transparency itself. A Woman's Concern clearly states on its website, on its appointment forms, and on the phone when someone calls to make an appointment that AWC does not offer or refer for abortions, so that potential clients know up front exactly what to expect. All clients also sign a "Limitation of Services" document that once again confirms what services AWC provides...and does not provide. Our name itself highlights the focus of our services. We work to ensure transparency and consistency throughout every step of each appointment with the use of approved scripts. We also strive to ensure that when women Google "abortion" they have access to accurate information through blogs, videos and relevant articles on commonly Googled questions related to all of their options.

We only share medically accurate and evidence-based information with data cited from reputable sources such as the Mayo Clinic, WebMd, US Library of Medicine, and the CDC.

### There are 3 choices with an unplanned pregnancy.

At our Center, a vast majority of our clients come to us having already made their decision to parent, yet they need the support and resources our center provides through prenatal and parenting classes, material resources, and additional community connections. Others arrive not yet having decided between parenting, adoption or abortion. These clients typically come through our medical services program and are looking for information as they weigh their decisions. AWC's medical services include free medical grade pregnancy tests and limited obstetric ultrasounds administered by a highly credentialed medical team including RN's, certified sonographers, and a maternal fetal medicine specialist who reviews every ultrasound scan. These services are provided in order to confirm pregnancy, viability and gestational age, as well as confirm the pregnancy is in the uterus (not ectopic) – all important information for a woman to have prior to making any decision regarding her pregnancy. All these services are provided at no charge to our clients, enabling low-income families to benefit greatly.

We understand each person who comes to our center has a unique story and has the ability to best decide for herself what steps to take next. Our goal is to empower that decision with knowledge and information on all of the options available in our area.

### She matters and so does her health.

Our patients deserve knowledge, support, and accurate information so that they can make informed decisions in a controlled, professional, and caring environment. She matters and so does her health.

When abortion access is reduced to a local pharmacy or mailbox with no medical oversight, AWC offers a professional medical team ready to meet with women and provide ultrasounds and an unmatched continuum of care at no cost. All patients deserve to be treated with time, attention and dignity and women should not settle for “less attentive care” if they choose to have an abortion. It’s hard to appreciate Planned Parenthood’s position that “care more” actually means less care and fewer medical regulations.

Key to optimal health is wholistic care. We often see our patients very early in pregnancy and provide services including important referrals to local medical resources. We are uniquely able to ensure health issues and concerns are addressed early in a pregnancy.

### Low-income women who choose to parent deserve support.

Women who choose to parent are invited, along with their partners, to attend the more than 150 classes and workshops which AWC offers to learn more about pregnancy and parenting, safety, financial planning, and more. As a part of our Strong Families education program, participants earn points by attending classes, completing homework lessons, bringing in paystubs, and more. These points can then be redeemed for many of the material necessities of a new or growing family, such as formula, diapers, baby clothing, car seats, cribs, bedding, hygiene and personal care products, and more. Criticisms of this format state that pregnancy centers make clients “work” for material resources; however, client surveys consistently show that clients are extremely grateful for all that they have learned in the classes and workshops and feel a sense of accomplishment at having “earned” items that they need for their families.

AWC also maintains a stock of essential items, such as diapers and formula, that are given to any community member in need...no questions asked, and no points required. Funding for all of the material resources provided by the center comes through private donations and grants. State funding is not used to purchase these items.

### All of AWC’s services are free with 83% of our funding coming from our local community.

It is important to note that the majority of pregnancy center funding is provided by private supporters of each center and does not come from government sources; however, there are 27 pregnancy centers in PA that receive State funding through Real Alternatives of which AWC is one. This group represents 17% of the total number of pregnancy centers in PA. State funding is only provided as reimbursement for specific services rendered, including parenting classes, labor and delivery classes, and breastfeeding classes, which can be difficult, if not impossible, for clients to get elsewhere at no cost to them. Real Alternatives is committed to quality, accountability, and impact through required daily reporting and monitoring along with an annual review of our policies, records and accounts. This funding allows our center to reach more underserved families with greater

resources. For more information on this program: <https://www.realalternatives.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

## **We serve the most vulnerable and our services are irreplaceable.**

Legislative proposals to eliminate funding for pregnancy centers or to hinder access to the information and services provided by AWC and other centers like ours, would be an enormous detriment to the communities where we operate and to the women we serve. The multitude of medical, educational, and support services which pregnancy centers provide are currently irreplaceable by other existing community agencies and health centers. Women who become pregnant unexpectedly need to know that there are places they can go for help, no matter their choice.

## **Pregnancy Centers have raving fans! If we were shaming and deceiving clients, the ratings would show it.**

Whether it be through client satisfaction surveys, exit interviews or the sheer number of past client referrals – Pregnancy centers have raving fans that most businesses would be envious of.

The number one way clients come to AWC is through word of mouth – because of our reputation in the community. As you will hear from our clients today and as you can see from our client video, they know they can come to us for help and support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm65eDfyyW0>

Best practices for pregnancy centers promoted by ALL of our networks – NIFLA, HeartBeat, Carenet, etc. is to share on their websites and in their phone scripts that their center does not perform or refer for abortion.

## **Obstacles**

The pro-abortion industry will not stop until there is abortion on demand in our state, with no health and safety measures to protect women, no necessary testing, and with the taxpayer funding it all. Planned Parenthood Lancaster and others across the state have asked for and received numerous exceptions so that they can expand abortion access. The PA Department of Health continues to approve these exceptions to current laws which put women's health in jeopardy.

No matter how loud and false pro-abortion zealots are in trying to redefine the truth about abortion, parenting and families – pregnancy centers across Pennsylvania press on by being the “village” for those that need our help the most. When the outside world says someone is too poor, too young, too uneducated to bring a child into this world – AWC counters by providing help through education, material assistance, resources and referrals – not just until the baby is born – but until the child's first birthday.

## **Pregnancy Centers continue to be the antidote by placing a high value on families and life.**

As they have been for the past 50 years, AWC's purple doors are open and ready to support any woman who is seeking to understand what options lie ahead and what resources are available to help her as she moves forward. Helping our community and any detractors better understand how we actually serve and the value that we add to our communities is a first step in finding common ground with all those who truly care about women's health and well-being.

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## External Challenges and Concerns

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### Understanding the Women's Law Project and Planned Parenthood's Agenda.

Although these four requests by Planned Parenthood to Governor Shapiro may seem like a good thing, you simply need to explore a little deeper to see the negative impacts to women's health.

1. **Improve access to care for patients regardless of their financial situation**

Should the State Supreme Court rule in favor of the Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. PA Department of Human Services, we are concerned that laws currently in place to protect women (PA Control Act) would also be in jeopardy.

We believe access to care includes all care, including the essential resources provided at pregnancy and parenting resource centers.

2. **Remove limitations and hurdles for providers to offer abortion care**

We believe that our current laws exist to put women first and seek to ensure they are informed and knowledgeable about their options. Should the following laws ever be enacted, they limit medical oversight and do not provide women the safeguards they deserve.

#### House Bills

- **Health Committee**

- HB 232 (Hill Evans). Prohibition on cooperation with out-of-state abortion investigations.
- HB 803 (Otten). Constitutional amendment regarding right to privacy and reproductive freedom.
- HB 924 (Solomon). Women's Reproductive Health Care Compact.

- **Insurance Committee**

- HB 800 (Otten). Prohibition on sharing of reproductive health information.

- **Judiciary Committee**

- HB 428 (Howard). Bodily Autonomy Act.
- HB 810 (Hanbidge). Repealing Spousal Notice provision from the ACA.

- **Professional Licensure Committee**

- HB 802 (Otten). Prohibiting sanctions against nurses for providing abortion-related services to individuals who reside in a jurisdiction where such services are illegal.

Planned Parenthood continues to request and be granted exceptions to current laws. Due to the possible dangerous complications associated with chemical abortions, it is important to have adequate safety rules and regulations in place. In Lancaster, Planned Parenthood was granted an exception to the requirement to have a transfer agreement.

Removing this safety requirement can endanger the health and safety of women in Lancaster. It is imperative that doctors in nearby hospitals be ready and prepared to serve these women and their specific situations, aided by receipt of their medical records and the transferring clinic's input.

**3. Hold crisis pregnancy centers accountable for misinformation when they are state funded**

Who gets to define misinformation? Their basis for this attack is false. Our medical information is all obtained through credited sources.

State funding through the Real Alternatives program serves exactly those who need these resources. Women and men who choose to parent also deserve support.

**4. Waive onerous and unnecessary testing requirements for clinic patients**

We believe all women should have optimal care including an ultrasound to confirm viability and gestational age and to ensure the pregnancy is in the uterus, not ectopic. Failure to provide this necessary medical service is derelict and will result in increased complications for women.

The removal of safety precautions jeopardizes the health of women in Lancaster, as evidenced by some of the research presented below regarding chemical abortions:

- Chemical abortions currently carry 4 times the risk of complications as compared to surgical abortions and as many as one out of five women will suffer a complication. These risks increase with advanced pregnancy and lack of medical supervision. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)
- As many as 15% of women will experience hemorrhage and 2% will have an infection following chemical abortion. The risk of incomplete abortion and infection increases with gestational age. [\[3\]](#)
- Chemical abortions are over 50% more likely than surgical abortions to result in an ER visit within 30 days of the procedure. [\[4\]](#)
- Mifepristone cannot treat an ectopic pregnancy and can mask the symptoms of tubal rupture, putting women at risk of severe bleeding and death. Approximately 2% of all pregnancies are ectopic. [\[5\]](#)

[\[1\] Fact Sheet: Risks and Complications of Chemical Abortion - Lozier Institute](#)

[\[2\] AAPS Journal Chemical abortion risks posed by changes in supervision.pdf](#)

[\[3\] Fact Sheet: Risks and Complications of Chemical Abortion - Lozier Institute](#)

[\[4\] Fact Sheet: Risks and Complications of Chemical Abortion - Lozier Institute](#)

[\[5\] Fact Sheet: Risks and Complications of Chemical Abortion - Lozier Institute](#)

## Additional Concerns

- **Medical Oversight**

We have overwhelming health concerns about expanding access to abortion pills without appropriate medical oversight because of ongoing feedback from some of our patients. Data from the Charlotte Lozier Institute validates what our patients are saying.

Direct comments from AWC patients:

"I wasn't far along enough (9 weeks) to need the surgery so it was just the pill and it was the most painful thing I have ever experienced. I'd gladly choose giving birth again over doing that. It's something I think about every single day. I'm in therapy now."

"I have not been feeling well and was in the hospital over the weekend due to hemorrhaging after my abortion."

"I did do the abortion but it didn't go so well. I went for the surgery part and she couldn't complete it. Then had to take the pills but didn't seem like they said. So I did it again. And nothing that time. So I have to go back in I still have all the same pregnancy symptoms idk I'm scared Maybe it was a horrible idea." She continued to go back to PP and had a total of 4 procedures done (2 surgical, 2 chemical) and none of them worked. The clinic just asked her to come back in two more weeks to see what they could do. Our nurse urged her to go to the ER and let them know what she has been through, but when she arrived at the hospital, they had none of her records and she didn't know how to tell them what had happened. She was scared, exhausted and alone.

- **Gosnell was not an outlier.**

We do not want to see women's health in jeopardy because of a political fight. Last year, 7 of PA's 18 abortion facilities failed at least one inspection. There must be accountability for failing to follow current health standards and laws to protect women's health so Gosnell or Harrisburg Hillcrest Clinic (also forced to close down) does not happen again.

- **Real Alternatives**

We currently receive funding from our State with Real Alternatives and find it highly valuable and are able to take these resources and transform families' lives.

- **Reporting**

We would like to see mandated reporting for all abortions in our state. Our clients tell us that Planned Parenthood refers them to the ER when having complications. In 2016, complications no longer had to be reported, only deaths. Women deserve to know what complications to expect and with the abortion pill they are significantly higher than surgical (likely higher than is recorded because of lack of reporting).

- **Abortion Pill Reversal**

One of the most controversial topics is Abortion Pill Reversal. Our website contains complete information about this process along with a video:

<https://www.pregnancylancaster.com/en/2023/03/07/changedmindabortionpill/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_MQ2nGyO2Z0&t=10s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MQ2nGyO2Z0&t=10s)

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## Jill Hartman – Biography

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Having served on the Board for AWC for over 17 years, I became Executive Director at A Woman's Concern 6 years ago. My professional background includes business development, marketing and fundraising with experience in both non-profit and business sectors. I hold an undergraduate degree in Marketing from Saint Joseph's University and an MBA from Lebanon Valley College.



HUMAN COALITION

# HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

# HUMAN COALITION

Thank you Chairman Kail and the House Republican Policy Committee for the opportunity to speak with you today about the life changing work that pregnancy resource centers like Human Coalition perform in Pennsylvania. My name is Chelsey Youman and I am the National Director of Public Policy for Human Coalition, which operates a pregnancy resource center serving vulnerable women in Pittsburgh and in the surrounding area.

I am here today to testify in support of the state's partnerships with pregnancy resource centers to reach vulnerable women and children and provide them with transformative care and support. For decades, the state has worked with these centers to reach tens of thousands of women and help provide them with critical care and support when they need it the most.

By funding services for women and families in need, Pennsylvania enables non-profits like Human Coalition to empower women to a place of socio-economic stability, to help improve pregnancy outcomes and child health, and save countless lives in the process. Looking to the future, it's imperative that we not only maintain the track record of success that this funding has achieved, but also improve it to better meet the pressing needs of vulnerable families in Pennsylvania.

We are proud to have a long history helping families in the state. Going back more than a decade, Human Coalition has served over 11,000 families since 2011 in the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding area alone.

Last year, Human Coalition provided 762 families in the Pittsburgh area with over 3,000 services. This year We have reached more than 260 families. And, most importantly we have 153

“life decisions” made since the beginning of 2022. Since COVID (March 2020), we have served over 100,000 women and families nationally. We have provided them with over 500,000 services and over 200,000 referrals to local and state resources..

In our work, we serve a range of clients from various economic and demographic backgrounds. Many of them are low-income – nearly half are uninsured or on Medicaid.

Our success depends upon our strong “continuum of care” model that ensures vulnerable women are cared for both during and after their pregnancy. Many might think that we and other centers simply offer women one-time, limited material assistance such as diapers and car seats; that couldn’t be further from the truth. Our model of care is an extensive process that lasts beyond pregnancy, because healthy mothers require targeted pre-and-postnatal care.

So many women who come to us are scared or feel pressured to abort, and don’t know all their options. We first provide a compassionate voice and a listening ear – perhaps the first one they’ve had. We educate them on their options, and begin walking with them through their difficult circumstances. What we know is that the vast majority of them actually want to parent.

We ask every single woman seeking abortion if her circumstances were different, would she prefer to parent? And three out of four say yes. These women most often feel they have no choice or are pressured into an abortion because of their economic or social problems. Studies indicate that 64% of women seeking abortion are coerced to do so by their partner or a family member.

So we empower them to overcome these circumstances through a range of services – including through our hotline, Telecare, parenting and pregnancy counseling and education, prenatal care, ultrasounds, housing and job placement assistance, and health screenings. We help connect our clients to a range of local assistance and fill in their gaps wherever necessary – informing them of helpful programs, helping them fill out paperwork, or transporting them to appointments.

Contrast this experience with women exiting abortion clinics; they return from abortion facilities to the very set of circumstances that compelled them to enter in the first place – an unsafe domestic situation, dire economic circumstances, or hostility from family and friends.

When they walk out of our doors - and the doors of so many other centers in the state - they leave better off than when they discovered us. Of the women we've surveyed, 97% would recommend our services to a family or friend and 95% say they felt cared for. We have countless testimonies from women who were scared or felt helpless when they came to us, but who eventually overcame challenges to bring a child into the world. They don't regret their decision, and we're happy to have played a part in empowering them.

The ripple effects from such individualized assistance is a prime example of what good can come from state partnerships with community leaders on the ground.

Our efforts, and those of other centers in the state, have saved and transformed tens of thousands of lives. I would like to thank you for your foresight and commitment to assisting vulnerable women in Pennsylvania. We serve a critical mission and are ready to reach even more families in the future. Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to your questions.

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Watch Jaqueline's  
story here:



# STATE PROGRAMS

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## State Program

We have an opportunity to continue to work together to make abortion unthinkable and unnecessary in the state of Pennsylvania



How we serve women  
and families in  
Pennsylvania



## STATE PROGRAM

### GOALS

1. Client Count
2. Services Provided
3. Life Decisions



### Client Journey Based on Search Intent

#### Seeking Assistance

- Gets connected to basic assistance programs based on eligibility

#### Seeking Abortion

- Gets connected to life affirming pregnancy center



## TWO CAMPAIGNS – TWO CONTACT CENTERS

Client's Search → Search Results

Ads Produce Phone Calls to One of Two Contact Centers

Seeking Assistance

**Benefits Center**

- Agent Consult (10 min)
- Care Plan Created
- Benefits Enrollment Schedule CoC
- Referred to Telecare Nurse if needed
- Follow up process

Seeking Abortion

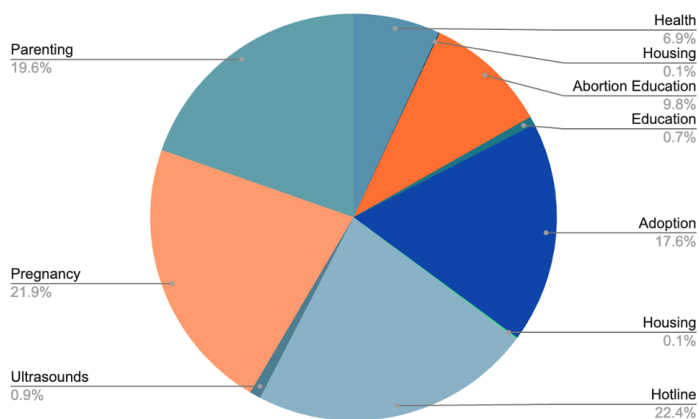
**Telecare Center**

- Nurse Consult (45 min)
- 3-Way Call with PMC to schedule pregnancy consultation
  - Nurse Contacts PMC
  - Nurse connects PMC to client
  - PMC makes appointment for client at their location
- Follow up process



2022-23

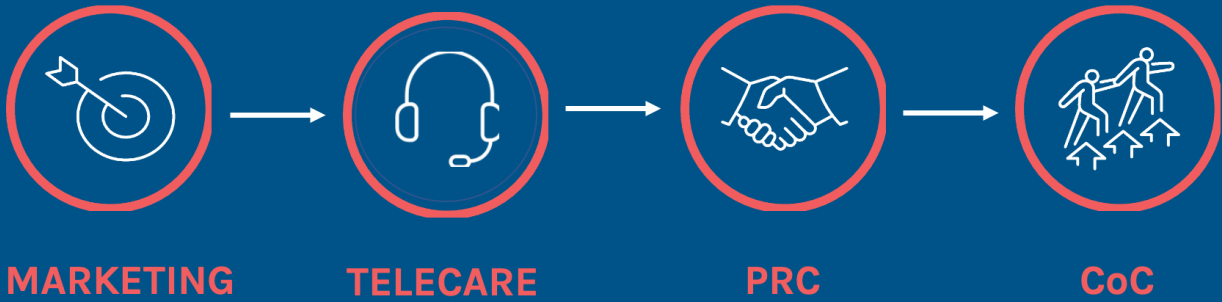
### Service Breakdown



Our Continuum of Care program coordinates long-term assistance through a network of support services already in place. We select best in-class organizations and mentors that provide support such as financial, job training, job placement, maternity housing, health care, etc.



## CLIENT JOURNEY



**ONLY 13%**  
**OF AN ICEBERG**  
**IS VISIBLE FROM**  
**ABOVE THE WATER.**

MARKET ICEBERG | NATIONAL RESCUE SYSTEM



