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CONTENT

Letter from the Executive Director
PAGE 2

Timeline of Transformation
PAGE 6

Letter from Susan Yanow
PAGE 3

The Road Ahead
PAGE 8

Partnerships Through the Years
PAGE 4

30 Years of transforming healthcare

2022 marks Provide's 30th anniversary

For three decades, Provide has adapted to the ever-changing abortion access landscape and developed a rich legacy of activism, training, advocacy, and organizing.

While our strategies and our reach have expanded over time, the commitment of our founders remains today—to increase access to abortion for all pregnant people.

The story of the last 30 years couldn't have been written without the people who attended our trainings and provided a better future for their clients, or the donors who stepped up each year to ensure that clients in the South and Midwest were given accurate pregnancy options counseling. Of course, we wouldn't be here today without all the dedicated staff and board members who led the organization through new missions and new programs. Thank you to all those who came before us for paving the way!

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fatimah Gifford



As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we reflect on the ways Provide has evolved to transform healthcare. From pushing Massachusetts hospitals to include abortion as part of comprehensive reproductive healthcare, to creating interventions to address the growing shortage of abortion providers, Provide has been on the front lines of abortion justice for three decades. To date, our work has empowered nearly 11,000 social workers and providers across stigmatized systems of care throughout the U.S. South and Midwest to offer quality abortion referrals to the people they serve. While our strategies and reach have expanded over time, our commitment to create interventions that transform behaviors with healthcare and social service workers to increase access to abortion remains critical to our mission.

Our work is needed now more than ever. Today, we are living in a post-*Roe* world that solidifies the loss of access to legal abortion

in many states across the country, which we know mostly impacts vulnerable folks—Black, Indigenous, people of color, poor, rural communities, and LGBTQ+ folks. We continue to see our sexual and reproductive autonomy threatened and now with the recent *Dobbs* decision, the impacts on marginalized communities are exacerbated. To work toward a future where there is equity in sexual and reproductive care, it will take everyone, no matter where you live or the role you play.

Everyone has a role means that we need everyone to continue to find ways to collectively work together, with purpose, to reimagine a world where all folks have the same rights and access to care.

The history of Provide began with centering those that need us the most, and we continue to do that moving forward. We are re-envisioning and adapting our work to tailor our training and technical support to meet the needs of diverse audiences with varying attitudes and beliefs towards abortion. Additionally, we are identifying bold ways to deepen our relationships with organizations to create meaningful cultural changes around stigma reduction and abortion access.

Everyone has a role in this fight. Abortion justice is about making sure that everyone has what they need to thrive. As we continue to celebrate this 30th year, we encourage folks to join us. We can make this happen. Together.

In solidarity,

Provide has a vision for abortion justice, and we are in this fight for good.

CELEBRATING PROVIDE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Susan Yanow, Founding Executive Director of the Abortion Access Project

On the occasion of Provide's 30th anniversary, I welcome the opportunity to look back at the roots of the organization. Provide was originally called the Abortion Access Project (AAP) and was launched as a project of the Boston chapter of the Reproductive Rights Network in 1992. The mission of AAP was to address disparities in abortion access; our slogan was "Abortion May be Legal, But Who Can Get One?" We approached the work informed by an anti-racist lens and an awareness that too many young, low-income, and people of color had been left behind by the passage of the Hyde Amendment and by the many state-level abortion restrictions in place.



AAP had several intertwining goals, which persist in Provide's work today—to expand services by pressuring hospitals to include abortion services and training; to remove restrictions to skilled midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants providing abortion care; to expand nursing involvement in abortion; and to combat abortion stigma and restrictions. AAP originally focused its work in Massachusetts and then expanded to organizing in all six New England states. By 2000, AAP had further expanded with projects in 17 states working to expand training opportunities, build coalitions to support all primary care clinicians providing abortions, and to work with state networks to remove access barriers.

There were many victories in our first 12 years, including:

- expanding the number of states where advanced practice nurses and physician assistants could provide abortion;
- creating a national network of organizations working on expanding hospital abortion services;
- starting Nursing Students for Choice at Massachusetts nursing programs and collaborating with Medical Students for Choice to start chapters throughout New England;
- launching the first chapters of Midwives for Choice, Nurse Practitioners for Choice, and Physician Assistants for Choice, and collaborating with the National Abortion Federation to create Clinicians for Choice; and
- developing fact sheets and publicity campaigns that put the realities of disparities in access into the forefront of the agendas of reproductive rights groups.

With the introduction of medication abortion in 2000, AAP was also part of a national network highlighting the potential of abortion pills to make abortion more accessible. After a Massachusetts woman was arrested for using abortion pills on her own in 2007, AAP took the lead in building a coalition to build a strong defense team and to argue for the decriminalization of self-managed abortion, a foreshadowing of the situation too many are in today.

Post-*Dobbs*, it is painful to remember how hopeful we were about opportunities to expand access. But the Abortion Access Project was rooted in reproductive justice principles, and Provide still is. They continue to highlight the role of every clinician, every social service worker, and every community member to inform people about all of their options and to support their right to make decisions about their reproductive lives. We will continue the fight!



Partnerships Through the Years

1998: NEW YORK NARAL

Provide co-sponsored a forum with New York NARAL to encourage other states to develop hospital access projects. Representatives of coalitions from nine states attended, directly resulting in groups from Georgia, Maryland, and California starting projects modeled after ours.

2002: ROE CONSORTIUM

Provide launches the Reproductive Options Education Consortium for Nursing (ROE Consortium) in partnership with the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions—a high-profile effort to incorporate abortion care into nursing training curricula nationwide.

This pilot project broke new ground in reproductive rights by developing curriculum and training nursing faculty to include abortion care in nursing programs. In November, the ROE Consortium piloted its first training, and 30 nursing faculty participated in sessions to explore and overcome barriers to covering reproductive health issues in the classroom.

2008: LEAST ACCESS STATES INITIATIVE

Provide partners with Ibis Reproductive Health to identify Mississippi, Arkansas, and West Virginia as states with the least access to abortion care, factoring information on contraceptive availability and use, women's access to healthcare and insurance, and general information on the health of state populations.

2017: INTERVIEW WITH A YOUTH MINISTER IN ALABAMA

What did you like best about the Referrals Training?

It was very personable. The trainers took a lot of time with us. I appreciated that. A lot of our trainings are very formal or you feel intimidated to ask questions. [Provide] really set a good atmosphere; there were no stupid questions.

Has the training changed how you counsel or refer clients?

I think just understanding that it is about the person. It is about the woman who has this choice in front of her.

What was your overall experience with the training?

I loved it. I have been working in churches for years and years. The Referrals Training really helped me understand how we can better deal with women who are pregnant and having an unwanted or unintended pregnancy.



2022: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS PROJECT (RHAP)

The Reproductive Health Access Project trains, supports, and mobilizes primary care clinicians to ensure equitable access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

Through partnership with Provide, RHAP is connecting their network of nearly 7,000 primary care clinicians to training and resources on options counseling and abortion referrals, ensuring that clinicians have the knowledge and skills to convey timely information to their pregnant patients no matter where they may live. Denying people the ability to determine their own reproductive futures and preventing clinicians from providing critical health care is cruel and unconscionable.

However, the end of *Roe* is not the end of abortion access—abortion care is still available, and abortion pills are here to stay. RHAP is ready to support primary care clinicians so they can provide their patients with the full range of pregnancy options, no matter where they live or provide care.



“We live in a country where 89% of U.S. counties are without an abortion provider, so accurate information regarding abortion resources and abortion referrals becomes even more imperative. Many folks who are receiving news of a positive pregnancy test are caught off guard, and they often look to providers for advice that’s free from judgment and devoid of specific expectations. Referrals from providers with accurate, comprehensive information for pregnant people aren’t just important, they’re essential for getting people the care they need.”

— Julie Jenkins, MSN, APRN, CNP (Program Partner, Reproductive Health Access Project)

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE Betty Farrell, Board President



“I was asked, ‘What does the loss of abortion access mean for me and the work that I do?’ On a personal level, loss of abortion access represents dreams deferred, plans postponed, development and professional growth delayed, at best. At worst, injury or death from complications.

I’ve spent my life and career working to support women and couples to realize their sexual and reproductive life plans, offering them information and tools for them to successfully manage their fertility, to avoid, achieve, delay, or interrupt a pregnancy. As we know in life, nothing is 100% guaranteed. Contraceptives can have failures, and we make method use errors. As a result, pregnancies happen.

It is a human right to direct one’s life according to their desires and values, and it’s an obligation for individuals to make the best choices and decisions for their family.

Barriers to living a full life as one defines it for themselves does not show up only in loss of abortion access—it is seen in the loss of other things like the absence of quality care, the absence of skilled providers and managers, and the lack of facilities, to list just a few.”

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE FOR 30 YEARS

Since 1992, Provide has responded to the needs of healthcare and social service providers to ensure equitable access to abortion care. Throughout this section, we've highlighted some important and pivotal moments in our history. For a full look at our history visit the interactive timeline on our website:

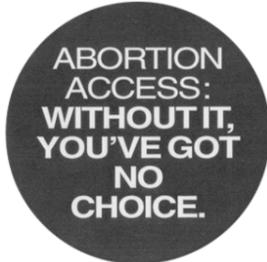
<https://providecare.org/celebrating-30-years/>



1996

MBTA Campaign

On Jan. 10, a marketing campaign is launched in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Ads featuring the message, "Abortion Access: Without It, You've Got No Choice," are put up on subways and buses throughout the Greater Boston area, as well as several billboards in Cambridge. The campaign is covered by local television and news and newspapers and national magazines.



2001-2005

New Abortion Provider Training Initiative (NAPTI)

An evaluation finds that 259 advanced practice clinicians (APCs) and primary care clinicians were trained under the auspices of NAPTI from 2001 through mid-2005. Most are residents or APCs trained abortion procedures. Sixty of those trained clinicians (23%) went on to incorporate abortion care into their practice. Sixteen new clinical sites began providing abortion care in the years that NAPTI has been active. From 2003-2005, NAPTI organizers report increased access to abortion in four states.



2012

Welcome to Provide

In Oct., the Abortion Access Project continues its vital work under a new name: Provide! The new name is positive and powerful, complements our mission, approach and values, and is motivating to the communities in which we work. The tagline, "Everyone Has a Role," is introduced to reflect Provide's stance against the stigma and isolation of abortion care.



2013

The Referrals Initiative

Provide launches its soon-to-be flagship program, The Referrals Initiative. The curriculum introduces and reinforces a STAR Model for making referrals that are **S**upportive, **T**horough, **A**ctive, and **R**eferral-quality. Between 2013-2022, Provide trains over 10,000 frontline providers in 43 states.

Following a Referrals Initiative Training,

95% of participants feel they need to effectively counsel clients on all pregnancy options.

96% of participants feel they have the skills and information to effectively refer a client for an abortion.

98% of participants say they would present all pregnancy options without bias.



2016

Technically Speaking

Provide launches its Technical Assistance Program in Q4. The program is designed to offer additional customized support and resources to support organizations in developing processes and policies that help institutionalize compassionate, quality referrals for unintended pregnancy and abortion.



"I had a client who has been incarcerated and is now serving a sentence. I stopped in the middle of the assessment and asked about her reproductive history. I don't usually do that, but [the training] has made me stop and have those conversations with my clients."

— Addiction Treatment Organization, Kentucky



2019

New Leadership

On Aug. 19, we welcome our new Executive Director, Fatimah Gifford, a southern Black woman whose commitment to amplifying voices and building resources for underserved and underrepresented folks, as well as her vast experience in the reproductive health and justice space, allows us to envision our next chapter.



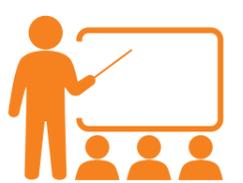
2021

Client Experience Study

Provide publishes an article in *Contraception* about our [Client Experience Study](#). Conducted with patients at family planning clinics in the U.S. South, our study examines pregnancy options counseling experiences and whether patients were satisfied with their care. Key findings from the study include:

Clients were approximately 80% more likely to rate their counseling as "excellent" on all scale items when their provider discussed all options, compared to when they did not. This was even true for clients who planned to continue their pregnancy.

There are significant racial disparities in options counseling and referral, with Black clients being less likely to receive information about abortion and more likely to leave the clinic with an unmet need for abortion referral.



Provide's Training

Immediately increases providers' confidence and willingness to discuss and refer for all pregnancy options.



Changes Practice

Providers are three times more likely to discuss and twice as likely to refer for abortion care.



Improves Client Experience

Clients are 80% more likely to give their provider a perfect score on all measures of counseling satisfaction.

THE ROAD AHEAD

In 1999, seven years after inception, the Abortion Access Project raised \$2,347 with the support of 34 donors. 23 years later, with the ongoing support of those 34 donors along with quite a few more (nearly 150!), we set an ambitious goal to raise \$300,000 in 2022. We are more than halfway there!

Everyone Has a Role in protecting abortion access, especially in this historical moment.

Over the next three years, we are set to expand our resources and training on abortion pills, work with lawyers and advocacy organizations to fight abortion criminalization, connect providers and social workers across systems of care and state lines, and of course, continue training providers to offer a quality and compassionate abortion referral to clients seeking judgement-free abortion care.

We can't do it alone. We invite you to join us in celebrating and honoring our 30 years of transforming healthcare and support us in our vision for the next 30 years.

Donations of all sizes help fund our work to train and equip healthcare and social service providers with the tools they need to make accurate, client-centered, and compassionate referrals for unintended pregnancy and abortion care.

HOW TO DONATE

Online: <https://providecare.org/donate/>

U.S. Mail: Mail your check to: Provide, PO Box 8265, Round Rock, TX 78683

Phone: Call (617) 661-1161 and leave a message with your name and phone number. A Provide staff member will contact you as soon as possible.

Email: Send an email to info@providecare.org. A Provide staff member will respond as soon as possible.

Other Ways to Give: Visit our [Donate page](#) online to learn more, or reach out to Ashley Bordas, Director of Development, at ab@providecare.org.

**Everyone Has a Role
in Ensuring Equitable
Abortion Access**

