

PRESS RELEASE
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New Coalition, Pennsylvania Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative, Forms to Unify and Serve

Pregnancy resource centers across the Commonwealth seek to become more effective in communicating and serving their communities.

On August 22, 2023, The Pennsylvania Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative (PPWC) was launched as pregnancy resource centers met at a statewide Summit to unify, collaborate, communicate, and ultimately become more effective in their communities.

Sarah Bowen, President of PPWC and Executive Director of Promise Life Network in Slippery Rock said “The PPWC allows us to work together, support one another, and make a difference.”

Over 100 people attended the historic launch representing over 30 Pennsylvania pregnancy center organizations. National representatives from NIFLA, Heartbeat, Choose Life, Save the Storks, and ICU mobile were also in attendance along with vital local partners like PA Family Institute.

“It was only 5 months ago that a small group of us began to meet with a shared vision to build a coalition that specifically addressed the threats to pregnancy centers in Pennsylvania,” said Amy Scheuring of Women’s Choice Network in Pittsburgh. A 501(c)6 was created and the PA Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative was formed whose mission is to provide advocacy and educational support with one voice for member organizations, enabling and assisting them in their mission to support pregnant women and their families in need in PA. The State Summit was the “birth” of that collaborative.

PPWC was formed to represent pregnancy resource centers and medical clinics facing important and sometimes threatening shifts in culture and government. PPWC seeks to advocate for policies that protect and promote pregnancy centers and the women they serve. Ultimately, PPWC works to clear the way for centers to do what they do best - care for women and families facing unexpected pregnancies.

Brooke Nearman, a member of the PPWC steering committee and Executive Director of AlphaCare in Philadelphia said, “By providing a bridge of communication to improve the vast political divide in PA, I hope to drive better understanding among Republican and Democrat legislators. When we connect them to centers like ours, truth reigns and the essential value of pregnancy centers is understood.”

There was a sense of great unity and purpose in the room. Pregnancy resource centers are an irreplaceable part of pregnancy wellness in Pennsylvania. They provide crucial care to pregnant women and families, often in health deserts. Professional services and necessary resources are provided each year to tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians -- most often uninsured or underinsured women. These centers serve as an essential grassroots connection point in our state's health care landscape as they support women into ongoing care. PPWC seeks to shed light on their important work and looks forward to sharing more about their services and the women and men pregnancy centers have the honor to serve.

Another PPWC steering committee member and Executive Director of Morning Star Pregnancy Services, Linda Plummer explained: "All women deserve to feel loved and supported during their pregnancy. The PPWC is a crucial voice to defend pregnancy centers and pregnancy medical clinics and to advocate for the dignity of all women."

As the landscape continues to shift in Pennsylvania it is clear that we truly are better together.