


New Orleans Needs 2,844 More Abortions, Says Planned Parenthood

Louisiana Right to Life's Brief Analysis of Planned Parenthood's 10/15/14 "Facility Need Review"

Date 2014
2015

For NEW ORLEANS

Address 4636 S. CLAIBORNE AVE



MORE ABORTIONS NEEDED.
FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH, LET
US SELL 2,844 MORE ABORTIONS
PER YEAR.

Dr. PLANNED PARENTHOOD Dr. _____

Substitution Permitted Dispense as Written

**Planned
Parenthood's
Application
Tantamount to an
Abortion
Prescription
for New Orleans.**

As reported by the Associated Press on January 16, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals rejected Planned Parenthood's attempt to demonstrate that a "need" exists for a new abortion facility on Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans. In a letter dated January 8, 2014, DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert stated to Planned Parenthood: "Your application failed to establish the probability of serious, adverse consequences to recipients' ability to access outpatient abortion services if you are not allowed to apply for licensure."

Now, through a public records request, Louisiana Right to Life has obtained Planned Parenthood's "Facility Need Review" Brief submitted to the DHH on October 15. In this 74-page document, Planned Parenthood argues why New Orleans needs 2,844 more abortions on an annual basis, and why Planned Parenthood should be the business that provides those abortions.

Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life and leader of the Nola Needs Peace Coalition, said the following after reviewing Planned Parenthood's application:

"Over the past few years, Planned Parenthood has avoided almost all mention of abortion when discussing its new facility currently planned for Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans. They have focused instead on the need for women's healthcare. Now, in a shockingly blunt and business-like manner, Planned Parenthood is making a case to the state of Louisiana that the New Orleans area needs 2,844 new abortions every year, and that Planned Parenthood is the business to sell those abortions.



“As we have said from the outset, more Planned Parenthood in New Orleans will lead to more abortions in New Orleans. This document makes that abundantly clear. Our city needs more peace and more authentic healthcare, not a mega-facility to sell abortion to our citizens.”

More Analysis from Louisiana Right to Life

Why is Planned Parenthood Making This Application?

Planned Parenthood has continually said it needs its new and larger facility under construction on Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans in order to offer more healthcare services to women. In this process, it has consistently downplayed the role abortion services will play in the new facility. However, abortion is the only new service that Planned Parenthood will offer at its new facility that it does not currently offer at its Magazine Street location. Since Planned Parenthood wants to perform abortions at the Claiborne facility, the organization must obtain a license from the Department of Health and Hospitals to operate as an outpatient abortion facility. To apply for the license, Planned Parenthood must seek permission from the DHH through the process known as a “Facility Need Review.” Secretary Kliebert’s January 9 letter sums it up well:

Louisiana Administrative Code Title. 48, pt. 1, §12524 (2012), as published in the Louisiana Register, Volume 38, No. 08, August 20, 2012, provides that the department shall grant facility need review approval only if the application, the data contained in the application, and other evidence effectively establishes the probability of serious, adverse consequences to individuals’ ability to access outpatient abortion facility services, if the provider is not allowed to be licensed. §12524(C)(2).

Planned Parenthood’s 74-page application, then, must demonstrate a “need” for an outpatient abortion facility in the New Orleans area.

How did Planned Parenthood Arrive at an “Unmet Need” of 2,844 More Abortions?

Planned Parenthood officials say there is an unmet need for abortion services in the region, and by performing abortions Planned Parenthood would be serving women — 2,844 per year to be exact — previously prevented from obtaining access to abortion.

In its application, Planned Parenthood uses statistical data from the Guttmacher Institute and a report by Stanley Henshaw, PhD to arrive at that number. That data balances such things as the number of women of childbearing age (15-44), the national abortion rate and the rate of unintended pregnancies. Essentially, since the abortion rate in Louisiana is lower than the national average, Planned Parenthood believes this presents a problem. If the childbearing age women exist in the population, as they do in Louisiana, there must be an issue with why women are not accessing abortion. Planned Parenthood’s conclusion is that access to abortion is limited, and Planned Parenthood’s facility can solve that dilemma.

A Close Prediction from a Year Ago

In early 2014, Louisiana Right to Life released a video report predicting that Planned Parenthood would perform approximately 2,880 abortions a year at the new facility on Claiborne Avenue. Louisiana Right to Life determined these figures based on the analysis by Abby Johnson (former Planned Parenthood facility director in Texas). When examining the number of “recovery beds” planned in architectural drawings for the facility, Johnson estimated it would lend Planned Parenthood the ability to perform up to 30 abortions a day. Assuming Planned Parenthood



performs 30 abortions a day on a twice-a-week basis for 48 weeks a year, it would perform 2,880 abortions a year. This estimate based on architectural plans is only 36 abortions off from Planned Parenthood's own projection for the need for 2,844 abortions in the New Orleans area. From this, Louisiana Right to Life believes that Planned Parenthood intentionally designed its facility to bring Louisiana abortion figures up to national abortion numbers. The group set out to build a facility that would maximize the currently untapped abortion potential of the New Orleans region.

2,844 More Abortions = Approximately \$1,279,800 more dollars for Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood is in the business of selling abortions. The "nonprofit" continues to make money, bringing in more than \$305.3 million in 2013 in addition to receiving more than a half billion dollars of taxpayer money. And by adding 2,844 abortions a year in New Orleans, abortion income would continue to rise. By setting the average cost of an abortion at \$450, 2,844 abortions would represent \$1,279,800 in annual abortion income at the Claiborne Avenue facility alone.

Assessing Their Numbers: LARTL Responses to Planned Parenthood's Claims

In its application, Planned Parenthood said it would fulfill the unmet need for abortion facility services in both DHH Region 1 (Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines parishes) and surrounding areas of Southeast Louisiana. Below are examples of data they cited with specific responses from Louisiana Right to Life.

- Data in Planned Parenthood's application indicates that in 2010, 3,598 women residing in Region 1 would be expected to access abortion care services, while only 2,459 women were able to access services, "leaving an unmet need for 1,139 women living within DHH Region 1."

- *LARTL Response: By using its formula comparing child-bearing age women living in DHH Region 1 to the national abortion statistics, Planned Parenthood sees a problem in that 1,139 women that it believes should have had an abortion did not. By doing this, Planned Parenthood leaves out the possibility that women residing in the greater New Orleans area simply may not want to abort their unborn children at the same rate as women in other parts of the nation. The group fails to mention that social services, both provided by non-profit organizations and governmental agencies, exist in the region to offer support to women facing unplanned pregnancies and encourage them to parent or place their child for adoption.*

- In 2010 four outpatient abortion facilities existed in Region 1, and 3,248 abortions were performed in those facilities. Today, there are two facilities, "thus, presumably, the unmet need documented for 2010 has only become more severe with the decrease in the number of facilities."

- *LARTL Response:*
 - *The two outpatient abortion facilities that Planned Parenthood references closed in 2011 and 2012 due to violations of health cited by DHH. Planned Parenthood seems unmoved by this fact, implying an element of disappointment in the closure of these two facilities.*
 - *Despite Planned Parenthood's claim that the unmet need is more severe because of*



these two facilities are no longer present, the number of abortions performed at Region 1's two current outpatient abortion facilities has risen, from 3,248 in 2010 to 4,170 in 2013, instead of fallen.

- *Planned Parenthood implies that there are women seeking to access abortion but are not able to because of the lack of providers. Nothing in Planned Parenthood's application, other than simply looking at national abortion statistics, demonstrates that women are being turned away from abortion in Region 1.*

- In the application, Planned Parenthood claims that the need for abortion does not just exist in DHH Region 1, but expands it to the surrounding area as well. In 2010, 3,042 women residing in Region 1 as well as the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany, St. Mary, and Washington were able to access abortion services. Planned Parenthood's calculations, however, estimate that 5,886 women residing in those areas would obtain services that year." Thus, there is an unmet need for approximately 2,844 women (48 percent)."

- o *LARTL Response:*

- *In showing the "unmet need" for abortion in the outlining areas indicated, Planned Parenthood again disregards the conclusion that Louisiana women may not want to choose abortion at the rate of the rest of the nation.*

- *Planned Parenthood also cites lack of transportation and access as a reason for the depressed abortion figures for persons living outside Region 1. However, Planned Parenthood's proposed abortion facility would be located just minutes away from the region's other two abortion facilities, and whatever limitations women outside the region would have getting to those facilities they will have getting to Planned Parenthood's new facility.*

- In conclusion, Planned Parenthood predicts "dire safety and health consequences" if the facility is not licensed. These consequences cited include an increased risk of self-induced abortion, later-term abortions because of long wait times at existing facilities, and an increased risk of the dangers of child birth and maternal depression. "If the center is not permitted to be licensed, there will be serious, adverse consequences to women's ability to access outpatient abortion services.

- o *LARTL Response: Currently, two abortion facilities exist in the greater New Orleans region. Since the demand for abortion does not exist in the manner Planned Parenthood's statistics predict, the presence of these two abortion facilities should satisfy Planned Parenthood's concerns of "dire safety and health consequences."*

