

The Healthy Tomorrows: Revisioning Pregnancy Care Ministry

Purpose: Reduce abortions by partnering with pregnancy care centers to provide medical services to abortion vulnerable women.

Objectives:

1. Reduce the number of abortions
2. Reduce the incidence of post-abortion trauma for women and men
3. Improve the mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing of women and their children
4. Enhance the effectiveness of pregnancy care centers within their communities

Who is abortion vulnerable?

Any young woman exposed to the anti-life, anti-child influences in American culture is vulnerable to abortion if an unexpected or unplanned pregnancy occurs.

Why is Healthy Tomorrows needed?

Since pregnancy care ministry began the abortion issue has changed. Surgical abortion has declined while medication abortion has increased substantially. An abortion vulnerable pregnant woman is not easily drawn to a pregnancy center that only offers pregnancy confirmation by pregnancy test and/or ultrasound. She will need medical care, and the question to be answered is whether that medical care will be life-affirming or life-denying. Whatever she decides about her pregnancy, it will be life changing. We believe it is in everyone's best interest (mother, baby and society) that she be given every reason to choose life. An essential, strategic next step to fulfill the mission of pregnancy care centers requires the inclusion of life-affirming medical services that provide a scope of care beyond what currently exists in most centers.

When is the best time to reach an abortion vulnerable woman?

Before she experiences pregnancy. Ideally, the best time is as she moves from childhood into adolescence. Girls as young as eight-years-old learn about sex, pregnancy, and abortion from the sex education in their school and from poorly informed friends. Other than a parent, her primary care physician is in a position of caregiving trust to be the one to whom she reaches out with questions, concerns, and needs related to sexuality, human reproduction and pregnancy. Doctors are in the best position to guide her decision making and Healthy Tomorrows accomplishes this.

Medical Services Provided:

- Preventative primary care services
- Prenatal, labor and delivery, post-partum care
- Women's Health – gynecological health, procedures and surgeries
- Well-woman Care – ongoing primary care, counseling

- Well-Child Care – ongoing pediatric care

How does Healthy Tomorrows interface with Pregnancy Care ministry?

Healthy Tomorrows functions in conjunction with Christian Healthcare Centers as a woman's medical home. Many pregnancy centers have a desire to offer expanded medical services but lack the resources and personnel to do so. Since most centers depend on volunteers, just sustaining existing programs is enough of a challenge.

Healthy Tomorrows is a collaborative program between Christian Healthcare Centers (CHC) and pregnancy centers, with medical services provided by CHC. Services are provided to PCC clients at no charge. CHC physicians and nurse practitioners provide the medical care, some of which may be delivered at the pregnancy care center while other services are provided at a CHC clinic located in their community.

Who is Christian Healthcare Centers?

Christian Healthcare Centers (CHC) is a Michigan-based not-for-profit medical ministry whose mission is providing exceptional medical services to the community, guided by Biblical values (visit www.chcenters.org). It's scope of service includes pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and internal medicine. In lieu of insurance, Medicaid and Medicare, regular CHC patients pay a small monthly fee to receive unlimited primary medical care. It functions much like a gym membership where one fee gains members access to all of the gym's machines and services.

CHC envisions establishing additional locations in communities throughout the United States. To advance its mission and the mission of pregnancy care ministry, CHC not only provides medical services to abortion vulnerable women, it provides those same services to the pro-life community as well. In short, CHC serves the entire community with exceptional medical care that is also convenient, affordable and personalized. CHC physicians are salaried employees, not volunteers.

How is Healthy Tomorrows Funded?

Healthy Tomorrows is funded by a combination of grants, contributions and fees generated from other CHC services. For example, when a person joins CHC as a patient, a portion of their membership fee supports the Healthy Tomorrows program. Unlike traditional health insurance, CHC members can use some of their healthcare spending to secure exceptional medical care for themselves AND support similar care for the clients of pregnancy care centers. It is a win-win model of service. CHC receives no reimbursements from insurance and no funds from government entities.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What is the ultimate goal of Healthy Tomorrows?** CHC would like to do to Planned Parenthood what Netflix did to Blockbuster, that is, take their business

away from them! There are 450 Planned Parenthood locations in the U.S., and 370 freestanding abortion clinics. Compare this to the 2,500+ pregnancy care centers currently in operation. Planned Parenthood's strategy is to operate fewer but larger facilities and concentrate on providing medical services other than abortion. They intend to stay focused on high-poverty, minority communities. The PCC movement has a physical presence in more communities than Planned Parenthood, positioning it to reach more women. If the movement embraces Healthy Tomorrows and if we leverage existing telemedicine and mobile app technology, we can reach 98% of the U.S. population with a life-affirming message backed up with life-affirming medical and support care. Wouldn't it be wonderful to show the watching world that pro-life organizations do a much better job with women's health than an organization that kills 300,000 babies each year, damages women, and receives \$500 million each year from the taxpayers?

2. **Do the patients enrolled in Healthy Tomorrows pay for their care?** There are no current plans to charge HT patients for their care.
3. **How does a PCC client access Healthy Tomorrows services?** PCC personnel refer eligible clients to Christian Healthcare Centers who then enroll the client in CHC MemberCare. This provides the client with access to all of CHC's services. Each client is case managed to ensure continued eligibility and compliance with Healthy Tomorrows' policies, e.g., showing up for appointments, following physician instructions.
4. **Do PCCs incur any costs to participate in Healthy Tomorrows?** The vision is to enhance the PCC ministry, not burden it with additional overhead, so the PCC does not pay for the medical services provided to its clients. A PCC may incur some cost if they desire medical services to be provided onsite. Those costs would stem from repurposing a space for some of the medical services, securing an ob/gyn exam table and supplies, installing a good WIFI service for providers, and possibly some transportation cost for patients to and from appointments.
5. **Are participating PCCs expected to assist with the startup or ongoing funding of a Christian Healthcare Centers clinic?** We know PCCs depend on volunteers, and that their small salaried staff is already overworked, therefore, our expectations are largely limited to helping promote HT and CHC to their constituents, providing introductions to key influencers within the pro-life medical, business and church community, and encouraging like-minded individuals to participate in the project. When appropriate, the PCC may collaborate with CHC on some joint fundraising/promotional endeavors that benefit both entities.
6. **How closely aligned is the PCC with CHC?** The relationship functions in accord with a Memorandum of Understanding that describes the roles and responsibilities of the PCC and CHC. It is an affiliation relationship. Both entities maintain their separate organizational identity and governing autonomy. There is no legal contract that obligates or binds either organization to the other.

7. **Who is responsible to recruit HT physicians?** Since HT personnel are Christian Healthcare Centers' employees, CHC performs all human resources functions. PCCs may know individuals they would recommend for open positions.
8. **Who assumes the liability for medical practitioners?** Christian Healthcare Centers assumes this liability. Depending on the state, CHC simply names the PCC as an additional insured party on its umbrella liability coverage.