

9 clergy members attend training

An ALL-OPTIONS CLERGY COUNSELOR (AOCC) training workshop was held for nine local clergy members on April 27th. The nine participants represented five faith groups.

The training was conducted by Barbara Kavadias, Director of Field Services for RCRC. The Presbyterian Headquarters provided us with a beautiful conference room free of charge. Expenses included materials and lunch for participants, and these were largely covered by a grant from RCRC.

The program ran from 9:00 am until 3:30pm, and that was not quite enough time for the fully packed schedule.

Barbara engaged the group in an in-depth discussion of the Clergy's role in All-Options pregnancy counseling including such topics as:

- ▶ Why All Options Counseling
- ▶ Unique issues for Clergy
- ▶ Counseling Skills
- ▶ Spiritual/theological resources
- ▶ Some positives and negatives for Clergy

One of the most interesting moments in the morning discussion came when Barbara asked two questions that required some self-searching:

1. Why would a member of your church come to you when facing an unwanted pregnancy?
2. Why wouldn't a member of your church come to you when facing an unwanted pregnancy?

Sonya Cotton, Director of Patient Services of Planned Parenthood of Louisville, Inc. described clinic services and patient flow with an explanation of a typical counseling session. She also helped us

(Continued on page 2)

KRCRC needs YOU at the State Fair in August!



It's Kentucky State Fair time again! This is the one place where KRCRC can reach people throughout the state. Our presence at the fair is important and you can help make it successful! If you've never worked the KRCRC Fair Booth, start this year!

We need 80 volunteers to staff the booth which operates from 9:00 am till 10:00 pm for 10 days. Two persons are assigned to each shift. Choose from 4 shifts: 1) 9am-1pm, 2) 1pm-4pm, 3) 4pm-7pm and/or 4) 7pm-10pm.

Last year we managed to cover the entire time with 65 volunteers, but this meant several volunteers had to work more than one shift. It's actually fun! You get to visit with your booth partner while waiting for visitors to engage with you.

Booth volunteers get a free ticket to the Fair.

A volunteer orientation will be held Sun., Aug. 13, 5pm. Pizza will be served!

Be a winner for choice



To volunteer, contact KRCRC by phone or email. Provide your name, phone number(s), email address and your shift preferences.

KRCRC

866-606-0988 (toll-free)

info@krcrc.org

SIGN-UP EARLY AND GET YOUR SHIFT!

KY STATE FAIR 2006	9am - 1pm	1pm - 4pm	4pm - 7pm	7pm - 10pm
Thursday, August 17, 2006				
Friday, August 18, 2006				
Saturday, August 19, 2006				
Sunday, August 20, 2006				
Monday, August 21, 2006				
Tuesday, August 22, 2006				
Thursday, August 24, 2006				
Friday, August 25, 2006				
Saturday, August 26, 2006				
Sunday, August 27, 2006				

What's inside.....

- ProChoice Owensboro hosts gathering
- KRCRC plans new Fall event
- Local hospital merger news
- Living my faith

- Emergency Contraception in Kentucky
- How Emergency Contraception works
- Being specific about your faith
- Life after Roe
- KRCRC Annual Report

ProChoice Owensboro gathers like-minded people

On April 29, 2006 over 30 prochoice persons gathered in Owensboro. Linda Powe, president of ProChoice Owensboro invited people to hear Dr. Paul Simmons speak.

The event was a great success, especially considering there were several other events occurring at the same time that competed for people's attention.

Linda welcomed everyone to the event, talked about ProChoice Owensboro and introduced Dr. Simmons. In addition to Dr. Simmons, the group heard from Emily Burroughs of Planned Parenthood of Louisville.

Following the talk there was some discussion and announcements about ways people can get involved and stay connected to other ProChoice Kentuckians of faith.

Gilbert Schroerlucke of KRCRC encouraged people to join KRCRC and volunteer their time to lobby, work the state fair, escort, and write for the newsletter.

It was encouraging to see so many attend the event. KRCRC applauds Linda Powe and the work of ProChoice Owensboro!

Kudos to ProChoice Owensboro!



ProChoice Owensboroans

Voice for Choice is a publication of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

KRCRC Tel: 1-866-606-0988
PO Box 4065 E-mail: info@krcc.org
Louisville, KY 40204 Web: www.krcc.org

Gilbert Schroerlucke, Editor
JoAnn Burch, Distribution Coordinator

Clergy members attend training, *continued*

to understand the scope of the services provided to women who seek help there. While some Planned Parenthood affiliates offer abortions, the Louisville affiliate does not. Pregnancy testing and pre-natal care are available.

The lunch discussion was "An Overview of Kentucky State Law Pertaining to adoption" with Carolyn Arnett, staff attorney of Adoptions of Kentucky. Ms. Arnett has specialized in adoptions, representing primarily birth parents, since 1992. She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. She has actively participated in adoption law reform in Kentucky.

Much of the remainder of the day involved role-playing and fully engaging participants in the complexities of this counseling process. Women and families are to be supported as they explore the options of carrying a child to term (and thus needing pre-natal support and medical care with the help of agencies such as Planned Parenthood or government sponsored health clinics); putting a child up for adoption; or terminating a pregnancy.

A clergy counselor provides a supportive ear to women who are often distressed and unable to find support from family or friends. Most often, a clergy counselor holds a counseling session over the phone and may be limited to one or two phone sessions. Should more extensive counseling be required, a caller can be referred to a mental health agency as was the case for a recent caller.

Participants in this training felt good about their experience and all but one felt ready to serve as clergy counselors. They are the first clergy members to volunteer and train for this role in many years in Louisville. We are proud to have been able to prepare these men and women for becoming a support system to women in our community. In addition, the participants received certificates of completion. They were encouraged to hang them on their office walls and to report their training to their churches through sermons and in church newsletters. Our hope is that by discussing the training that they will communicate a willingness to speak up for women and for reproductive choice.

KRCRC PLANS NEW FALL EVENT

We are planning a Saturday **Comprehensive Sexuality Education conference** for religious educators, youth workers and parents. The conference will include a keynote speaker, workshops, and introductions to a variety of curriculum.

We are still looking for a place to hold the event. If you are interested in helping us get the word out about the event or want to help plan it, please contact us. For up-to-date information, see the KRCRC web site: www.krcc.org

Reproductive Choice: Will the merger of Jewish Hospital and Caritas affect our access to services?

By Anne Maron, Chair, KRCRC Board

In October, with little fanfare or media attention, Jewish Hospital and Caritas formed a new merged entity called Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare (JHHS) with the logo phrase "Combining our strength. Honoring our heritage."

As indicated by MergerWatch, a project of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc., along with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, in their cooperatively produced workbook, "Protecting Individual Conscience in the Age of Hospital Mergers: A Guide for Religious Advocates", mergers of secular hospitals or non-Catholic hospitals with Catholic hospitals may impose "restrictive religious doctrine on a secular community... forcing the elimination of contraceptive and sterilization services.

In response to our (KRCRC) concerns about how this merger would affect services at Jewish Hospital, I was able to form a coalition of similarly concerned individuals, including Shirley Jones, Ph.D., RNC, who is CEO of Planned Parenthood of Louisville; Amanda Kreps-Long, Director of the Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU of Louisville and Leni Sweet (who has been succeeded by Polly Adler) of the NCJW Louisville Branch. We wrote to the President of Jewish Hospital, Robert Shircliff, who referred us to Keith Inman, Director of External Affairs with Jewish Hospital.

Meanwhile, I contacted Ellen Shapira who serves on the board of Jewish Hospital. She has become a valued and essential member of this coalition, who has guided us with her knowledge and insights as well as personal connections with the Jewish Hospital community of administrators. Through conversations with her, we have learned about the complexities of the merger and the extent to which plans were made to protect the heritage and medical freedoms of each hospital entity. We can be proud of these hospitals both for the excellence of medical care they provide to our community and for the lengths they went to protect our separate heritages, as the logo indicates. Many questions remain, however, about how and what services women will receive in the various facilities involved in this merger.

With Ellen's help, and with the help of Keith Inman, and MergerWatch, we have been able to arrange a meeting for July 6th at Jewish Hospital East to explore our concerns and questions with members of the administration of Jewish Hospital. It has taken about eight months of phone calls, emails and meetings to finally bring this about.

We hope that our many questions in regard to reproductive choice will be answered, and that we will represent the interests and concerns of our constituents well. A report of the outcome of this meeting will be published in our next newsletter.

Are you using a KRCRC Kroger Gift Card?

Order a \$5 gift card from KRCRC. Stop at the Kroger service desk and put some money on the gift card. Shop till you drop and pay the bill with your Kroger gift card. When you use your Kroger gift card, it helps raise funds for KRCRC. Consider giving KRCRC Kroger gift cards as gifts! It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Contact KRCRC to order KRCRC Kroger Gift Cards.



KRCRC

Board of Directors Meeting

KRCRC supporters are welcomed to attend a KRCRC Board of Directors meeting whether you would like to observe, participate or explore your interest in getting more involved with the work of KRCRC.

Jul 16 • Aug 13 • Sept 17 • Oct 15
(Normally the 3rd Sunday of the month.)

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

St. Matthews Episcopal Church

KRCRC

1-866-606-0988

info@krccrc.org

Emergency Contraception in Kentucky

By Amanda Kreps-Long, Director, ACLU Kentucky Reproductive Freedom Project

In December 2003, an expert advisory panel to the Food and Drug Administration overwhelmingly recommended (in a 23-4 vote) that emergency contraceptives, carrying the brand name Plan B, be sold over-the-counter.

On May 6th, 2004, the FDA made a highly unusual move by diverging from that recommendation and denying over-the-counter sale of Plan B, citing concerns that young women under age 17 could obtain the drug. A few months later, the drug company re-applied for over-the-counter status for women age 17 and older. In 2005, the FDA postponed the decision indefinitely.

This is a perfect example of political pressure taking precedence over sound medical science. The FDA Advisory Panel found no evidence that the drug poses any medical risk to women, nor did it find that its availability would promote unsafe sex among teenagers.

The Panel did find that Plan B is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy and thus, overwhelmingly recommended its approval to the FDA.

Things are no different in Kentucky. Since 2002, Rep. Tom Burch, D-Louisville, has been introducing legislation that would allow pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception without a prescription. Eight states are already providing this option yet there is little support in the Kentucky legislature.

But, during this same time the state legislature has enacted a “fetal homicide” law, giving a fetus separate legal rights from the woman. And this year, a bill requiring two trips to an abortion clinic to establish “informed consent” 24 hours prior to the procedure has passed both the state House and Senate.

Plan B is not an abortion pill. It consists of two high doses of a hormone used in birth control pills and PREVENTS pregnancy by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization or implantation of a fertilized egg. It has no effect if a pregnancy has already occurred and is up to 89% effective in preventing pregnancy if taken 72 hours after contraception failure, unprotected sex, and sexual assault.

TAKE ACTION:

Don't let pharmacists deny women access to contraception

Sign the NARAL petition and/or write your congressional leaders. For help in taking action, see:

<http://go.care2.com/e/ICU/MT/c6qj>

True Facts about EC

EC should not be confused with RU486 (the abortion pill)

EC does NOT disrupt an established pregnancy and does not cause an abortion.

EC is safe and legal and can be prescribed by a doctor

EC is up to 89% effective, if taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse or contraceptive failure.

EC halts pregnancy by preventing ovulation, inhibiting fertilization or interfering with the implantation of a fertilized egg.

EC is currently the standard precaution against pregnancy after rape, but many hospitals do not routinely offer rape survivors EC or information about how to obtain it.

Facts provided by the
Alan Guttmacher Institute

Obtaining Plan B within that timeframe is crucial.

In the fall of 2005, the Reproductive Freedom Project conducted a statewide survey to investigate Kentucky pharmacists' knowledge of and views on emergency contraception. We surveyed 309 out of 1,100 licensed pharmacies and found that 60% of pharmacists thought EC was an abortion pill. Only 13% of pharmacies had EC in stock and of the remaining pharmacies, 47% would not fill the prescription.

Kentucky must do better than that.

Groups like the ACLU of Kentucky Reproductive Freedom Project, the A-Fund, the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, Planned Parenthoods in Louisville and Lexington, and the National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section are coming together to educate the public about emergency contraception.

We hope you will join us in the fight to ensure that all women have access to the full gamut of reproductive health services. Please contact Amanda Kreps-Long at rpf@aclu-ky.org for more information.

How Emergency Contraception (EC) Works

By Emily Burroughs, Planned Parenthood of Louisville and KRCRC Board Member

Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended (The Guttmacher Institute 2006). Emergency contraception (EC) is a form of birth control that prevents unintended pregnancy after sexual intercourse. EC is not the abortion pill (Mifepristone or RU-486). EC is sometimes known as the “morning after pill” or post-coital contraception. The term “emergency contraception” is preferred because the method is best suited for limited, emergency use.

EC can be taken up to three days after intercourse—not just the morning after. EC prevents ovum (egg) ovulation, fertilization, or implantation after unprotected intercourse. Emergency Contraceptive (EC) is given in two doses. The first pill should be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse, and the second pill should be taken 12 hours later.

Pregnancy requires the sperm to make their way from the vagina through the uterus to the fallopian tubes where it waits to unite with the mature ovum (egg) that is released during each ovulatory cycle. After the sperm and egg are united, it can take five to seven days for the fertilized ovum to implant in the lining of the uterus. Throughout a normal ovulatory month, a woman’s body is preparing for the possibility of a pregnancy by increasing the lining of the uterus. If pregnancy does not occur, the uterus will shed the lining, which causes a menses or a period. EC contains hormones in a synthetic form, which cause the egg not to be receptive to ovulation, fertilization, or implantation. EC is not effective if a woman is already pregnant. It will not cause an abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Louisville (PPL) provides Emergency Contraception

PPL is a non-profit organization that provides quality reproductive health care and comprehensive sexuality education to individuals of all genders, races, ethnicities and socioeconomic classes. PPL provides a sliding scale fee for eligible health care services based on household income according to Federal Poverty guidelines. One-fifth

of clients served in 2005 qualified for free services.

Planned Parenthood of Louisville (PPL) dispenses emergency contraception at our two clinics. PPL is one of only four public health clinics in the Louisville Metro area that provide emergency contraception on site.

Each of PPL’s clinics is located in an area convenient to the under-served populations in our community. Planned Parenthood of Louisville (PPL) serves over 15,500 visits a year, and 100% of our work is to help individuals take care of their reproductive health through education and health care.

The prevention and early intervention services at PPL support each person’s ability to be healthy and to plan when to have a child. We strive to make it possible for every child to be born wanted and loved.

Help Planned Parenthood of Louisville continue to provide reproductive health care services and education to our community. If you are interested in volunteering at or contributing to Planned Parenthood of Louisville, please contact:

Emily Burroughs
Emily.Burroughs@ppfa.org
502-584-2471 Ext. 236

Editor’s note: Women of child-bearing age are encouraged to keep a supply of EC pills in case they, or someone they know, needs one. An emergency situation is not the time to find out your doctor or pharmacy will not give you this legal medication. EC pills have about a 2-year shelf life. Keep them until they expire and then replace them with newer ones. If you are faced with the need for emergency contraception, you will be prepared.

The KRCRC Board of Directors encourages KRCRC supporters to also support Planned Parenthood of Louisville. Planned Parenthood provides women’s healthcare and health education for poor and high risk women and are no longer supported by United Way funding.

www.plannedparenthoodoflouisville.org

Planned Parenthood of Louisville graciously gives KRCRC space we use to prepare this newsletter.

Escorting: Where the Rubber Meets The Road or Being Specific in our Faith

By Gil Schroerlucke, Editor & KRCRC Board Member and retired United Methodist minister

There's a strong tendency for people of faith to spend time and energy on intellectual speculations. We easily get wrapped up in dotting theological i's and crossing theological t's and use up time and energy and never exercise our faith in the real world. Some of us think if we could only find the answers to our theoretical questions, we would then be ready to put our faith into action. Using this approach our intellectual exercises become mechanisms for diverting our attention away from the real issues.

For those of us who live in the Christian tradition, Jesus is important to the way we live our lives. I believe he was a "real world" kind of person. Religion was a complicated mess in his day. There were thousands of rules and regulations to be observed, some of which contradicted each other. Yet, he had the ability to get down to specifics in the real world. He said, "Let your yes be yes and your no be no." In other words, get down to the nitty gritty - the bottom line.

I believe this is a challenge for today's people of faith. This can be done in many ways, one of which is escorting. To escort means we have to get beyond all the ambiguities and the conflicting goals relating to women's reproductive health. To escort means we have said yes.

As escorts we meet at the EMW Clinic, 138 W. Market St., Louisville, at 7:00 am on Saturday mornings and walk with patients from their cars to the Clinic door. This becomes a needed ministry because there are protesters pushing and shoving and yelling trying to dissuade the women from continuing their movement toward the door. The protesters try to inflict as much guilt as they can and make all manor of claims and accusations (mostly false) about the results of their action. Sometimes they attack the escorts both verbally and physically. The escort tries to be a buffer between the protester and the patient.

We can take our cue from Jesus as we carry out this ministry. The citizens were ready to stone a women after being caught in adultery. (Notice the man is absent). But, Jesus stepped up and, in fact, said, "If you stone her you'll have to stone me as well." He was able to thwart their actions. So we try to relieve the patients of some of their stress by being a buffer.

This ministry last for approximately 1 ½ hours each Saturday. We are there because the protesters are there. Here is one way an individual can do something specific as a pro-choice person. If you live in or near Louisville and would like to participate, please let us know. You can choose the number of Saturdays you can be involved.



Some Clinic Escorts say, Join us!

Life After Roe?

By the Rev. Rebecca Turne

The abortion ban passed by the South Dakota legislature has sounded alarms all over the country. Is it really possible that after all these years we could lose abortion rights altogether?

Yes, with the recent changes on the Supreme Court, it is possible. People have been asking me what will happen if Roe is lost. By looking back to the 1960's and by following current trends, we can reasonably assume all of the following:

1. Women will die at the hands of unskilled abortionists who seek to profit from a black market business.
2. Women will ingest poisons and puncture their cervixes with non-sterile instruments.
3. The internet will be the primary source of information on how to induce an abortion.
4. Teen girls will be sent away to maternity homes to avoid embarrassing their families. Their parents will pressure them into placing their children for adoption.
5. The cost of abortion will skyrocket, whether legal or illegal.
6. Doctors in some states will be jailed.
7. Poor women will be offered incentives for sterilization.
8. Infants with severe genetic disorders will be born only to die in the first few days or weeks of life.
9. Pharmacies will ask for ID/parental permission/marriage license/or husband's permission in order to fill a prescription for birth control.

Only by raising our voices now can these consequences be averted. Please get involved.

Rev. Rebecca Turner, Executive Director
Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
5000 Washington Place • St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-9600 - voice / www.morrcr.org

KRCRC 2005 Annual Report

2005 was a year of change, improvements, growth and accomplishments.

KRCRC experiences growth & improvements

- Anne Maron, Kathy Schroerlucke and Melanie Phillips joined the KRCRC Board in 2005.
- KRCRC implemented a toll-free long distance phone number: 866-606-0988.
- Through the Internet, we established a telephone service that reduced costs, shared the work load and expanded service.
- New KRCRC Resource Manual was produced.
- The KRCRC web site was improved and now donors may use a credit card to donate online.
- Two board members attended the annual RCRC national meeting in November in D.C.

Outreach

- 65 volunteers staffed the KY State Fair KRCRC Booth for 130 hours, reaching out to new members throughout the state.
- Northern Kentucky ProChoice people met several times and Northern KY University faculty and staff organized Educators for Reproductive Freedom.
- Many volunteers joined Kate and Gil in Frankfort to lobby.
- 200 persons attended the annual Roe v. Wade Celebration Dinner and over 40 attended the pre-dinner Town Hall Meeting.
- *Voice for Choice* newsletters were mailed to over 4700 persons throughout the state 4 times.
- Purchased ads and directory entries in the Louisville Yellow Pages.
- Improved the KRCRC web site.
- Advertised in the Unity Dinner program, KY Alliance for Racial Equality.

2005 Financial Report

Income.....\$17,596.10
 Expenses.....\$14,367.8
 Year-End Balance.....\$ 3,228.26

- Initiated the Kroger Gift Card donation program
- Owensboro ProChoice donated \$600 in honor of Clara Oldham.

The members of the board of the KRCRC worked hard to ensure reproductive choice in our community. Our goals for 2006 include expanding our board to include more young, energetic members who will keep our mission alive by becoming more actively involved in escorting women to abortion clinics in Louisville and Lexington, by forming alliances with other civil rights organizations who work to protect women, religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and by opposing attempts to stifle discussion of these issues.

Submitted by:
 Anne Maron, Chair, KRCRC Board of Directors
 July, 2006

Pro-Faith, Pro-Family, Pro-Choice

Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Join other Kentuckians of faith. Support KRCRC
and speak out for reproductive choice and health.

Membership Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational
Name (If an organization, provide name of organization <u>and</u> individual contact person.)		
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City	State	Zip Code
Telephone ()	Fax ()	
E-mail		
Religious Affiliation (You are welcomed with or without a religious affiliation.)		
Please check all that apply:		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Educator	<input type="checkbox"/> Government Official/legislator	
Amount of contribution:		
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student/Sr. Citizen	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$Scholarship request	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____	
Make check payable and mail to KRCRC: P.O. Box 4065, Louisville, KY 40204.		
<i>The IRS recognizes KRCRC as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.</i>		
I'd like to help on the following activities.		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter		
<input type="checkbox"/> Visiting state legislators		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosting a gathering in my area		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky State Fair Booth		
<input type="checkbox"/> Escorting at the Clinic		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Tear-off form and send with a check to:
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P.O. Box 4054, Louisville, KY 40204

Or donate online: www.krcrc.org



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Emily Burroughs joins the KRCRC Board of Directors



The KRCRC Board of Directors is very excited to introduce its newest member, Emily Burroughs. Ms. Burroughs grew up in Owensboro, went to college at Murray State University, and moved to Louisville in 2003. In August 2005 Emily completed her Master of Arts degree in Sociology, completing a thesis on the reproductive health care needs of Latinas in Louisville. She joined the staff of Planned Parenthood of Louisville (PPL) in April 2005 after an internship with the organization. In addition to her work at PPL, Emily teaches Sociology part-time at the University of Louisville.

Emily is co-chair of the KRCRC committee planning the Fall Comprehensive Sexuality Education event. She is a tremendous asset to KRCRC and a welcomed addition to the board.

Welcome, Emily!

The KRCRC Board needs skilled and committed persons to join the KRCRC Board. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us. KRCRC is on the move! It's an exciting time to join and participate in this important work.