



reproductive
health
access
project

The Reproductive Health Access

Project (RHAP) seeks to ensure that women and teens at every socioeconomic level can readily obtain birth control and abortion from their own primary care clinician. Deciding whether and when to have children allows women to take charge of their lives. Clinicians who treat entire families recognize the importance of preparing for parenthood, and can understand that reproductive services help all family members reach their full potential. RHAP provides training, advocacy and mentoring to help family physicians and other clinicians make birth control and early abortion services a part of routine medical care.

OVERCOMING SYSTEM BARRIERS

Training health care providers in contraception and abortion care isn't enough to guarantee the expansion of access. Community physicians who are trained and committed to integrating reproductive health care into their practices still face many barriers, including obtaining adequate liability insurance, ensuring adequate payment for the care they provide, facing professional isolation, allaying staff concerns, and purchasing needed equipment and medications.

RHAP provided onsite training, support, and equipment to family physicians and community health centers in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York to expand access to early abortion services. The listserv that RHAP created provided clinical information and support to more than 490 community health providers—many of whom practice in isolated areas—all over the country.

RHAP's *Family Medicine Reproductive Health Network* includes 146 family medicine leaders in 26 states who help other family physicians provide their patients the full spectrum of reproductive-health services. Network members lead training workshops, mentor new family physicians and work within state American Academy of Family Physicians chapters to generate policies in support of RHAP's mission. During 2007, the network convened organizing meetings and deepened its activities in six states while developing collaborative partnerships with California's TEACH program, Minnesota's Abortion Provider Expansion Project and Illinois' Midwest Access Project.

Mentoring clinicians who are committed to integrating reproductive health care into their practices is an important way of providing continuous support in overcoming barriers. Mentors can provide crucial training, support and guidance to family physicians ready to take on the challenge of expanding access to reproductive health care. In 2007 RHAP launched a mentoring program that matched new family physicians with senior family physicians. All graduates who request mentors are matched, and mentee support meetings were held in New York City, Phoenix and San Francisco. The connections have been especially important for physicians moving to underserved areas such as Georgia, New Hampshire and Illinois.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RHAP is changing the culture of family medicine by developing the next generation of family physician activists and leaders. RHAP collaborates with doctors-in-training on research projects, clinical presentations and advocacy for better reproductive health care.

RHAP made clinical presentations at every major family medicine and public health conference this year, for a total of 28 presentations. Each one was a collaborative effort among RHAP staff, family medicine residents and community clinicians. These presentations on patient-centered, evidenced-based reproductive health care reached more than 1,200 primary care clinicians.



RHAP is changing the culture of family medicine by developing the next generation of family physician activists and leaders.



2007 FALENCKI FELLOW
HONOR MACNAUGHTON, M.D.

The FALENCKI FELLOWSHIP in Reproductive Health Advocacy was inaugurated in 2007. This one-year fellowship provides a family physician with intensive training in full-spectrum reproductive health care. The fellow also takes on an advocacy project designed to expand access and training in reproductive health care. Honor MacNaughton, M.D., the 2007 fellow, launched RHAP's *Women's Health Free Clinic* as

her project. Dr. MacNaughton is now modeling RHAP's comprehensive approach to reproductive health care through her work as faculty in an urban family medicine residency program.

