

Politics

Planned Parenthood announces closure of three Portland-area health clinics

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By **Dana Tims | The Oregonian/OregonLive**

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette celebrated the grand opening of its regional service center in NE Portland.

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette celebrated the grand opening of its regional service center in NE Portland in 2010. The 51-year-old organization announced Tuesday the closure of three of its nine health centers.

(Randy L Rasmussen/The Oregonian)

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette announced Tuesday the closures of three of its nine area health centers.

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In a news release, the 51-year-old organization said the decision to close the centers and reduce staff "was difficult but necessary in order to maintain a fiscally solvent operation that continues to keep our doors open to patients in our region for the

long-term."

The statement was attributed to Stacy M. Cross, the organization's president and CEO.

The offices being closed are in Clackamas, Gresham and the Salmon Creek area of Clark County, Wash. Unaffected by the decision are locations in Beaverton, Bend, Northeast Portland, Southeast Portland, Salem and Vancouver.

The organization also closed an office two months ago in McMinnville.

The closures come as teen birth rates both in Oregon and nationally are at their lowest point in decades.

Before the closures, Planned Parenthood employed about 200.

Cross, in her statement, said staff reductions will also be made at remaining health centers, its call center and within the organization's administration.

"Also as part of this realignment, we are exploring the addition of new services to better meet our patients' needs, which potentially includes opening a new health center next year in a location that is currently underserved," Cross said.

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She added, "We are confident that with this realignment of resources, we can evolve our health care practices to create a sustainable model for patients today and the future, ensuring we are in a position to continue providing expert, quality health care for women, men and families in Oregon and SW Washington."

Part of the reason for the closures is a nearly 30 percent drop in the number of patient visits since 2012, said Liz Delapoer, the agency's communications director.

Reasons for that decline include increased use of long-acting reversible

contraceptives and new guidelines around Pap tests.

"Many women who don't need a Pap test and don't need to refill a birth control prescription are choosing not to come in for their annual well-woman exam and checkup," Delapoer said in an email.

Gayle Atteberry, executive director of [Oregon Right to Life](#), welcomed news of the closures.

"It takes me by surprise," she said. "But it's a pleasant surprise."

Atteberry cited statistics showing that teen pregnancy and abortion rates, both in Oregon and nationally, are at all-time lows.

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"Obviously, they aren't getting the business they'd like," she said. "I'm sure that has something to do with closing these doors."

Tax filings show that Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette is generating revenue in 2011 of about \$21.3 million. That is against total expenses of about \$20.5 million.

On the expense side of the ledger, salaries accounted for nearly \$8 million, with medical expenses and supplies next at just under \$5 million.

Sources of public support for the organization, including gifts, grants and contributions are trending downward. In 2007, for instance, the organization netted \$4.1 million in this category. Numbers for 2011, the most recent available, stood at about \$2.6 million.

Total endowment funds are also down. Three years ago, they stood out \$10.1 million. Current-year figures for the organization's endowment are just over \$5 million.

-- Dana Tims

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