

August 18, 2017

## Creative thinking can save MV's Planned Parenthood

These are tough times for Planned Parenthood. At the national level, Congress is proposing to defund Planned Parenthood clinics across the country. Here in the Bay Area, low reimbursement rates have forced Planned Parenthood to announce the closing of three clinics, in Richmond, Pittsburg and Vacaville.

And here in Mountain View, Planned Parenthood has lost its lease on the San Antonio Road clinic that has served thousands of local residents for almost 20 years.

That's a problem not just for Planned Parenthood, but for all of us. That's because while our local Planned Parenthood is well and widely known for its family planning services, it is also an essential provider of day-to-day health care — so-called primary care — to some 8,000 patients.

So if our local Planned Parenthood closes, that's not just a problem for Planned Parenthood's patients (many of whom are people of modest means), that means added pressure for services in our area, where capacity is already a challenge, and there is no other Planned Parenthood clinic between Redwood City and San Jose.

Under any circumstances, finding a new home for Planned Parenthood would be no easy task. But given a hot economy, and our even hotter real estate market, the challenge has been particularly daunting.

If, however, we're prepared to think creatively, that challenge could be an opportunity.

In February, I asked county staff to "act with urgency" in

assisting Planned Parenthood, and I was pleased that our entire Board of Supervisors supported that direction.

I also noted that if we could find the right space — and enough of it — we might be able to partner with Planned Parenthood by operating a county clinic in tandem with Planned Parenthood, providing additional specialty health care services for things like cardiology, dermatology, and orthopedics.

This would be a first for our area. The North County has never had a county health clinic of its own. Indeed, as things now stand, ours is the only supervisorial district without a Santa

Clara County health clinic to serve its residents.

Side by side, each focusing on the areas of their greatest strengths, the potential is there for Planned Parenthood and Santa Clara County to team up in a very powerful way. A long-term partnership could be a win for the county, Planned Parenthood, and most importantly, the patients we serve.

All of this will require funding, determination and creativity, not to mention a majority vote by the Board of Supervisors. But it's the smart move.

As the old saying goes: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." It's a cliché, of course. But it's an apt one. And if we see the current challenge as an opportunity, life could get much sweeter for Planned Parenthood and the North County patients they serve.

*County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District in Santa Clara County, which includes all or part of eight cities in the*

*West Valley and North County, including Mountain View.*

### Guest Opinion

# Mountain View VOICE

April 20, 2018

## Planned Parenthood finds new MV home

COUNTY SEEKS TO TEAM UP WITH CLINIC TO OFFER ADDITIONAL  
HEALTH SERVICES ON SITE

*By Kevin Forestieri*

**D**espite a competitive real estate market and pending redevelopment nipping at their heels, officials at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte have staked out a permanent home for a new Mountain View clinic just a short hop from its current location.

Planned Parenthood has operated its clinic on San Antonio Road for more than two decades, but last year faced the possibility of having to leave the city. The property owners had switched Planned Parenthood to month-to-month leases in May in anticipation of a new housing development on the site, leaving the nonprofit scrambling to find a new home.

Through a stroke of good luck, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte was able to close a deal for a new property at the corner of California Street and Showers Drive, purchasing a commercial building that was formerly home to Aruna Spa, which closed its doors on March 11. The building still has the Kumon Learning Center and Manpower, an employment agency, leasing the property.

The Silicon Valley Business Journal reported that Planned Parenthood purchased the roughly 8,000-square-foot property for \$6.7 million late last month.

Proponents for the clinic, including Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, rallied

to keep Planned Parenthood operating in Mountain View in February last year, offering county resources to help the nonprofit find a suitable spot to relocate ahead of being evicted. Mountain View city staff also aided in the real estate search.

Losing the Mountain View clinic, advocates argued, would have left a void for pregnancy and sexual health services for woman and girls in the North County area. The clinic also serves thousands of lower-income residents who are on the county-operated Valley Health Plan and rely on Planned Parenthood as a close and convenient location for primary care.

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte officials are excited for the move, which will mean more space for clinical services a stone's throw from the current location, said Lupe Rodriguez, public affairs director for the organization. Renovations are expected to begin "very soon," she said, with plans to fully relocate by next year.

"Hopefully we'll be able to open and continue operations by 2019," she said. "We don't expect to lose our current lease ... so we're hoping that we can move without any gaps."

With more room to grow, Planned Parenthood has tentatively agreed to partner with county health officials to share the new building and allow patients to tap into county

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## PLANNED PARENTHOOD

health services. Although details still need to be hammered out, the plan is to carve out a 1,500-square-foot portion of the new clinic space for county health services to operate within the same building, filling health needs like specialty care that Planned Parenthood can't provide.

Simitian, who points out that his supervisorial district is the only one without a county health clinic, said the thousands of patients who rely on the Planned Parenthood clinic in Mountain View would benefit from specialty care services that are in high demand, particularly things like orthopedics, ophthalmology and dermatology.

Initially, Simitian had sought to have Santa Clara County find and secure a property in Mountain View that it could operate as a clinic, whereby it could sublease to Planned Parenthood and keep the non-profit in town. At one point, the county was considering acquiring a bank property on San Antonio road adjacent to the San Antonio Shopping Center.

Simitian told the *Voice* that it was Planned Parenthood Mar Monte that was able to successfully find a new property on its own, and now county officials are seeking to sublease the

property. The model he sought to use still works, Simitian said, albeit completely flipped.

"Sometimes in life things work out exactly as you've planned, only the total opposite. And that's exactly what's happened," he said.

Last month, city zoning staff signed off on a provisional use permit requested by Planned Parenthood to use the property as a medical office, allowing the clinic to operate with 28 parking spaces instead of the 31 spaces typically required for the use. The exemption was granted, in part, because of the clinic's close proximity to transit and a survey showing 12 percent of the clients either walked or took public transportation to get to Planned Parenthood.

Rodriguez encouraged city staff at the March 14 administrative zoning hearing to approve the permit, and said Planned Parenthood looks forward to continuing its long track record of providing reproductive health services and primary care for Medi-Cal recipients in Mountain View.

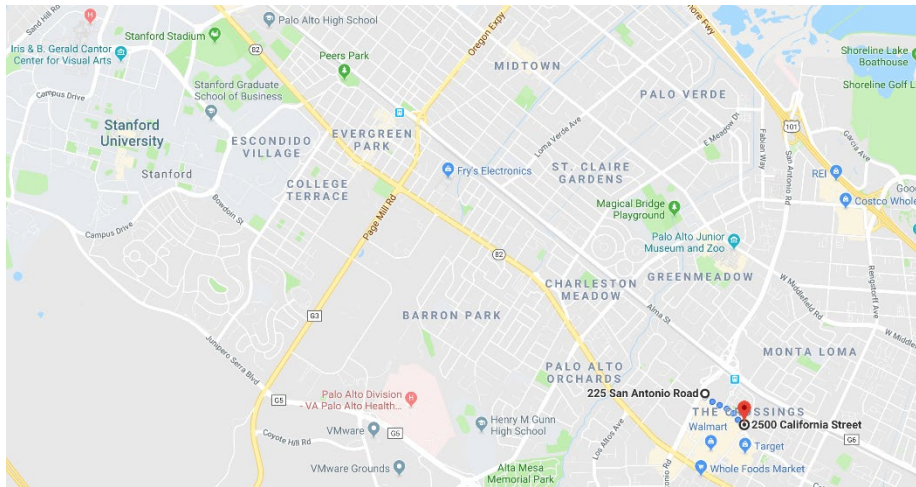
"We have been in the community for over 20 years serving Mountain View and face having to move to another location, and we would love to be able to serve this community and the more than 9,000 patients here," she said. ▣

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# The Stanford Daily

September 21, 2019

## New Planned Parenthood clinic in Mountain View to be completed in October



After the Planned Parenthood clinic on San Antonio Road was notified in early 2017 of possible eviction due to planned redevelopment, county officials pushed for a partnership with the nonprofit to preserve the clinic's role in the community. (Photo: HOLDEN FOREMAN/The Stanford Daily)

**By Anna Chiang**

After a two-year-long struggle to find a new location for Planned Parenthood's Mountain View clinic, a partnership between the nonprofit and Santa Clara County is set to come to fruition in October, when the clinic relocates from 225 San Antonio Rd. to 2500 California St. and begins serving the community with additional services supported by the county.

Planned Parenthood is widely known for providing reproductive healthcare services, but its Mountain View branch is also the primary healthcare provider for many low-income families in Santa Clara County. According to a statement by the Santa Clara County Board, 2,131 members of the county's Valley Health Plan rely on the Planned Parenthood Mountain View clinic for primary healthcare, and 70% of the clinic's patients earn below 138% of the federal poverty level.

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When the Mountain View clinic was notified in early 2017 of possible eviction due to major redevelopment plans, county officials pushed for a partnership with Planned Parenthood to preserve the clinic's role in the community.

“If Planned Parenthood has a problem, we have a problem,” said Santa Clara County Board President Joe Simitian at the time. “The Fifth Supervisorial District (which includes cities in the North County and West Valley), is the only Supervisor’s district without a county health clinic. That means that we rely on a network of community health clinics and non-profits like Planned Parenthood to provide these essential services.”

In June, Simitian announced a collaboration with Planned Parenthood wherein around 1,300 square feet of the new clinic will be allotted to the county to provide additional healthcare services. The county plans to task the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center with providing a variety of specialized healthcare services complementary to those offered by Planned Parenthood.

Simitian noted that these services are likely to include “a specialty pediatric dental clinic, along with flex space to house specialty services to support the needs of Planned Parenthood patients, which could include cardiology, orthopedics, and urology, or others.”

Adhering to Simitian’s promise of offering “complementary, rather than duplicative services,” the county has spent the last several years working alongside Planned Parenthood to pinpoint specific healthcare needs of low-income families in the community — and in turn, to develop services that will fulfill those gaps.

“Having dental services for women and children in particular is something that Planned Parenthood felt would really be a value added for their operation in Mountain View,” Simitian told *The Daily*. “We will continue to explore other specialty services, and we’ve talked about everything from dermatology to mental health, but the other services that might be provided have not yet been determined.”

The relocated clinic is expected to open its doors around the end of October, Simitian said, pending approval for a range of governmental permits. In the meantime, developer Greystar has extended the lease at the clinic’s current location to help the clinic remain in continuous operation during the transition between locations.

The Mountain View Planned Parenthood clinic has long served the Stanford community, acting as both an accessible and affordable alternative for students seeking birth control, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, intrauterine device (IUD) implants, and nonsurgical abortions — a service otherwise not available on campus. Many Stanford students who consult with Planned

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Parenthood in high school decide to continue their relationship with the organization in college, according to Margot Bellon '21, co-president of Stanford's Planned Parenthood Generation Action chapter.

Stanford students are generally well-equipped with healthcare options on campus; the student healthcare center and Stanford hospital are mere minutes away. Outside of the student community, though, the opening of the clinic might serve a different population on campus that can't access those same benefits.

"Having that Planned Parenthood can sometimes be the only form of healthcare some of these low income patients are receiving," Bellon said. "So for a lot of Stanford dining staff or cleaning staff, that may be their main source of care."

Though it's unclear which Stanford population the clinic will impact most, the clinic's expanded services will cater to the entire community, Bellon said.

"I think concentrating them in one place makes the services more readily available," Bellon said. "When these patients go to Planned Parenthood and they see these other services, they'll know about it and be more inclined to refer a friend."

While the discussion on what particular services the county and clinic will offer at the new clinic continues, Simitian expects plans to further develop within the coming year. Rape kits could be a priority item for the clinic to consider adding, according to Bellon, as they are an important resource unavailable at Stanford. But regardless of the services offered, Bellon said spreading awareness of the clinic is key.

"I hope that the word will get out," she said. "And that people start using [the clinic], because I think one of the biggest problems is that Stanford students are not even aware that there exists this clinic in Mountain View."

In fact, the Mountain View clinic is the only one located between Redwood City and San Jose. Simitian said the clinic's "continued existence was of immense importance" to his constituents.

"It's more challenging than people might think to partner with other agencies or organizations, but we can do so much more for the community if we find a way for government to partner with community based nonprofits like [Planned Parenthood]," he added. "There's just a world of good we can do if we make that effort."

# Los Altos Town Crier

Community news for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View since 1947

March 23, 2022

## County, Planned Parenthood open Multi-Specialty Clinic in Mtn. View

Town Crier Report

A specialty clinic and pharmacy opened March 10 in Mountain View, sharing office space with Planned Parenthood at 2500 California St.

The Multi-Specialty Clinic is the result of a partnership between Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Planned Parenthood.

“This is a great partnership for the community,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian. “It allows Planned Parenthood and the county to do even more for the folks we both

serve in the North County.”

The clinic currently offers cardiology specialists and is slated to add specialists in pulmonary and endocrinology services.

“This is health care where people need it, in the community, close to home and work – yet another reminder we can do so much more when we partner with others,” said Simitian, who added that Planned Parenthood will continue providing primary care and reproductive health services at the clinic.

The smaller location in Mountain View’s The Crossings neighborhood will save patients

a trip to San Jose’s Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, increasing the likelihood that local patients receive specialty care and pick up prescriptions.

“These enhanced services will be easy for our patients and families to access, enabling us to continue to provide health care to Mountain View and surrounding communities who have relied on our services for more than four decades,” said Stacy Cross, CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.

The 2,355-square-foot clinic has two large exam rooms for patients, who can be referred



COURTESY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

A new, county-run specialty clinic and pharmacy provides local services in partnership with Planned Parenthood in Mountain View. from Community Health Partners, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Clinics, and two pharmacy stations.

# Mountain View VOICE

June 8, 2022

## Santa Clara County will use legal tools to protect abortion rights

by Malea Martin / Mountain View Voice

Uploaded: Wed, Jun 8, 2022



Hundreds of protesters marched through Castro Street in Mountain View in October 2021 to support reproductive rights and protest Texas' ban on abortions. Photo by Natalia Nazarova.

With the U.S. Supreme Court poised to release a formal opinion about the right to abortion later this month, and in the wake of the leaked draft opinion that rocked the nation in May, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors directed County Counsel to take legal action if necessary to protect reproductive rights.

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“As we talked about the pending threat at our Federal Affairs Advocacy Task Force, with great input I should say from County Counsel’s office, it seemed clearer and clearer to me that we were likely to be in a position where we really did have to step up on the legal front, as we did on so many issues throughout the prior presidential administration,” Supervisor Joe Simitian said during the board’s June 7 meeting, where he brought the item forward.

Simitian acknowledged that it’s “a little unusual” for the board to take an action like this before a formal opinion is released. But given the contents of the leaked draft opinion, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which made it clear that the Court will likely overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Simitian said it was an action the board needed to take now.

“I think we’re going to need to move swiftly, we’re going to need to empower our County Counsel’s office to move swiftly, and that is in effect what the requested action today calls for,” Simitian said.

The resolution calls on County Counsel to take legal action and other necessary steps to preserve a person’s right to choose to have an abortion. It also directs County Administration to report to the board about efforts to enshrine the right to choose in the California Constitution so the board can express its support for any such state legislative changes. Finally, Simitian’s proposal directs County Counsel to report to the Health and Hospital Committee at the first meeting following publication of the Supreme Court opinion.

Supervisor Cindy Chavez requested that the board add one more bullet point to the resolution.

“I wondered if the staff could also just give a report back on the status of the training that doctors and other medical personnel would get around reproductive health rights, abortion specifically,” Chavez said. “If states are banning abortion I don’t really know what the implications are for the medical schools that are in those states.”

Simitian supported adding this to the resolution, and said he is equally concerned about how abortion access may be affected by fewer medical professionals being able to provide the service.

“I spent some time last night sitting down and reading the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision again,” Simitian said. “I was reminded again of how much the world has changed — how very different the world appeared to be through the eyes of the court 50 years ago almost now.”

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The board voted 5-0 in support of the resolution. Community Health Partnership CEO Dolores Alvarado applauded the board's decision.

“The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade will result in denied essential reproductive health services to women, immigrants, communities of color, and those who are low-income,” Alvarado said in a statement from Simitian's office. “It will not only have far-reaching community health and social implications, but further exacerbate health inequities.”