Reproductive Justice Project

Minutes 7/22/14

Next Meeting will be on 8/1/14, time tba.

**Please note. All content of these minutes is confidential and under embargo**.

Present:

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Media Consortium

Tiffany Shackleford, AAN

Lisa Rudman, Making Contact

Andrew Stelzer, Making Contact

Lark Corbeil, Public News Service

Debbie Courson Smith, Public News Service

Jessica Stites, In These Times

Sarah Mirk, Bitch

Michele Kort, Ms. Magazine

Kim Jones, Austin Chronicle

Introductions

Overview: We are seeking a national story idea that is large and complex enough to provide good content for 10 different organizations, and that will also have a national impact when published/produced.

Discussion

Do we know yet what stories local-national partners are doing?

Portland—decline in teen pregnancy rate in Portland

Austin—not sure yet, probably current events in Texas

Jackson—not sure yet, possibly the personhood debate

Santa Fe—the August Apocalypse, a meeting of anti-choice partisans

Louisville—not sure yet [in subsequent call, partners discussed the possible opening of abortion clinics in rural KY]

Story Ideas

* **Over the Counter Plan B**

Kathy Spillar/Michele Kort propose looking at whether Plan B is available, how it is being priced, whether it is under lock and key (like some condoms).

More discussion: whether sales are impacted by “conscience clauses”; personal stories of women, positive and negative, around Plan B availability; crowdsourced photo campaign—where is Plan B? Data viz. more?

Pro: New; speaks to access; may have positive aspect; crowdsourcing opportunities

Con: There may not be a story here; might have perverse impact of turning anti-choice folks against stores selling Plan B.

* **Follow the Money**

Who is behind the state-by-state assaults on reproductive rights? We know Americans United for Life write the legislation, but who funds it? [not ALEC]

Who is funding CPCs? PRA may be able to help with this story.

Pro: Turns state stories into a national story; draws more attention to impact of state stories; helps activists target source of legislation

Con: Has this been done already? Would it take longer than our 2 month timeline to do well?

* **What Works?**

Tell a solutions-oriented positive story about where states are getting reproductive policy right, and its positive effects on women’s lives. Example would be the Portland story.

Pro: Public tired of hearing scare stories from progressives; funders love solutions journalism; focus on positive can reverse restrictive rules;

Con: Does the data, say on teen pregnancy decline, actually tell a positive story about access?

Miscellaneous ideas

* Use comix to tell reproductive justice story (protect guns/ invade wombs)
* Use game to tell story of access (you are a woman needing an abortion—play game to see if you can get one in least amount of time, for least amount of $$).