

Visit our website:
www.cpcwatch.org

Sources Cited:

¹ Kathryn Joyce, *Shotgun Adaption*. The Nation, September 14, 2009.

² National Abortion Federation, *Crisis Pregnancy Centers: An Affront to Choice*; Katherine Spillar, *Crisis of Deception: Fake Clinics Spread Information on the Federal Dime*. RH Reality Check, July 8, 2009.

³ Eleanor Bader, *License to Lie*. RH Reality Check, April 15, 2008.

⁴ <http://www.cpcwatch.org/Funding.php>.

⁵ Mayo Clinic, *Morning After Pill: Emergency birth control*.

⁶ House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, *False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers*. July, 2006.

Links to all above sources
can be found at our website.

Mission Statement

CPC Watch operates on one simple principle: how can we claim that women are "free to choose" their reproductive destinies when fake clinics are pushing false information to tens of thousands of women all over the country?

CPC Watch is a grassroots effort tied together by its website, cpcwatch.org, an online resource for comprehensive reproductive information. Our mission is to expose the lies put forth by fake clinics, provide information about CPCs, list known CPCs, list the "warning signs" of a CPC, and provide the locations and contact information for legitimate healthcare providers where women can trust they're receiving the very best, unbiased medical information regarding their reproductive options.

Contact us at cpcwatch@gmail.com



Crisis
Pregnancy
Centers

Undermining
Women's
Health

A publication by...

Crisis Pregnancy Center
WATCH

Lies, Deception, and Coercion

Oh My!

Many communities embrace their local crisis pregnancy center based solely on their purported mission; after all, what could possibly be wrong with supporting women facing unintended pregnancies? At first glance, CPCs often appear respectable and valuable. Some even model themselves to look like real medical clinics. Unfortunately, the stated mission rarely reflects what CPCs are *really* about.



CPCs are usually run by religious organizations with a staunch opposition to both abortion and contraception. Additionally, many are opposed to single women becoming mothers and tend to use their resources to coerce women into signing adoption papers.¹

Many CPCs have enjoyed federal funding since 2000 to support "abstinence-only" programs in public schools, though it now appears that federal money for ab-only programs will be cut starting in 2010.² Many states still have state-subsidized funding for CPCs, in particular from the "Choose Life" license plate project that funnels money from state Departments of Transportation directly into CPCs and their affiliates.³ While many CPCs boast a total lack of government funding, a closer look reveals many receive funds from foundations that are, in fact, directly funded by government agencies.⁴ Churches and private donations fill the gaps in CPC funding, and the lack of real medical services means CPCs can spend most of their financial resources on advertising and luring in new clients.

Typical CPC Practices

Many women enter CPCs with the belief that they will be receiving comprehensive information about contraception, sexual health, and pregnancy options. We found the following troubling trends in the average crisis pregnancy center:

- ◇ They give out pamphlets featuring graphic images of aborted fetuses or show disturbing videos. Often these pamphlets and videos are medically inaccurate or overly hyped in order to shock women away from choosing abortion.
- ◇ They use irresponsible language to augment the physical and emotional after-effects of abortion, often skewing language or fabricating research to make abortion seem more dangerous.
- ◇ They tell women that emergency contraception (which can prevent pregnancy when taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse) causes "early abortions," a scientifically inaccurate claim.⁵
- ◇ Many CPCs encourage pregnant women to "wait and see" if they miscarry, a clear attempt at delaying decision making until the fetus is past the gestational limits for abortion. Some CPCs have even been known to tell a woman she's not pregnant when she is in order to delay decision making.
- ◇ CPCs are often located near legitimate family planning clinics to confuse clients. They may have a similar name as the clinic, or even display a large sign instructing clinic patients to register inside the CPC.
- ◇ They offer free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, giving the appearance of a medical facility.

The Congressional Report

A 2006 report on federally-funded CPCs prepared for Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) reports 87% of investigated crisis pregnancy centers provided false or misleading information about abortion.⁶

- ◇ They claim induced abortion increases one's risk for developing breast cancer. This claim has been refuted by the National Cancer Institute, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Lancet Journal of Oncology.
- ◇ They claim having an induced abortion causes complications in future pregnancies, another medically unfounded claim.
- ◇ The single most commonly purported "side-effect" of abortion is a form of depression called "post abortion stress syndrome" or "post abortion syndrome," a condition not recognized by the American Psychological Association or the American Psychiatric Association.

What You Can Do

- ◇ Educate your friends and family about crisis pregnancy centers.
- ◇ Find out if resource centers in your community refer women to CPCs. Then sit down with a representative from the resource center and discuss the ways you feel CPCs are not helpful towards women. See if they will display this pamphlet at their center.
- ◇ Find out if your church gives money to CPCs. Discuss their deceptive tactics with the pastor or church committee, then suggest alternative ways the church can support pregnant women, such as programs that help pay for prenatal and newborn care.
- ◇ Organize a monthly demonstration at a CPC in your community. Stay on public sidewalks, but hold signs that let passersby know it's not a real clinic. You can educate a lot of people this way, and also gain a lot of community support!

