



Planned Parenthood Association

OF MONROE COUNTY, INC.

717 WEST FOURTH STREET
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
PHONE 339-2469

The Planned Parenthood Association of Monroe County is a private agency supported by the United Fund, and since September 1969, by a grant from the Indiana State Board of Health. A birth control clinic was opened in June 1964 with hours limited to a weekly clinic on Tuesday evenings and supply hours on Friday afternoons. In January 1966 the clinic was moved to the present location at 717 West Fourth Street. We now have four weekly birth control clinics: Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00, Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M., and Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Indiana University Student Health Center. In addition, the office is open for information and supplies Monday thru Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., and Friday from 9:00 to 5:00 P.M.

The purpose of the Planned Parenthood Association of Monroe County is to create in this community better understanding and acceptance of the concept and practice of family planning. We attempt to accomplish this through various educational programs and through direct clinic service.

A patient who comes to Planned Parenthood for the first time is interviewed by a social worker who takes a brief social and medical history. The purpose of this initial interview is to learn pertinent facts about the patient's personal and family background, and medical history. It often (but not always) happens that at this interview other problems, which may or may not be related to the use of birth control, manifest themselves. Various problems may come up--medical, emotional, financial. There are community resources to which patients are referred which can provide help. We consider it part of our function to make such referrals should we become aware of a need. We also do counseling and make referrals on problem pregnancies and sterilization.

After the interview, the new patient then sees the nurse who discusses all the birth control methods available to her and instructs the patient in her chosen method. We prescribe or have available the following birth control methods: The pill, I.U.D., diaphragm, contraceptive foam and condoms. The pill, I.U.D., and diaphragm, all require pelvic examinations and prescription by a doctor. Contraceptive foam and condoms may be purchased without prescription in any drugstore. The patient then sees the doctor who does a pelvic and breast examination and takes a pap smear. The nurse instructs her in breast self-examination. After the examination she receives the appropriate supplies. Examinations are repeated at yearly intervals. Supplies are available at the clinic. The cost of clinic service and supplies is never more than the patient can afford, which means that it is free for those who cannot afford to pay anything.

Some of the patients seen are introduced to the clinic by one of our field service workers--there are two low-income women working for us, visiting families in the city and the county, explaining our services and helping patients get to the clinic.

Some of the patients may be nervous and upset. If they have any problems or questions relating to sex or birth control, we assure them that they are free to ask the nurse and the doctor, who will be happy to make any necessary explanation. We try to maintain a relaxed, friendly and uninhibited atmosphere. We try to be accepting and not judgmental, and respect the dignity of each patient. We have a specific function, which helps people to attain their own goals.

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