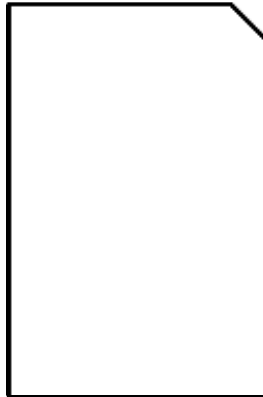


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Local Planned Parenthood appoints new medical director with a multi-service vision and expands medical services

Westside Gazette

SOUTH PALM BEACH & BROWARD COUNTIES -- Dr. Katia Laremont was recently appointed medical director of Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc. (PPSPBCCI) by Mary Capobianco, CEO/president. Born in Panama, a

DR. LAREMONT naturalized U.S. citizen in 1980, she is a bilingual physician fluent in Spanish and English.

Dr. Laremont started working at the Planned Parenthood affiliate per diem in 2004. When the previous medical director, Kenneth Dollinger, M.D., retired, she was appointed to the position. In addition to regular office hours and site visits, Dr. Laremont is on call 24/7 for the affiliate's five health centers located in: Boca Raton, Ft. Lauderdale, Pembroke Pines, Tamarac and Deerfield Beach. She oversees a staff of 25 clinicians and medical assistants.

"Our affiliate is so fortunate to welcome Dr. Laremont as medical director," said Capobianco. "She is a talented, highly experienced and respected professional with a gracious manner and deeply dedicated to women's health and improving reproductive health care for all."

Dr. Laremont received her Medical Doctorate degree from State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Medicine in 1991 and became a resident physician in general surgery there. She was staff physician at two hospitals in New York then became a resident physician in Obstetrics and Gynecology, working at hospital centers in New York and Baltimore. The sites where she conducted medical research for 14 years include Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Since 2001, she has been owner and director of gynecology services at Village Women's Healthcare in West Palm Beach. She holds several county, state and national professional certificates and memberships in professional associations.

While studying for her B.A. in Natural Sciences at Johns Hopkins

University, she ran the Baltimore Marathon. Dr. Laremont is also a musical talent. She studied clarinet at Peabody Conservatory of Music and played in a quintet while simultaneously studying medicine at the University of Buffalo. Currently she is learning violin and piano.

A role model especially for minority women/women of color, her extensive volunteer community service work includes youth mentoring, lecturing, commencement speaking and board memberships in Riviera Beach and Palm Beach County organizations.

Dr. Laremont spoke about her vision for the Planned Parenthood affiliate, which includes broadening services and understanding in the community:

“Many people connect Planned Parenthood with teens needing birth control, condoms and abortion services. In reality, this is a great multi-service organization offering a wide array of excellent, quality health care for the 30,000 women, men and teens we see every year here. Our patients come from a cross section of society—all professions and walks of life. We are a much needed and important presence in the community. Many patients could not afford to be in a multi-practice setting. We’re an important alternative for them with our affordable prices. We intend to continue broadening our quality health care services for them.

“People don’t realize that we’re a safe haven for women at difficult times in their lives, serving as a supportive presence when they are facing great turmoil. That goes for all ages—pre-and post-menopausal women. Each year we see thousands of patients over the age of 40. We counsel them on so many life health issues, including reproductive health.

“A huge part of what we do is preventing cancer, especially cervical cancer. Through Pap smears and complete gynecological exams we have saved countless lives. We refer patients for mammogram screenings and diagnosis. Sometimes, because of the diligence of our clinicians who suspected a malignancy, we refused to dispense birth control until a patient takes an overdue mammogram. Sure enough, breast cancer has been detected in a few cases and we were able to help them through the difficult time.

“We prevent accidental pregnancies and we have also declined a medical abortion to some patients who request it. For example, we suspected an ectopic [tubal] pregnancy in a woman who requested an abortion. Instead of fulfilling her request, we got her to an emergency room before she might experience a rupture, hemorrhage and possible

death. Ectopic pregnancy is the leading cause of death in pregnant Black women and the third cause in all women. In taking a non-judgmental approach to health care, we save lives. This is one case.

“Planned Parenthood offers women and men a great variety of health care options and education. I want to see it continue growing and increasing its services. I want us to be there for as many people in our community as we can serve. I’d like the community to understand that we are so much more than they think--that we critically intervene in women’s and men’s health for positive change. That’s what we do.”

Expansion of Medical Services

In addition to the appointment of a new medical director, PPSPBCCI has expanded medical services at its five health centers to include hysteroscopic tubal ligations, Gardasil, the HPV vaccine; and Implanon, the implantable birth control, announced Mary Capobianco, CEO/president. The three medical additions provide additional, safe reproductive health choices for women seeking family planning, birth control and disease prevention. “We aim to make all the best products on the market available to women at the lowest cost to suit their different needs,” said Capobianco, “and these additional services provide access to a fuller range of options for them.”

An in-office hysteroscopic tubal ligation, commonly known as “tying” the fallopian tubes, is a painless 20-minute out-patient procedure with local anesthesia elected by women of child bearing age who do not want any more or any children. In a pilot study with 745 patients, there were zero pregnancies and patients were able to return to work the same day. Katia Laremont, M.D., recently appointed medical director for the local Planned Parenthood affiliate, is certified in this procedure and has been performing tubal ligations in her private practice since 2004.

Gardasil, the vaccine approved by the FDA last year, protects against 70 percent of the human papillomaviruses (HPV) that cause cervical cancer and pre-cancerous cells and against 90 percent of viruses that cause venereal warts. The local Planned Parenthood affiliate has been offering the HPV vaccine since April 2007. “We have been getting positive feedback from patients,” says Dr. Laremont.

Implanon is the implantable contraception that lasts for three years and is 99 percent effective. Under local anesthesia, the hormone, encased in a matchstick-sized thin rod, is inserted under the skin in the upper arm with a pinprick incision.

A few months ago, the affiliate also expanded its services into Deerfield Beach with the ribbon cutting opening day celebration of the Planned Parenthood Deerfield Beach Express Health Center. The newest center was opened to accept the overflow of patients coming to the Boca Raton Health Center from the Deerfield Beach area.

For information, call: (561) 394-3540 and visit www.lovecarefully.org