

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



HEALTHY TEENS,
HAPPY TEENS.

together
we can
reduce STI's
+ teen pregnancies

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MESSAGE FROM TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI

Dear Friends of Teen Health Mississippi,

We have had an exciting year of continued growth, beginning with the addition of two new Teen Health Mississippi employees, Hope Crenshaw and Christopher Cox. Hope and Chris are both Mississippi natives who bring new energy, perspective, and vision to our team and are passionate about ensuring that Mississippi teens have a voice in matters that affect their lives.

Currently, Teen Health Mississippi is the teen sexual and reproductive health and rights arm of Mississippi First. Our work includes policy and advocacy efforts at the local and state levels, training and capacity building for youth-serving adults and organizations, and targeted programs and initiatives throughout the state. As we lay the foundation of our future spin-off organization, our strength of character shines through each success and challenge that we face. Our staff and founding advisory board are guided by the best interests of Mississippi teens and the communities in which they live.

It is an honor and true privilege to lead this new chapter of Teen Health Mississippi. Thank you for your support as we continue to partner with youth to expand access to high-quality sex education and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive healthcare services in Mississippi.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Feher".

Emily Feher
Interim Executive Director of THMS



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marni von Wilpert".

Marni von Wilpert
Advisory Board Chair to THMS



TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI TEAM

The Teen Health Mississippi is a made up of a team of passionate individuals who work to make sure teens have access to essential knowledge, skills, resources, and support so they may grow into healthy adults and move Mississippi forward.

EMILY FEHER

Interim Executive Director of THMS

Emily is responsible for overseeing Teen Health Mississippi programming and growth. She also works with partnering organizations and school districts to provide immediate training and professional development to educators and works to increase access to youth-friendly health centers.

JOSH MCCAULEY

Deputy Director

Josh provides issue education and advocacy for local- and state-level policies related to teen sexual and reproductive health. He provides district advocacy for the CHART abstinence-plus policy in addition to providing teacher trainings on the CHART sex education curricula, grades K-5 human growth and development education curricula, and other professional development opportunities.

CHRISTOPHER COX

Director of Youth Programs

Chris works to improve and expand our work to increase access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive healthcare services. He also works to engage youth across the state in order to

inform and support all of our teen health work, which includes improving sex education and championing better teen health policies.

HOPE CRENSHAW

Director of Education and Training

Hope provides trainings for evidence-based comprehensive sex education curricula, professional development opportunities for educators teaching sex education and other related courses, and workshops and resources for parents. She works with partnering organizations and school districts to provide immediate training/professional development for sex education teachers.

SARA MILLER

Director of Community Engagement

Sara supports and coordinates Focus4Teens, a 5-year initiative with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to work with publicly funded health centers and youth-serving organizations to improve teen health and reduce teen pregnancy among youth from vulnerable populations in the Mississippi Delta.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Teen Health Mississippi provides training and resources to develop the capacity of youth-serving adults and organizations to effectively implement research-based strategies, programs, and services that are guided by positive youth development practices.

SEX EDUCATION CADRE

This year, the **Mississippi Sex Education Training Cadre** celebrated the completion of its inaugural year. The cadre is comprised of passionate professionals from across Mississippi (e.g., teachers, doctors, faith-based leaders, nurses, and community leaders) who seek to increase the capacity and comfort of sexual health educators throughout the state. This includes implementing *Foundations: Core Skills for Sex Education*, a national skills-based training initiative. Currently, the cadre has 9 members who deliver training and professional development to youth-serving adults and organizations.

TRAININGS

In partnership with youth, Teen Health Mississippi offers youth-friendly assessments and trainings for healthcare providers to increase the quality of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. Some of the youth-friendly trainings developed this year include: *Introduction to Youth Friendly Healthcare*, *Minor's Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare*, and *LGBTQ+ 101: Knowing the Basics*.

18

Teen Health Mississippi offered 18 different trainings/workshops between December 2016-June 2017.

248

During those 18 in-person trainings, a total of 248 teachers, clinicians, parents, and trusted adults were trained on sex ed issues and best practices.

Our partnership with the Mississippi University for Women's Department of Health and Kinesiology has enabled us to expand sex education training to both current and future sex education teachers. This is being achieved through the development and implementation of online courses, a sexual health certification that can be added to an existing degree, and a sexual health minor for students.



POLICY & ADVOCACY

Teen Health Mississippi is dedicated to championing public policies that ensure optimal sexual health for every Mississippi teen. We engage youth as advocates for high-quality sex education as well as youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

48%

In 2015, 48% of teens in Mississippi reported having had sexual intercourse (YRBS).

The Mississippi Youth Council (MYCouncil) has 9 passionate youth activists

from across Mississippi that support and promote high-quality comprehensive sex education for all young people. They work to ensure that young people have a voice in the debate over what our schools teach.

MYCOUNCIL

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Each year the MYCouncil goes to the Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, to meet with legislators and stakeholders about the sex education law in Mississippi. They advocate for changes to the law including allowing mixed-gendered classrooms, allowing contraceptive demonstrations in the classroom, changing to a parental opt-out policy, and requiring sex ed be taught in middle and high school.

"Many of my classmates don't have parents that are involved in their school. We all need sex education, but too many of my peers can't take it because their parents aren't engaged. Having an opt-out policy will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to take sex education."

TRIUNA TAYLOR, Itta Bena, Mississippi



"In my high school, I didn't have any sex education course. I am lucky, however, and have parents that are comfortable telling me everything I need to know, but not everyone in my school had that. We need sex education in both middle and high school, so all students can learn how to protect their health."

JAMIE SPROLES, Brookhaven, Mississippi





PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Teen Health Mississippi develops and implements programs and initiatives that provide education and resources to teens, healthcare providers, and educators to help create an enabling environment for Mississippi teens to protect their health and reach their full potential.

FOCUS4TEENS

3

Focus4Teens serves three counties in Mississippi: Coahoma, Tunica, and Quitman.

8

Focus4Teens is based in 8 health centers: 3 school-based health centers, 2 community-based health centers, and 3 county health departments.

7

Focus4Teens has 7 youth-serving partners including school locations, a mental health facility, and 2 after-school youth programs.

53

53 adults were trained in linking youth to sexual and reproductive health services, increasing these adults' comfort in making referrals to partnering health centers.

Focused Pregnancy Prevention for Mississippi Teens (Focus4Teens) is dedicated to improving the lives of adolescents and reducing unintended teen pregnancy in the Mississippi Delta. Focus4Teens works to expand access to youth-friendly reproductive healthcare among youth at high risk for pregnancy. These efforts will have far reaching impacts and improve educational attainment and employment outcomes for youth in the Mississippi Delta.

CHART

32

During the 2016-2017 school year, 32 school districts across the state were a part of CHART.

3

During the 2016-2017 school year, Teen Health Mississippi successfully advocated for 3 new school districts to join CHART.

Creating Healthy and Responsible Teens (CHART) works with Mississippi school districts to increase adoption and implementation of abstinence-plus sex education policies and evidence-based, medically accurate, and age-appropriate programs. The CHART initiative is a partnership between the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi First, and Teen Health Mississippi.



FOCUS
TEENS
MISSISSIPPI

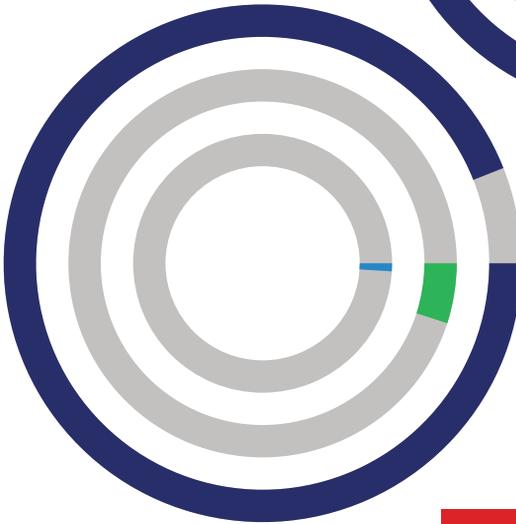
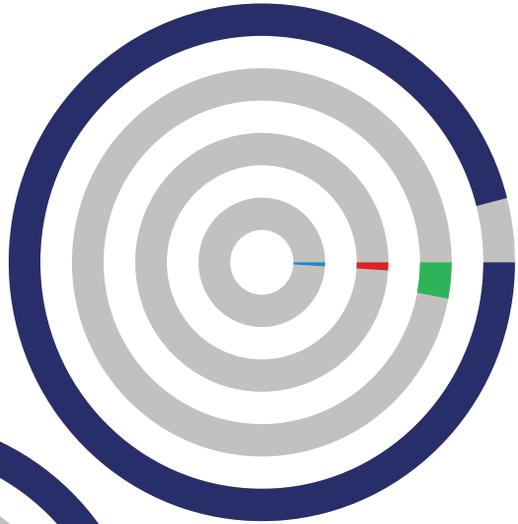
FINANCIALS

The numbers below reflect our revenue and expenses from July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017.

REVENUE FY 2017

- Grants \$1,851,728
- Contract Services \$61,615
- Contributions \$23,372
- Other Revenue \$217

FY17 TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,936,932



EXPENSES FY 2017

- Program Services \$1,419,034
- Management & General \$69,920
- Fundraising \$22,611

FY17 TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,511,565

MISSION STATEMENTS

MISSISSIPPI FIRST

Mississippi First champions transformative policy solutions ensuring **educational excellence** for every **Mississippi child**.

TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI

Teen Health Mississippi ensures that all **Mississippi teens** have access to **high-quality sex education and youth-friendly healthcare services**.

DONORS AND PARTNERS

Thanks to our generous supporters and partners, Mississippi First and Teen Health Mississippi are able to reach our goals to move Mississippi forward. Thank you for your support and dedication!

Aaron E. Henry Community Clinics
Advocates for Youth
Anonymous
Anonymous
Answer
Cardea
Charles Amick
Aspen Institute
Nytaya Babbitt
Angela & Kevin Bass
Amy Beasley
Catharine Bellinger
Matty Bengloff* † & Suzette Matthews
Bill Bennett
Emily Berry
Larry Box
Nakeitra Burse
Rachel and Andrew Canter
Devon Cantwell
Rosa Carreras
David Carroll
Kathryn Carroll**
Greg Claus
Christopher Cox
Hope Crenshaw
Monica Coleman
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Cicatelli Associates, Inc.
William Cissell
Clarksdale High School
Coahoma Early College High School (CECHS)
Coahoma County High School
Crossroads Cultural Arts Center
Lisa Debbeler
Walton Denton
Jeff Donoghue
Misti Dosssett
Stacy Downey
Wayne Durst
Sherri Eisenpress
Doug Erickson
ETR
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Grove Foundation
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Health Department-Coahoma
Health Department-Quitman
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Madison Shannon Palmer High School
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Catoria Martin
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Josh & Cassie McCawley
John McWhorter
Maggie Middleton* †
Sara Miller
Mississippi Charter School Association
Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board
Mississippi Department of Education
Mississippi Department of Health
Mississippi Sex Ed Training Cadre
(*Tiffarah Cline, Monica Coleman, Christopher Cox, Hope Crenshaw, Emily Feher, Meg Hayden, Joyce Little, Sanford Johnson, Josh McCawley, Caroline Payne-Purvis, Ashley Peterson, & Erica Thompson*)
Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center (*Kathleen Ragsdale, Mary Read-Wahidi, Audrey Reid, Katelyn Swiderski, & Amanda Gochanour*)

Mississippi Youth Council (*Nytaya Babbitt, Jefferson Davis, Sharonda Edwards, Courtney McKee, Sara Porcheddu, Jamie Sproles, Triuna Taylor, Nicole Williams, Kally Xu, & Tyler Yarbrough*)
Natalie Mourra
Ron Nurnberg & Joe Osgoode
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Pahara Institute
Kevin and Stephanie Parkinson
Charles & Lee Parrott
Kesha Perry* †
Sara Porcheddu
PIE Network
William Rice
Katie Rarick
Region One Mental Health Center
Emily Richardson
Rosa Fort High School
Dickie Scruggs
Zakaria Sherbiny
Adam Smith* †
Leland Speed
Spring Initiative/Baby University
J.W. Stampley 9th Grade Academy
Anja Thiessen
Mary Thompson †
Brian Tooke
Tri-County Workforce Alliance
Marni von Wilpert**
Marty Wiseman †
Walton Family Foundation
Marcie and Mike White
Jenna Williamson
Brandon Winchester
The Women's Foundation of Mississippi
Working to Institutionalize Sex Ed (WISE) Initiative

*Denotes 2017-2018 Mississippi First Board of Directors Members

† Denotes 2016-2017 Mississippi First Board of Directors Members

** Denotes all 2017-2018 Advisory Board Members of Teen Health Mississippi



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mississippi First's Goal: By 2017, Mississippi will have at least five high-quality charter schools in three low-performing areas, including at least one independent school, and no low-quality charter schools.

521

During the 2016-2017 school year, there were 521 students enrolled in charter schools in Mississippi.

x2

From 2015-2016 to 2016-2017, the number of students enrolled in charter schools doubled.

5

As of October 2017, there are 3 operating charter schools in Jackson. Two additional charters have been authorized.

1st

The first charter school outside of Jackson was approved and will open in Clarksdale in Fall 2018.

Mississippi First released *Mississippi Voices: Public Perception of Pre-K-12 Education in Mississippi*, a report revealing public opinions of the issues that Mississippi

First supports as well the broader public education context in Mississippi. Included in the report was data about the public's perception of charter schools in Mississippi.

- 57.5% of respondents reported being "NOT at all familiar" with charter schools.
- Of those with some familiarity with charters, 47% incorrectly identified charter schools as private schools, and 7% said they did not know if charters were public or private.

RESEARCH

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Mississippi First continued to work with the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board and charter school applicants to expand the charter school sector in Mississippi. We provided intensive support to charter applicants in the 2017 cycle. We also provided critical assistance to the Authorizer in applying for federal Charter Schools Program funds, resulting in Mississippi's first award of \$15M. Finally, we published three policy memos to the Authorizer Board, a history of charter school legislation, and charter school voting records.



EARLY EDUCATION

Mississippi First's Goal: By 2018, at least 15% of children will be in full-time, no-cost or low-cost, high-quality pre-K seats.

Mississippi First has been an advocate for early education since our founding in 2008 and has helped to pass legislation that establishes state funded pre-K.

RESEARCH

Mississippi First released our largest research report to date in early 2017, the *State of Public Pre-K (2014-2015)*. This report provides data on early education in every community across Mississippi including information on private and public pre-K. In total, public pre-K programs (school district, Head Start, and state-funded programs) had the capacity to serve an estimated 41% of all four-year-olds in Mississippi in 2014-2015.

27%

Head Start had the capacity to serve approximately 27% of four-year-olds in the state.

14%

School district programs, including blended Head Start programs, had the capacity to serve 14% of four-year-olds.

37%

The licensed childcare sector reported having the capacity to serve 37% of four-year-olds.

22%

An estimated 22% of four-year-olds in Mississippi lacked access to any licensed pre-K program.

LEARN MORE: All data is organized by county and can be viewed online at mississippifirst.org.

14

In 2016, the State Board approved four additional early learning collaboratives increasing the total to 14.

\$1.6M

Individuals or corporations donated about \$1.6 million to early learning collaboratives (ELCs) in 2016.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Mississippi First continued to work with the Mississippi Department of Education to implement the *Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013*.

This included informing stakeholders about the pre-K tax credit and providing technical assistance to MDE.



STANDARDS, TESTING, & ACCOUNTABILITY

Mississippi First's Goal: By 2018, the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards will be Common Core-aligned, implemented statewide, and coupled with reasonable testing and accountability practices.



Mississippi First completed an in-depth testing analysis in 4 partnering school districts.

For two years, Mississippi First has been carefully studying testing practices

in Mississippi school districts in preparation for a statewide report and recommendations. We have also provided information to the public explaining the state's accountability system.

RESEARCH

VISIT mississippifirst.org/blog

ENGAGEMENT

Mississippi First's Goal: Mississippi First will increase the public's knowledge about current education trends and news in Mississippi.

At Mississippi First, we pride ourselves on being experts in our field, and we work diligently to keep the public abreast of current issues in education. We met with over 150 college students and 375 community members during 2016-2017 to inform the public about important education debates and our work at Mississippi First.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The school funding formula was a major topic during the 2017 legislative session. Mississippi First created a variety of resources to build public understanding of important issues, including the 27% rule in the state's school funding formula and how the legislative process works in general.



Mississippi First released 5 Facebook videos during the 2017 legislative session reaching 12,038 people.



EDUCATION POLICY TEAM

The Mississippi First education policy team is comprised of four dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to promote the mission of Mississippi First. We use research and expert knowledge in the Mississippi context to successfully influence policy changes that improve public schools in Mississippi.

RACHEL CANTER

Executive Director Co-Founder

Rachel's responsibilities involve direct interaction with all interested stakeholders, donors, legislators, and other policymakers. She works with the Board of Directors to ensure MSF is functioning according to our mission and goals and operating within our budget and funding restrictions. Rachel also oversees all policy research and advocacy initiatives.

ANGELA BASS

Deputy Director of Policy

Angela serves as an education policy expert, assisting MSF in enacting its policy agenda. She is responsible for analyzing policy and data, developing policy proposals, conducting advocacy activities directed toward policymakers, leading research projects, writing policy papers, and delivering policy presentations.

SANFORD JOHNSON

Deputy Director of Advocacy Co-Founder

Sanford directs all MSF's community-level policy outreach and advocacy efforts. He leads the advocacy campaign for our initiatives and spearheads organizational outreach. Sanford engages educators, students, parents, and community members through presentations, trainings, and project facilitation.

MACKENZIE STROH HINES

Director of Communications & Operations

MacKenzie is responsible for promoting, enhancing, and protecting MSF's brand reputation as well as a broad range of operations and public relations activities relative to the strategic direction and positioning of the organization and its advocacy agenda.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of Mississippi First,

Last fiscal year was another success for Mississippi First. In our education work, we continued to advocate for high-quality, state-funded pre-K and charter schools, while keeping our finger on the pulse of other educational topics, including school funding. Our biggest highlight was launching a major pre-K report in January. Our *State of Pre-K (2014-2015)* report updated our 2011-2012 report on public pre-K and expanded it to include information about licensed childcare centers serving four-year-old children. This report was the state's first to quantify pre-K access—whether public or private—in every Mississippi community. We also released the results of our statewide educational opinion poll in *Mississippi Voices: Public Perception of Pre-K-12 Education in Mississippi*.

Our teen health work also had an important year. We continued to expand our teen health team to include a Director of Youth Programs and a Director of Education and Training. With the addition of these two new roles, our teen health work is now reaching more communities across the state. The expansion of the teen health team has also led to a monumental strategic decision: over the next year, we will be working to make Teen Health Mississippi a stand-alone non-profit organization operating under its own board and policies. What an exciting step for our teen health staff!

In 2018, we will be celebrating 10 years! We will continue to update you on our progress and how you can participate in this huge organizational milestone with us. Thank you for your support, leadership, and friendship.



Rachel Carter

Rachel Carter
Executive Director



Maggie Middleton

Maggie Middleton
Board Chair

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LEADERS IN POLICY,
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

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