



**Louisiana Right to Life / Nola Needs Peace Factsheet**  
***Long Wait Times at New Orleans Health Facilities for Women's Health?***

Friday October 23, 2015

**Situation:**

In an article on Nola.com on October 22, 2015, Raegan Carter, a Planned Parenthood representative, claimed that there are “massive” wait times at other health care facilities in New Orleans that prevent women from receiving services such as Pap smears and colposcopies in a timely manner. The article reads, “*At other providers in the New Orleans area, a wait for a colposcopy can be as long as six months, and Carter said a wait for an initial pap smear can be as long as 60 days.*”

**Is this true?**

**No. Louisiana Right to Life / Nola Needs Peace’s rudimentary research shows that the majority of low-cost facilities can see patients for these services in a week or less.**

On Friday, October 23, 2015, Alexandra Seghers with Louisiana Right to Life made calls as a potential patient to the following low-cost health centers that accept Medicaid and are listed online at [www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Services](http://www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Services). The purpose was to determine if long wait times are present at these health facilities, as claimed by Planned Parenthood, for services such as pap smears, STI tests, or colposcopies. Note that ALL of the facilities called offer contraception.

Of the clinics called today, only two (Excelth and UMC) had wait times that could be considered “months” away, and even Excelth could schedule in December, far from “six months” away. Most of the clinics could handle appointments within a week or even a couple business days.

**Conclusion:**

**If Planned Parenthood is defunded, timely services could be provided by other facilities. Planned Parenthood’s claims are not true when placed up against very basic research of all the available health facilities.**

**(Research continues on the following pages)**

## **Details of the 10/23/15 Research:**

### *Questions Alexandra asked:*

“Hi, my name is Alexandra and I just have a question: If I were to schedule a STI testing appointment, could I schedule one in the next week or so? – I was told there might be a long wait for an opening, so I just wanted to double check.

(In response to whatever answer) “Would you say the same for pap smears and colposcopies?”

### *Answers:*

#### NO/AIDS Wellness Center on Tulane (affiliated with Crescent Care Centers)

- They provide walk-in STI tests and their OBGYN department could schedule a pap smear or colposcopy within a week.

#### Crescent Care Centers on Carrollton

- They take walk-ins for STI testing and pap smears. She even gave me the number of the walk-in personnel, as well as the name and number of their person on staff that could flexibly make appointments at any one of their clinics. They offer colposcopies at their NO/AIDS Wellness Center location on Tulane (see above).

#### Excelth Family Health Centers

- For their Algiers and Gentilly clinic, they would not be able to make an appointment likely until December, especially for a new client.

#### New Orleans East Community Center

- The receptionist could schedule me for the following week, by Thursday in fact, for an STI test and pap smear. They would refer me to a hospital if colposcopy were needed.

#### Ruth U. Fertel Tulane Community Health Center

- An appointment could be made immediately for all three services. There were no long waits whatsoever. The representative was confused as to why I would worry at all.

#### St. Thomas Community Health Center

- They were able to make an appointment right away for a Pap smear or STI test. There was availability, but they don't do colposcopies, but would make a referral.

#### Odyssey House Community Medical Clinic

- Left a message twice.

#### South Broad Community Health Center

- Yes they could make appointments immediately within the week for any of those services. The representative was confused as to why I would worry at all, just like the Ruth Fertel Tulane Community Health Center

#### Tulane Drop In at Covenant House

- I called, and she could make an appointment for me for Monday for any of the services!

#### Tulane Student Health Center

- While they are booked for several weeks for their free STI testing, they are available for anytime to make an appointment for testing and smear.

#### UNO Health Center

- I called and she could schedule me for these services for the following Tuesday!

#### Dillard Health Center

- They don't do pap smear or colposcopies, but they accept walk-in STI testing

#### University Medical Center (UMC) Women's Health Services

- They wouldn't be able to schedule for their services for months away. Booked.

#### Delgado Personal Health Center

- Left a message.

#### Jefferson Parish Health Unit

- Could not get through to speak with them, twice. Voice Mail full.

#### Jefferson Community Health Centers

1) Marrero: STI testing can be 7:15am walk-in, and next appointment for pap smears and colposcopies for new patients would be by November 5<sup>th</sup> (only two weeks from my call date)

2) River Ridge: Left a message.

3) Avondale: Left a message.

4) Lafitte: They take morning walk-ins for both pap smears and STI, but do not do colposcopies.

#### St. Charles Community Health Center

- New clients would have to make appointment for provider, but there are plenty of providers/ doctors – there is no long waitlist whatsoever.

#### Belle Chasse Health Center

- You can do anonymous STI testing within a week from calling. There is no long waitlist for pap smears or colposcopies.

#### St. Bernard Community Center

- Would be able to establish with a provider within a day or two, and afterward there is no wait time for pap smear or STI testing. Would refer for colposcopies.