

## *Clinicians for Choice Abstract*

This document is part of the Clinicians for Choice (CFC) abstract series. This abstract can be submitted as a professional conference workshop proposal. However, CFC does not provide presentation materials. For further information, contact [naf@prochoice.org](mailto:naf@prochoice.org).

### *Workshop Title*

Caring for the Woman with an Unintended Pregnancy: Teaching What Midwives Need to Know

Submitted by: CFC State Contact Kathy Simmonds, NP

### *Abstract*

Nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended<sup>1</sup>, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice include “counseling, clinical interventions and/or referral for unplanned or undesired pregnancies<sup>2</sup>.” Despite the frequency with which women experience unintended pregnancies and the fact that their care is recognized as a component of basic midwifery practice, many midwifery educational programs don’t adequately prepare their students to care for these women. Shortages of qualified faculty, lack of teaching materials, and political pressures have all been identified as barriers to including reproductive options education into the curricula of midwifery programs.

This educational session begins with the presentation of background epidemiologic data on unintended pregnancy and its consequences, as well as a theoretical framework for teaching about reproductive options that draws from literature on teaching about sensitive subjects. Participants will then be invited to engage in an interactive discussion about challenges encountered when teaching about reproductive options that will draw on both personal experiences and prepared case studies. Finally, presenters will share strategies and resources that can be used to effectively integrate this important women’s health topic into extant curricula.

A good resource for training materials is the Reproductive Options Education Consortium for Nursing (the ROE Consortium), which is a pilot project that provides training, quality teaching materials, and support to nursing faculty across the United States. Visit <http://www.abortionaccess.org/viewpages.php?id=202>.

### *Objectives*

At the completion of the presentation, attendees will be able to:

1. Discuss the incidence and etiologies of unintended pregnancy.
2. Describe potential barriers to educating midwifery students about reproductive options.
3. Identify three resources that can be used when incorporating reproductive options into midwifery curricula.

---

<sup>1</sup> Alan Guttmacher Institute. Facts in Brief - Induced Abortion. 2003. [http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/fb\\_induced\\_abortion.html](http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html)

<sup>2</sup> American College of Nurse-Midwives. Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice. May 2002. <http://www.midwife.org/display.cfm?id=484>