

Amelia Bonow:

All right. Let's get into it and folks can just arrive as they do. Hi everybody. Welcome to Abortion Academy. My name is Amelia Bonow. I use she/her pronouns and I'm the executive director of Shout Your Abortion, which is a nationwide organization working to normalize abortion and elevate paths to access regardless of legality. We are an org that makes resources, campaigns, and media intended to arm existing activists, create new ones, and foster collective participation in abortion access all over the country. And Abortion Academy is a monthly webinar series where we talk to one, or in this case, three of our brilliant colleagues who take us into their work, take us on a deeper dive into their area of expertise. And these sessions are just for anybody who wants to deepen their knowledge and connect dots between the work that they're holding in their communities and what folks are doing elsewhere at the regional or national or even international levels, or to just get some fresh ideas to take back into your own work.

We alternate US-focused sessions with what we call study abroad sessions, where we talk to international activists. And audience members will be off camera and muted for security reasons, but you will be able to ask questions in the chat throughout the session. And we also have live Spanish translation available. If you go down to the bar at the bottom of your Zoom and you click on the little globe, you can select the language you'd like to listen in. And yeah. Our presenters are going to speak to us for about 30-ish minutes, and then I'll come back and do some Q&A and bring in any questions that you have into the chat. And like I said, today we are going to speak to Ciné, Lana'e, and Laura from the Florida Access Network, AKA FAN, which is such a great acronym. You just love to see it.

Florida, as you probably know, has extremely restrictive abortion laws, including a six-week limit, parental consent law, and penalty fines for doctors who provide abortions over the legal limit. It's a very challenging environment to provide abortion support, and that does not stop the folks that we're going to be hearing from today. And FAN is doing a whole lot of work. FAN is providing funding, practical support, peer support, mutual aid, and more to abortion seekers. FAN's work is built around principles of reproductive justice and sexual liberation, and they practice what they preach. I love. I love. This trio is going to talk to us about the creative ways that they support abortion access, including the second edition of an analog newspaper coming out this spring, the challenges of living and working in a restricted state, and how we can work with each other across state lines and support one another's work.

I think that Florida is a completely unique place on earth and in this country. It is so incredibly diverse by every metric. You have the richest people. I don't know if Palm Beach County might be the richest county in the country, if not one of the. You have a lot of poor folks. You have a number of immigrant populations, you have more racial diversity possibly than anywhere in the country as well, in whatever county that Miami is in. And it's one of those states that from the swamp to Miami to the panhandle, you can't believe that all of this is one state. And I'm really curious to hear about your work, to attempt to wrap your arms around such a wide range of folks needing care and in a place that has so much hostility and doing so with so much joy and beauty. And as I said, the whole SYA team was totally gagged by your slideshow because it's so beautiful. So yeah, I'm going to hand it over to you.

Laura Rosado:

Thank you so much. We are so excited to be here and we have admired Shout Your Abortion's Work for so long. So being here, we're so excited to share about FANs' work and what we've been working on. So I'm going to share my screen and then we can each just intro and get into it. Okay. Can folks see? Yes. Okay. Cool. So I can share. I'm Laura. I use she/her [foreign language 00:05:36] pronouns. I'm the communications and development associate at FAN. I'm based in Miami, Florida, and I am a Caribbean multidisciplinary cultural worker who likes to use my talents and creativity to uplift radical movements in Florida and particularly South Florida. I'll pass it to Ciné.

Ciné Julien:

Hi everybody. My name is Ciné Julian. I use they/them/theirs pronouns. I serve as the RJ Network Building Associate for Florida Access Network. I've been here since 2021, so this would make my fifth year being at FAN. I started as the reproductive justice organizer in Orlando. And then when I moved to South Florida, I expanded to doing mutual aid work and things on the ground, helping close gaps and helping other folks who have already been doing this work for so long continue the work that they're doing. So super excited to share some more, and I'll pass it to Lana'e.

Lana'e Hernandez:

Thank you, Ciné. Hi, everyone. My name is Lana'e Hernandez. I use she/her and [foreign language 00:06:43] pronouns, and I am the direct services' case manager here at Florida Access Network. I'm here to connect Floridians to abortion care, both for in state and out of-state clinics. I started working as a patient navigator to assist people accessing abortion care after the Dobbs decision. I'm also a certified abortion doula, assisting clients in every step of the way, and I'm so excited to be here today.

Ciné Julien:

Awesome. So I would love to tell y'all a little bit about who Florida Access Network is. We are formerly known as the Central Florida Women's Emergency Fund founded in Orlando, but we are a statewide organization now. We've been here for 30 years, which is really crazy to say, but it's been a while and we continue to do this work in the state. We have recently closed down our work to do more focus on Floridian. So we used to expand our work to help folks who are outside of the state come into Florida to get the care, but since restrictions have gotten a lot more limited, we have switched to focusing on getting folks to care who are already in the state and folks who need to go out of the state of Florida to get that care.

In addition to our direct service arm that we have, we also do community engagement on the ground. We used to engage with doing an abortion fund lobby day during a legislative session. So we had an abortion funds take on tally day. In addition to that, we have our Hibiscus Club, which is our post-abortion peer support space, which we'll be expanding and restarting very soon. So very excited to share the new developments there. In addition to that, we also do mutual aid initiatives across the state, but mostly we do them in Central Florida and in South Florida. We have a volunteer program that's statewide, and we also have an Abortion Baddies

Network, which is our new fellowship. Last year, we trained six baddies across the state to do on the groundwork. And this year we're expanding to 20, which is really also crazy to say. So super exciting stuff. And we also have an amazing storytelling program and narrative power arm to our community engagement and communications work. Great. So I'll pass it to Lana'e to continue on our amazing work.

Lana'e Hernandez:

Thank you. So as we all know, abortion looks very different depending on what state you live in. So here in Florida, you currently cannot access an abortion after six weeks. In addition to that, there is also a 24-hour waiting period, meaning that you will need to be seen at the clinic for a counseling education appointment where you sign a consent form, and then you will need to wait 24 hours before you can come back and receive either the pill or the procedure. Now, there are some amazing abortion funds here in Florida who will help you travel out of state to receive care if you are over those six weeks. We used to have a 15-week abortion here, but since then, we now have gone to the six weeks. However, there is a 15-week abortion exception here in Florida for rape, incest, and human trafficking with the proper documentation such as a police report or restraining order in order to receive that care in Florida.

Telemedicine is banned here in Florida due to the in person approval required by two medical professionals. In addition to some changes we've had here in Florida, we now no longer have judicial bypass in Florida, meaning that if you are under the age of 18, you will need to have parental consent in person at the time of your appointment. You used to be able to go to the courthouse and ask for a judicial bypass where the judge would be able to grant you access to make the decision on your own, but that was overturned last year in Florida.

So as I talked about earlier, I am a case manager here at FAN, and the purpose of direct services is to provide abortion funds to assist individuals seeking abortion by offering practical support and funding for abortion procedures. So here at FAN on our website, we have a get help form, which offers direct to clinic payments to reduce or cover the appointment cost based on what the client needs. We also assist with travel, lodging, and food cost for your appointment, and obviously that is subject to capacity and funding for all Floridians seeking in or out of state care. Now, we've had some very detrimental impacts in abortion care here in Florida. Like I talked about before, the Florida six-week abortion ban has forced many people to have to travel out of state for care, which has dramatically increased cost and straining for abortion funds. The average cost for an out-of-state abortion care now ranges between \$1,800 to \$2,200, including the procedure, flight, bus, train, lodging, transportation, food, and medication costs. And that exceeds even more if clients are needing additional childcare for at home.

Here at FAN, we are able to make the impact with all of these clients, such as in 2025, we have dispersed approximately \$385,000 to support abortion access for Floridians. And although we are just in March, we have assisted over 250 people and are projected to reach around \$80,000 by the end of March. That both reflects the cost of rising appointment cost and increase in demand.

Ciné Julien:

Yes. So in addition to the direct service that we do provide for abortion care, we also try to do our best in efforts on educating folks on the ground, and that's folks who are our volunteers, community support, or folks who just want to know how they can contribute to the movement, especially now when we're talking about material needs and the gaps that come up aside from the abortion funding and the gaps that are there. Mutual aid has really been an integral tactic that we've engaged in. And I find it to be really important when I am talking about mutual aid to emphasize that nonprofits did not create mutual aid. We are really learning from the community organizations and mutual aid groups on the ground who have been doing this work for years, and that's rooted in BIPOC liberation and frameworks that we are able to contribute to. So we see ourselves as being the tool to close the gap. A lot of the mutual aid groups and folks that contribute to the reproductive justice movement that we also engage ourselves with don't have the same access to the resources, the donation programs, or even to the nonprofit status that we obtain as an abortion fund. So we really want to put ourselves in the middle and make sure that we close that gap.

So we are community partners, thought partners. We collaborate with folks on the ground to help boost and ensure that they're able to execute whatever community goals that they have. And we support that through doing kit building, doing trainings, and also building up our volunteer base with that skill building so that they're able to bring that work to their areas. Because as we mentioned, Florida is extremely disproportionate. There's a handful of bilingual communities that might not have the shared language to really dive in and create change in these spaces. There's also a handful of people that don't have the resources, the privilege, or the ability to engage in this work. So we really want to try to work with the folks a part of our statewide issue to really try to create some solutions.

We can go to the next slide. Yeah. So we engage in reproductive justice mutual aid. On top of the many things that I mentioned previously, in Florida, sexual health is in detriment here. Comprehensive and inclusive sexual health has been a huge problem for a while. I always tell folks, I started my journey in organizing because of the gap of the sexual health in Florida. I've been born and raised in Broward County, bounced between Orange here and there, but I'm a Broward County student born and I really only had sexual health curriculum be taught to me in seventh grade since moving back from Orlando and that was the only time. So there's really an issue, and especially with legislation having an impact on education and things like that, we notice that there's gaps. So we take it upon ourselves to notice what those gaps are and try to create that change. So we engage in repro kit packing, which other abortion funds also do, and practical support funds also do as well. And we also expand that. So we also do mutual aid and kit building for post-abortion care, period packs. We redistribute to all of the period pantries that we know and notify and get connected with us throughout the state.

We also have done some personal hygiene kits. We partner with Food Not Bombs in South Florida, specifically the Fort Lauderdale chapter and the Miami chapter to create some hygiene kits for them. We also have done some harm reduction redistribution, and we've been in a bunch of intersectional community spaces to really ensure that folks know that reproductive

justice is not only an intersectional issue, but it is about equity and it includes all of us. So we have to show up for all of the spaces where we need to support each other.

Laura Rosado:

Yes. And I think I'll share a bit about FANs' cultural work and the ways that we try to make the movement look more beautiful because our values are so beautiful and we want to de-stigmatize abortion, show it that it's not a scary thing, that it's actually a really ... Abortion, it can be an avenue for incredibly beautiful community support and connection. So cultural work is the labor of artists, creatives, and visionaries who are accountable and committed to fostering of revolutionary culture, which comes from Musa Springer. At FAN, it takes shape specifically through visual strategy, narrative building, and community engagement, and it seeks to propagate pro-abortion imagery and messaging across Florida to challenge stigma and shift the public imagination towards reproductive justice. I think we all know in Florida, across the entire Panhandle, there are these crazy anti-abortion billboards that talk about going to hell if you're going to have a baby or make it very scary if you're going to have an abortion or make abortion seem very scary or like you're going to go to hell if you have an abortion. And that messaging has always been there and permeates the landscape of Florida because there are so many of those billboards around the state.

So part of what we try to do is in our engagement with the community and the ways that we present ourselves as an organization is to make it incredibly colorful, dynamic, and to reflect the culture of Florida in ways that align with the values of reproductive justice. So we do this in a variety of ways. First, in our communications and in the way that we talk about current events, we always center our unique perspective as an abortion fund and make it known the ways that our perspective as an abortion fund speaks to the intersectionality between different issues and that we have expertise that we can speak to that other organizations that are in reproductive justice or that do reproductive justice work can't speak to. We also are working to take ownership over our outreach and communications channels. And one of the ways that we're doing that is through our quarterly printed newspaper. I've got one right here. This is our second issue that will be coming out next week. And really, the newspaper is just one of the ways that we're trying to diversify our communications channels and reach people outside of virtual platforms, but also not just virtual platforms, but platforms that are not owned and operated by FAN.

We want to try to diversify and have more self-ownership channels so that we don't have to worry about the algorithm suppressing us or hiding us or making it so that we can't say the word abortion in the post when you have a printed newspaper and you have values aligned partner organizations and businesses and brick and mortar places that can distribute it and believe in the work that we're doing, we can reach so many more people. And I think in terms of FANs community specifically, there is such a desire for physical media and for things that feel very tangible. And I think that's also super important for us. As a statewide organization, our staff is scattered around and we each have our realms of work and the newspaper is a way to have an org wide communication that can reach people beyond just the Instagram, Facebook, email algorithms.

And there are some links to the newspaper, to the issue, to the first and the second issues of the newspapers that they'll drop in the chat so folks can see it virtually, and we'll be dropping a map of the locations that we'll be distributing the second issue next week on our Instagram. And we also love to partner with local artists and cultural workers whenever possible, because we know that there are so much creative talent in Florida that can uplift our mission and that can create a different visual to the work that we're doing than maybe someone internally can or someone that we've worked with before. So we love having different styles, perspectives shown with artists and cultural workers. And we also engage in storytelling and narrative shifting. We work to prompt our community members to consider and challenge their perspective on abortion, think about the vision that they have for abortion access in Florida and reproductive justice, and also consider their stake in it and how they can contribute to it. And we do this through our storytelling booth, which we have at our in person events whenever we can. It has a little booth where folks can come up and write responses to different prompts and just allow them to take a moment to reflect on really their idea and their place within the reproductive justice movement.

And really all of the cultural work is seeking to visualize the values and the principles that FAN seeks to embody in the work that we do as an abortion fund and as a community engagement organization. Sometimes when people hear abortion fund, they imagine something scary and they imagine something that is actually the complete opposite of what we are and what we want for Florida. And so when we present our work in colorful, playful, creative ways, I think it can also open us up to more people and get them thinking about abortion and reproductive justice in ways that they had never considered before because our values are super beautiful and our movement should be beautiful in order to reflect those values too.

And these are just some closeups of some of the cultural work and creative work that has come out of FAN in the last year. The newspaper, of course, the design of abortion bans are scary, liberation is sexy, was for a Repro After Dark Florida Funds collaborative event where we had a burlesque fundraiser, the abortion gator design, and also the stigma free clinic design was created by Lizzie Suarez, a local Florida artist, and I think they might be dropping the link in the chat to their website, and they created those designs for our billboard campaign we did last year where we had eight billboards across the state of Florida, just propagating pro abortion messaging.

So welcome to the Florida we're building abortion access for everybody. We had eight billboards, which is not as much compared to all the anti-abortion billboards that are out there, but the anti-abortion billboards are so ugly that the eight billboards that we had that were so beautifully designed by Lizzie had such impact and people were so moved by it and it caught everyone's eye because it was something that people don't see every day. And it was also during the Amendment four campaign. So this was a forward visionary design and messaging that wasn't focused on just the election or focused on bans or anything like that. It's actually focused on a long-term vision that we know we will be working towards regardless of whatever the legislators or whoever are working on or whoever ... Whatever harm they're imparting on us, we have a vision that we're staying steadfast in.

And we also love to make it super Florida centered and make it part of the local culture. So we obviously have the gators and the Palm trees and the local flora and fauna. And for example, for the lover's card that's there at the upper right-hand corner, that was for our giving season campaign last year that was tarot themed. It was the Abortion Access Arcana and folks were able to donate and they received a tarot card in the mail. And we did this one based on Mifi and Miso, the abortion pills. And we know that our supporters are hip and cool and they love tarot so we're also trying to relate to their interests and tie it back to abortion with abortion imagery, with the abortion pills and just try to make it more fun and show that the work that we do is actually incredibly valuable and compassionate and innovative and creative.

And then also the design at the bottom left corner is by another local artist, Luca Molnar. And it's a Florida seal that was reimaged to really reflect the values of Floridians and what we want for Florida. Because even though Amendment four didn't pass, over 57% of Floridians voted in favor of it. And we know that a majority of Floridians are in support of abortion access and don't support the near total abortion ban. And then on the other corner is also the story booth, someone writing in the story booth that we have at all of our events. So this is just a little snippet of some of the different creative works and communication that we've put out in order to uplift our work as an abortion fund. And it's always focused on Florida, on abortion, and on uplifting our perspective as a fund in Florida operating in the South.

And the last thing that we will say is we are plugging our current fundathon campaign. Every year, abortion funds come together to fundraise from March to May and fundraise in support of abortion access and to support their work in abortion funding. So this year, FAN has a whole new campaign going where we are partnering with marathoners and coffee shops to fundraise \$50,000 and folks can support by donating directly at the link shown there. And I think they're also going to be dropping in the chat, funds.nnaf.org/fuelyourfund. You can crowdfund for FAN, and there's a signup forum to learn more about crowdfunding for us. And you can also follow us on Instagram and keep an eye on our fundraiser from there. Every dollar that we raise will go directly towards our abortion funding work. It goes directly back towards our clients. And as Lana'e shared, it's super expensive to help people go out of state. Over 30% of our clients travel out of state. And so \$50,000 could help us fund many more abortions in 2026. And so if you can help us reach our \$50,000 goal by the 31st, we would be super grateful.

This is just another one of the ways that we're trying to get creative and get fun with it and try to appeal to people's interests and show that actually it's not hard or a burden or something out of your way to support your local abortion fund or support reproductive justice. Abortion funds are so cool and creative and fun that we can make it as easy and engaging for you to support us in our work. And yeah. I think that this fundraiser has been a really fun way to get a new group of people engaged in FAN's work also. So thank you so much. There's our website and our Instagram too. I think they'll be dropping that in the chat and we're so excited for questions and yeah.

Amelia Bonow:

Yay. Thank you so much. That was so beautiful. It's like really just I want anyone who is like, "Oh, this work that's got to be so dark or whatever." And not to minimize the hardness and

intensity that the work holds, but the joy, the beauty, the pride, the dignity, the way that you just expressed all of that is really just putting those theories into practice in such a clear way. And I feel like I just imagine people encountering people who have grown up in a conservative environment, having an unwanted pregnancy, an encountering FAN when they've been raised to believe that if this happens, you're in trouble. I just can't imagine how life-changing it would be to encounter just a joyful group of baddies who are like, "Not only are you not in trouble, but we're so happy to see you today and help you today and let's do this." And I can imagine that you just have that reflected to you in your experiences with folks you engage with. And I just wonder if you could talk a little bit about what that's like and also just the way that culture, I guess, your communities respond to seeing joyful pro abortion work maybe for the first time.

Laura Rosado:

I would actually love for Lana'e to share her experience in DS because I think Fan has a very particular funding philosophy that Lana'e could speak to.

Lana'e Hernandez:

Absolutely. Thank you so much, Laura. And thank you, Amelia, for bringing up that question. One thing I can say that we really pride ourselves with here at FAN is that we are non-income restricted. So we are not asking clients, "How much money do you make? How many people live in your home? How much can you put towards your abortion? And basically tell me why you can't afford an abortion." We are here to fund abortions. We believe that abortion is a fundamental right, and we are here to make that happen for you. So with that being said, when we are on the phone with clients and they share with us their story, if they want to share their story, which is another big one, is we are here to listen. And with all of our staff being certified doulas as well, we can be there with them and talk to them and walk them through the process so that they know exactly what to expect every step of the way.

And one thing that's also unique here is I have a personal work phone that clients can text or call me on. So if they are navigating an airport for the very first time and have never been there before, we are able to walk them through every step of the way. Same thing if they are in the lobby of their clinic and they don't have anyone there with them and they just need somebody to listen to them, we are there. And I believe that we just have a lot of different areas of expertise that we can bring into it. We are a very compassionate group of people, and because we are not having to ask you certain questions about your income and about your background or your status, we really are able to help people and meet them where they are at.

Laura Rosado:

Yes. And then I can tie into the culture part of it because I feel like in working with Lana'e and the DS team, I think in developing FAN's visual strategy, the color and the creativity and the culture piece of it or the local Florida piece of it, I think reflects that compassion a bit more and makes people a bit more open to receiving our services or engaging with us. And it does reflect what we want for Florida, regardless of even how people react to it. It's true to who FAN is. And I think that's the other thing is that we wear everything on our sleeves. We're incredibly bold and that can either put people off to us or really attract people to us. And I think we've found that it's also a good strategy for finding the right people who can contribute to what we want for the

mission because we're not just an abortion fund, we are a sex positive organization that does organizing and community engagement and wants to develop people to be leaders in their community, not just receive services. And those are two separate things. You can be a client and not have to develop yourself. You can just receive services and we love you and we're so happy for that.

And then also we are a place for you to learn and develop yourself as a reproductive justice advocate. And so I want people when they see FANs things to understand that this is an open space where you can learn, that is pro abortion and that reflects our values. And I had another thought that I lost, but I'll stop there for now.

Amelia Bonow:

Oh, Ciné, did you have something to add?

Ciné Julien:

Oh no, I was going to just plus one everything that was already said because I think y'all really tied it together.

Amelia Bonow:

I think that a thought that I just ... I forget who I first heard say this, and maybe it's just an ingrained theory of organizing. But this idea that the difference between charity and mutual aid can be that you're offering people a way into the work. You're not assuming that people are just like, "Here, let me give you this thing." It's like do you want to be a part of what we're doing? And no pressure. Obviously, like you just said, Laura, if somebody just needs support, then that's that. But that the same organization that is providing support is also being a force, a culture in and of itself that's just like, "This is what we're about and you can come be a part of it and be about it too." I think that that really is a difference very much with even just between nonprofit world and the way that mutual aid and to some degree, organic culture change actually works.

I don't know if I missed this up top if y'all talked about what your org structure is. I know that you have paid staff, right? I'm curious if you can talk a little bit about your paid staff and your volunteer structure, and also if you can speak to at all, if you've had any difficulties holding your values in the world of nonprofit philanthropy. Lana'e's wearing a fund abortion, not war shirt. And some people don't like when you talk about the US funding and genocide and then they don't want to write you a check. I want to know, I guess, how you all have navigated that and just what your structure is.

Ciné Julien:

Yeah. I can start and speak to the staff and volunteer portion. I could pass it off. But I will say we are a very small but mighty team. Folks are actually really shocked to find out that we are a team of nine folks. So we have three arms to our organization, the direct service, the abortion funding, the community engagement, which is more of the organizing public facing front, the education. And then we have our operations, which is our leadership team, folks who help us keep it afloat. So that is really what encompasses the structure of our organization. We are all paid, which is a privilege because not every abortion fund has the capacity or gets the access to

pay their staff. So we are extremely privileged, especially being a statewide abortion fund.

And to our volunteer structure, we have a statewide volunteer program. Majority of the in person engagement that our volunteers do are basically through our tableings and our mutual aid events that we do in Central Florida and in South Florida. But that's why we have really tried to develop specific programs to extend on building skills. So that's why we created the Abortion Baddies Network and some of my abortion baddies are in this space. So hey, it's my abortion baddies. And also we have a digital defenders space that will be expanding and revamping very soon. So we have created programs specifically for folks who really want to do a bit more than just dedicate a couple of hours throughout the week or throughout the month that really want to bring that work back to their own local areas and lead that work themselves. So that's pretty much what our volunteer program is. We don't have a program specifically for practical support volunteers that help driving folks to and from their appointments, but we do have some community groups that have reached out and asked for some clinic defense trainings. So we have a developed program that we've partnered with ARC Southeast to create. We've trained it a couple of times with some community groups and we want to continue. So if there are any folks who want to learn how to do some clinic defense, definitely let us know.

But I'll pass it off to whoever wants to answer the second half of the question, because I think some folks might have some answers for that.

Laura Rosado:

I think I can share. I think to the values piece of nonprofits and funding and all these things, that's always a battle, of course. That's something that every nonprofit is moving through, especially as nonprofits continue to grow. But I think that one thing that FAN has continued to ground in is specific hard lines that we won't concede on. So we say abortion in damn near every communication post or anything ... Anything that we put out, abortion is in it. I remembered what I was going to say before was with the billboard campaign, using the local Florida imagery, like the gator design and having to look like the postcard and stuff, it says abortion right there, huge, in big letters. And we really only got one or two comments that were like, "Why are you guys saying abortion? Say choice." This was an incredibly expansive wide reach campaign that had millions of visualizations. And really I can count through a handful of times that someone told us, "Why are you saying abortion?" And so I think that also speaks to the power of the visuals and the power of something being pretty. That they don't care that it says abortion, even though that would bother them with something else.

I would say one thing is like, yeah, we don't not say abortion, we don't say choice, and we have those lines. And when we apply to grants and we look for funding, when we ask donors to donate, we say, "This is who we are. We are a pro abortion fund. We are unapologetic. We're bold. We're sex positive. This is what your money is going to go towards." It's going to go exactly towards funding people, transporting them to their appointment, getting them food, their medication, getting them a place to stay. And we're not going to feel guilty that we're doing that or we're not going to apologize that we're doing that. And so I think, maybe this is above my pay grade, but in terms of the leadership decisions of it, leadership decides, "Is this grant, is this

funding going to take us as we are?" And if they're not, then they have and I hope that they will continue to say no to that funding in terms of making sure that we can be unapologetically pro abortion and that we can be bold and we can speak about the intersectional nature of reproductive justice.

We are coming out with a post on ICE at airports because that impacts our clients who are traveling. We're not going to not talk about ICE because that's not our realm of work. And so I think luckily so far we are bold and it serves as a filter where people who don't vibe with that or think that we're too much can go find another organization. And the people who vibe with us really ride hard for us. So I think it actually creates a very strong community because there's so much clarity.

Amelia Bonow:

Absolutely. There's a great question in the chat, but I was going to ask about ICE and about how under this new administration, if you could just talk a little bit about how that has ... I don't know if it's always become part of your work to talk about immigration. I assume that that piece has always been present in your work with clients, but I guess I'm wondering if you can talk about ... Especially because I'm sure we have a lot of folks in the chat who are interfacing directly with abortion seekers and you don't know someone's status. And I guess I'm wondering, especially in the wake of this airport shit, which is so horrifying, if you can talk about how, I guess ... Any practical tips that you can offer about just the intersection of immigration status and abortion seekers.

Lana'e Hernandez:

I can answer this one if you all are okay with that. I will say at FAN, what I do love about us is we are not asking your immigration status.

Amelia Bonow:

Yeah. Of course.

Lana'e Hernandez:

We are not asking those sort of questions. Now, we do know the political landscape that we do live in and work under right now in Florida. So currently, if we do have any client traveling via flight, we are letting them know there are heavy ICE presence at the airport at this moment. If you would feel more comfortable, we are more than welcome and happy to get you another form of transportation via bus, train ticket, gas assistance to get to whichever clinic you feel most comfortable. We also vet all of our clinics that we work with. So knowing that the clinics that we are sending our clients to, our values aligned, knowing that they're not going to allow ICE agents behind those doors is also something that we can say that we hold them accountable for and that we want to make sure that it's safe. Same with booking a hotel for a client. We can always use an alias name if we need to. They do not need to have your identification at that hotel.

So we have structures in place to protect people's identity when they are traveling, and we open that conversation up to people. We don't necessarily leave it up to them to share those concerns

with us. We give it to them firsthand and they can take the information if they are seeking it. And that way nobody's put on the spot and we're here to help during the way. I hope that answers that question.

Amelia Bonow:

Oh, no. That's so helpful, such just good practical tips. And again, all of which are within this framework of meeting somebody where they are and offering unconditional support and help that is not contingent on them sharing really anything with you, but is also if you want to talk about this, let's talk about it. Are y'all mostly sending people to North Carolina?

Lana'e Hernandez:

Typically, we go a little bit further only because North Carolina has that 72-hour waiting period. So unless they are seen in a clinic here in Florida and able to sign that consent form, typically the closest would be Virginia or Washington DC.

Amelia Bonow:

Right. The question in the chat that I was also going to ask is, what kind of work/support/solidarity is most helpful from folks in less restricted states? I'm a sex educator and aspiring sex therapist in the Pacific Northwest and want to work to support folks in restricted states. And I would also add to that in addition to how can we show solidarity with you? What do you wish that folks in less restricted states knew about your work?

Laura Rosado:

I will just share the most obvious thing, which is out of-state dollars are incredibly valuable. Incredibly valuable. I think Florida is ... There's five abortion funds in Florida, and we each have our region. FAN statewide, but we have our people in specific regions and stuff, and we are all trying to hit up the same donors, the people with the same value. So people out of state who can support Southern and abortion funds in Florida is incredibly, incredibly valuable so that we are not just relying on people regionally. And I would also say in terms of ... And also just following us, uplifting our work, showing what we're doing down here in Florida. FAN does a lot of virtual events that people anywhere across the country can attend. So you can follow us and attend events and plug it to people in your area and show there's this cool ass abortion fund in Florida that is doing work that I didn't even know they were doing in Florida.

I think that's the other thing I'll say before I pass it on, that what I want people to know about FAN in Florida is that we are doing radical work that people imagine is happening in California or New York or whatever. That is happening here in Florida, and that's not just FAN, it's across the other abortion funds, it's across movements and it's across issues. The labor organizing here and the immigration organizing here and the pro Palestine organizing here. All of those things, that's happening here too. And I think people are very quick to write off Florida. There's a mass exodus of Florida and people are struggling. So we don't need narratives combating the work that we're doing here because we're already working against incredibly hostile conditions. So people out of state who support our work, please defend us, defend Florida out there because there's a lot worthwhile in this state.

Amelia Bonow:

Yeah. Absolutely. Y'all are proof of that. And it's not just y'all. I didn't know that there were six funds in the state. That's pretty amazing. I don't know if you said five or six, but that's incredible. And my experience getting to travel and do this work for a decade now is that the people that are holding this work in more hostile places are the absolute baddest ones. And people in California need to take several seats before they have anything to say about that. And by definition, you're navigating stuff that other people just simply can't imagine. And you're just showing up as yourselves like this out there and not giving a fuck. It's really a blueprint for that California should be asking, how can we go harder? Please give us a lesson.

There's another good question in the chat. Also, I don't know if y'all have ... When you said that you have events that people can attend, is the best way to find those follow you on social or do you have a mailing list also?

Laura Rosado:

Yes. So we have social media and then also a mailing list that I'm not

Amelia Bonow:

Sure if I

Laura Rosado:

Actually included in the list of links for y'all, but I can find it super quick and

Amelia Bonow:

General. Okay. If not, we can put a link in the recap. There's a couple other good questions. One is if there is a specific program that y'all would recommend for abortion doula training. I know that there's a lot at this point, which is great.

Ciné Julien:

Yeah. I would love to start if anyone has any other recommendations. I know that at FAM, it's required on onboarding that we all get abortion doula certified. We were all certified through the Colorado Doula Project, and they have recurring doula cohorts. I know that locally in South Florida, there's the Southern Birth Justice Network. They have an in person doula cohort. They've graduated, I believe, five cohorts so far, and they actually have a program with the Jackson Memorial Hospital. So they have a specific set of doulas that do on the ground training at that specific hospital. I've also attended and seen a handful of other doula trainings. The Birthing Act advocacy doula training is a really good ... I recently took the Repro TLC doula program last year, and that was really nice. There's also birth workers of color that have virtual cohorts. There's a bunch.

So definitely do your research. Find what I think fits well for you. There's specific trainings, different types of doula trainings, abortion doula trainings, full spectrum doula trainings, miscarriage doulas, postpartum doulas. It's a wide spectrum. So whatever you feel like you want to dive into first, you can definitely take baby steps or you can do a virtual info session first to see how you like the curriculums and then dive into it.

Amelia Bonow:

Perfect. There's so much good tangible information being shared in this session. I love it. This is a question in the chat about social media, which I forget which one of you said, but I think Laura, you were talking about people being into physical media right now, which is very much our experience as well. And this question is, in what ways are you still using social media (meta platforms) how do you deal with digital repression, censorship, shadow-banning, et cetera, when disseminating information?

Laura Rosado:

Oh, yeah. This is the struggle of my job. It's the bane of my existence of my job. And I think that's one of the reasons why the newspaper came to fruition because it just felt like we weren't reaching people. We weren't reaching people on meta platforms. So first, we are on Facebook and Instagram, and I think we are active on there. We make sure that those are active and updated and that people can still reach us through there because people do find us still through there. And even with all the struggles of the shadow-ban and this, that, and the other, it's still effective in reaching people, but I've definitely found our emails to be more effective in reaching people directly. So for me, I've oriented towards meta and social media as ways for people to find us and get a big picture idea of us, and then find ways to connect with us in deeper ways, which would then be the email and our events and our fundraisers and the newspaper, and finding us in more like a scavenger hunt way. And the social media is just what's out there for anyone to find.

And I would say in terms of the shadow-ban, the algorithm, I felt for so long that the algorithm was biased against us. And it is, it absolutely is because we say abortion, we say all these things, and we are so unapologetically pro abortion, but as time has gone on with Instagram and all these things, I'm just seeing engagement down for everyone, regardless of whether you are-

Amelia Bonow:

Oh, totally.

Laura Rosado:

Whether you are an abortion-focused ... Anyone, creators, everyone, their engagement is down. So to me, it's also not just in terms of us specifically as an abortion fund, it's like those platforms are dying and we don't want to be caught stuck there when they're dead. We can keep them going, but we need to have other avenues. And so with the newspapers, one avenue of self-ownership, we produce them, we get them printed ourselves, we distribute them with partners and stuff. We don't really have any middlemen with that. And we have our blog where we update people on our website. We're going to get a Substack started very soon and just continuing to diversify and own our communication channels. Our newsletter is a really great way to keep up with us outside of Instagram if you're worried that our posts aren't coming up at the top of your feed and stuff. And so really the way we're orienting social social media is making sure that it's there and it's active, but turning our heads towards-

Amelia Bonow:

It's not like where you're building.

Laura Rosado:

Exactly. In terms of optimizing outreach, that's not really where we're trying to do that.

Amelia Bonow:

Yeah. Totally. That makes a lot of sense. And I think it's definitely the experience of pretty much everyone that I talk to. Like you said, not even in the movement, but it does just feel like that part of the internet is dying. I think that there's tons of people that just haven't deleted their account, but don't go there because it's so fucked up and depressing and it's all ads and telling you to get on GLP-1s and buy shit. It's just awful.

Laura Rosado:

And I would say that would be the other part of it, of the self-ownership piece beyond just reaching people is the values of it. The values of our organization are fundamentally in contradiction to these platforms, and we are held hostage to these platforms. If FAN doesn't have an Instagram, we lose credibility, we lose legitimacy. People are going to be like, "Why don't you have an Instagram? What is this organization?" And so we have it.

Amelia Bonow:

Yeah, totally.

Laura Rosado:

And the newspaper is also a way to break through the monotony and over saturation of information. People are out in the world, they're seeing it catches their eye and stuff, and they can go from there.

Amelia Bonow:

Is there a way for folks to buy or request a copy of the newspaper?

Laura Rosado:

So right now they will be in specific locations in the state of Florida, and we have the digital version that I think they shared the link to. And this time around, we don't have a specific request for people to receive a physical copy.

Amelia Bonow:

That's understandable.

Laura Rosado:

But it's in our sites. This is our second issue, so we're trying to see how it goes with this. And we do want to have either a subscription, mail buy subscription kind of thing, so people can receive it out of state.

Amelia Bonow:

Yeah. That would be amazing. This has been so wonderful. I don't think there's any more questions in the chat, and I feel like most of the notes that I wrote down I've gotten to, except for I just wanted to say that I love alligators deeply and unironically I feel very connected to them. I think they're hilarious and so charming, and it's really cool that you get to be around them, and I love how much they're a part of your brand.

Laura Rosado:

People have really identified with the abortion gator. People want the abortion gator on all of our merch and everything. So yeah. They've become a character. I won't misgender the gator, but the abortion gator.

Amelia Bonow:

The NB abortion gator. No. You shit's all gorgeous. And you said it, Laura, but it bears repeating that one of the many reasons that we know we're going to win is because we make shit that's beautiful and they are literally not capable of that because their brains are not wired to make things look good or be cool. It's like the ops don't know any graphic designers. I've literally never seen something made by the ops that I'm like, it's pretty good. I'm just always like, that's trash. You've never known your way around a typeface. And yeah. I think that it's a very important part of building a movement is making it look and feel and be something that people want to be a part of that feels good. And I think that that's been one of my favorite things to hear from y'all today is how much you're embodying that on every level and just in your spirits, in your vibes and the way that you showed up today. We love you and we are so grateful to be in movement with you. And if there's anything we can do, we're down. And I guess my last question is just, is there anything that you didn't get a chance to say that you'd like to say to folks who are still here or final requests? Aside from to get you that 50 grand, when is that again? When is that fundraiser starting? May?

Laura Rosado:

It's already active, but we want to raise 50K by May 31st. So folks have ... Donate today. Donate today. but there's also time to support.

Amelia Bonow:

Donate today. Yeah. Is there anything else that you wanted to say that you didn't get a chance to?

Laura Rosado:

Lana'e and Cine' do you want to share? Okay. The last thing that I will say is just to show Shout Your Abortions Beautiful Spread in our newspaper.

Amelia Bonow:

Yay. It's so good. Shout out Erin.

Laura Rosado:

Cut-outs.

Amelia Bonow:

Amazing.

Laura Rosado:

All options, postcards.

Amelia Bonow:

Yes.

Laura Rosado:

So yeah, make sure to check out the digital copy. And if you're in Florida, get a physical copy next week.

Amelia Bonow:

Oh my God. I'm so excited. I want to know, I'm going to email, follow up, ask where somebody can get one in St. Pete. I have somebody I need to send to get a copy. Yeah.

Laura Rosado:

We got you.

Amelia Bonow:

Okay. All right, y'all. Well, we love and appreciate you and are so just grateful to be connected.

Laura Rosado:

Thank you. We love y'all too. And just so excited for more Shout Your Abortion FAN collabs in the future.

Amelia Bonow:

Yes. Yes. Yes. Indefinitely. All right. We love you. We believe in you. We got this. Everybody stay up and take a deep breath and we're in this together. It's really fucking hard, but we have each other and we're going to win.

Laura Rosado:

Yes. And that's the tea. .

Ciné Julien:

Bye. Thank you.

Lana'e Hernandez:

Thank you guys.

Amelia Bonow:

Bye. Thank you.