



Delaware Cancer Consortium
Delaware Cancer Registry Advisory Committee (DCRAC)
Monday, January 13th, 2025
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Location:
Thomas Collins Building
540 S. DuPont Hwy.,
Dover, DE 19901
Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Attendance

Members

Attended	Robert Hall-McBride, Christiana Care Health Systems
Attended	Stephanie Guarino, Nemours
Attended	James M. Monihan, MD, Allied Diagnostic Pathology Consultants, PA
Attended	Nicholas Petrelli, MD, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Attended	Rishi Sawhney, MD, Bayhealth Medical Center
Attended	John D. Shevock, Bayhealth Medical Center
Attended	James Spellman, MD, Beebe Healthcare - Tunnell Cancer Center
Did Not Attend	Rita Williams, Beebe Healthcare
Attended	Scott D. Siegel, PhD, ChristianaCare

Staff

Attended	Wilhelmina Ross, Delaware Cancer Registry/Westat
Attended	Jason Lawson, Delaware Division of Public Health
Attended	Sumitha Nagarajan, Delaware Division of Public Health
Attended	Maricarmen Traverso-Ortiz, Delaware Cancer Registry/Westat
Attended	Helen Arthur, Delaware Division of Public Health

Welcome

Attendance was recorded of committee members participating in the hybrid meeting.

Old & New Business

Approval of Minutes

The DCRAC reviewed and approved the minutes from the October 2024 meeting as written.

DCR Information Technology Modernization Plan

Mr. Jason Lawson, Information Technology (IT) Manager, provided updates on the Delaware Cancer Registry's (DCR) IT Modernization Plan. WebPlus is up-to-date and in production. Now that the annual Call for Data 2024 submission is finished, EMaRC Plus will also be updated. Mr. Lawson and others are meeting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week to discuss the upcoming migration from Rocky Mountain database software to CRS Plus, which would act as the central cancer registry database.

Registry Updates

Ms. Wilhelmina Ross, Project Manager, provided updates on the operations of the DCR. Registry staff submitted the annual Call for Data 2024 submission to both the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) in late 2024. There is also a stored copy of the data in case the Virtual Pooled Registry (VPR) requests any data. The registry will find out their certification score from the submission in June of 2025.

DCRA Updates

Ms. Maricarmen Traverso-Ortiz, Educational Coordinator, provided updates on the Delaware Cancer Registrar's Association (DCRA) on behalf of Ms. Colleen Grosso, DCRA President. Ms. Grosso was recently elected as President of DCRA, with Ms. Jennifer Kazan as Vice President, both from UPenn. The agenda is being developed for the annual educational meeting. A survey has been sent to all DCRA members to help with this effort. The next educational meeting will take place in February 2025 and feature a webinar from NAACCR. DCRA has also recovered funds from the basket at the National Cancer Registrar's Association (NCRA) conference and will donate it to one selected hospital facility. Mr. Robert Hall-McBride, Christiana Care, asked Ms. Traverso-Ortiz if there are any in-person educational opportunities planned. The Commission on Cancer (CoC) implemented a new rule that requires attendance of in-person meetings. This is a topic that will be discussed at the DCRA meeting in February. Dr. Nicholas Petrelli, DCRAC Chairman, suggested that one of the DCRAC meetings could be used to satisfy this requirement, since it is in hybrid format.

Epidemiology Working Group Updates

Ms. Sumitha Nagarajan, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, shared updates from the Epidemiology Working Group. The group has been investigating which areas in Delaware have the highest cancer incidence rates statewide. As part of the annually released Incidence and Mortality (I&M) Report, there is a census tract compendium report that is legislatively mandated and compares incidence rates among census tracts. The group reviewed previous reports to identify areas that have demonstrated consistently elevated incidence rates. One area of particular interest is the Middletown, Odessa, Townsend area, which was found to have higher cancer incidence rates compared to the state average. The group has started preliminary analysis into investigating this occurrence, examining demographics and other factors unique to the area. This area has a younger than average population and it is an affluent area with only 5.8% below poverty level, and a lower percentage lacking health insurance. This is all preliminary analysis and will continue to be explored. Next steps in the analysis include examining Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data to look at screening utilization in the area. Additionally, risk factors such as tobacco use will be analyzed, and SAT Scan may be employed. Ms. Nagarajan will distribute the slides to the committee members.

Update: Breast Cancer Hotspots Project

Dr. Scott Siegel, Christiana Care, shared an update on his project investigating breast cancer racial disparities and hotspots. To recap, black women have a 40% higher breast cancer mortality rate, with two main drivers: screening and triple-negative breast cancer.

Brainstorming Ideas for Future Meetings

Dr. Petrelli asked Dr. Siegel if he could share his updated data at the next meeting if possible. Dr. Petrelli also reminded members they can email him with any meeting topic ideas.

Next Steps:

- Ms. Nagarajan will distribute her slides to committee members.
- Dr. Siegel will share his updated data at the next meeting.

Future Meetings	
Next Meeting: April 7, 2025	Upcoming Meetings: July 14, 2025 October 6, 2025