

Delaware Cancer Consortium

Advisory Council

October 14, 2024

Approved Minutes

HYBRID MEETING

In-person location:

Thomas Collins Bldg, Dover DE

Members

Participated	Katy Connolly – Chair
Participated	Heather Bittner-Fagan – Christiana Care Health System
Participated	Deborah Brown, CHES – American Lung Association
Participated	Eric Buckson – Delaware Senate
Participated	Natalie Crisenzo – Office of the Governor
Participated	Stephen Grubbs, MD – American Society of Clinical Oncologists
Participated	Bethany Hall-Long, RNC, PhD – University of Delaware/Delaware Lt. Governor
Did not Participate	Kendra Johnson – Delaware House of Representatives
Participated	Valerie Jones Giltner – Delaware House of Representatives
Participated	Awele Maduka, MD – State Medical Director
Did not Participate	Meg Maley, RN, BSN – Welldoc, Inc.
Participated	Nicholas Petrelli, MD – Christiana Care - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Did not Participate	Marie Pinkney – Delaware Senate
Participated	Tim Ratsep – Delaware of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Participated	Rishi Sawhney, MD – Bayhealth Medical Center
Participated	James Spellman, MD, FACS, FSSO – Beebe Healthcare - Tunnell Cancer Center
Participated	Scott Siegal, MD – Christiana Care - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center

Staff

Participated	Helen Arthur– Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Lisa Moore – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Sharon Richey -Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Sumitha Nagarajan – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Dawn Hollinger – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Paulette Robinson-Wilkerson – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Lyra Gibbs-Lloyd – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Christinette Dixon – Delaware Division of Public Health contractor
Participated	Lauren Butscher – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Sarah Cattie – Delaware Division of Public Health
Did not Participate	Jade Nagyiski – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Nikita Clark - Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Stephen Cassese – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Dale Goodine - Delaware Division of Public Health

Guests

Participated	Rita Williams – Beebe Healthcare
Participated	Pam Schauer- American Cancer Society
Participated	Allison Gil – American Cancer Society
Participated	Lacey Eriksen – Delaware Based Creative & Marketer
Participated	Nora Katurakas – Christiana Care Health System

Welcome/Review/Approval of Minutes

Review/Approval of Minutes

Katy Connolly, Chair, began the Advisory Council meeting at 8:31 a.m. Dr. Nick Petrelli made a motion to approve July 2024 minutes as written and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall Long seconded the motion. Advisory Council members voted and approved the minutes.

Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP) Update

Dawn Hollinger, Cancer Prevention and Control Bureau Chief reported that during fiscal year 2024, the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP) approved 80 new applications. Of those, 53 were financial hardship waivers, 14 were eligible for temporary status, and 13 were undocumented residents. A total of 76% of those approved for financial hardship waivers are Medicare clients. Since the beginning of the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program in 2004, the program has had 2088 Delaware residents participate, with undocumented residents being the only individuals who receive 100% coverage.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, a total of 32 new applications were approved. 21 are financial hardship waivers, 5 are eligible for temporary status, and 6 are undocumented residents. A total of 20 applications were denied in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025. Ms. Hollinger stated that the number of applications this fiscal year is trending higher than the same time period of previous fiscal years. This trend will be followed monthly as it may also result in an increased number of claims submitted.

Regarding the DCTP budget, \$2,774,959.97 has been allocated to the program which includes \$175,459.97 for the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance for the administrative maintenance of the claims. That money is transferred each year by a memorandum of understanding, which was updated this fiscal year.

Payment of DCTP claims is set up on a purchase order totaling \$1.8 million. Total spending for fiscal year 2024 is \$1,633,077.50, which equals an average weekly payment \$32,661.55. That is slightly lower than the total fiscal year 2023 weekly average of \$34,475.23 but is expected increase as more fiscal year 2024 date of service claims are submitted.

Ms. Hollinger advised the AC members that the program would continue to watch the claims expenses monthly throughout fiscal year 2025 and advise if it begins to trend significantly higher than fiscal year 2024. One expense that has been higher is pharmaceutical costs associated with cancer treatments. Increasing costs coupled with increased program enrollment may impact the end of financial position of the DCTP.

Dr. Petrelli inquired about the number of denied applications and if the main reason for those denials. Ms. Hollinger responded there are two main reasons for the majority of denials; not all household members are willing to provide income statements to complete the applications or the application is not able to prove Delaware residency. Dr. Petrelli indicated that those seem to be the same reasons year over year for the program.

Cancer Incidence and Mortality Report

Sumitha Nagarajan, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, presented the latest Delaware Cancer Incidence and Mortality report from 2017 to 2021. The current report focuses on all site cancer and provides trends on cancer incidence and mortality along with comparative U.S. statistics. This report includes site-specific tables on cancer rates and rankings for the top 23 cancer sites. The report revealed a higher cancer incidence rate in Delaware compared to the US. Non-Hispanic black males had a higher prostate cancer incidence, while non-Hispanic white females had a higher lung cancer incidence. Breast cancer was the most common among women and prostate cancer among men. The cancer mortality rate in Delaware was higher than the US, with Kent County having the highest rate. The distribution of cancer deaths by cancer site was also highlighted, with lung cancer having the largest percentage of new cancer deaths. Ms. Nagarajan acknowledged Delaware's progress in lung cancer screening, despite some challenges, and emphasized the state's potential for better performance compared to other states, despite declining colorectal screening numbers.

FY25 Cancer Education and Outreach Campaigns

Dawn Hollinger addressed priorities for fiscal year 25, emphasizing data modernization and community outreach. She emphasized the need for improved data visualization and real-time reporting, and increased screenings and education in high-risk areas.

Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Dale Goodine provided an overview of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey and new questions that are added this year. Mr. Goodine discussed the low participation rates and suggested strategies to improve participation.

National Lung Cancer Screening Day

Paulette Robinson-Wilkerson, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Administrator, discussed the November 9 Lung Cancer Screening Day event and the expanded number of Delaware imaging facilities and providers who are participating this year. A press release and other social media tactics will be distributed as the event gets closer.

Aloysius, Butler, and Clark Marketing

Krissy McMahan presented on the planned cancer education campaigns that are scheduled for fiscal year 2025. Ms. McMahan provided an overview of information to include in the upcoming colorectal cancer campaign and asked for AC member input to guide the development of campaign tactics and whether Cologuard and FIT tests should be included in the campaign. Dr. Bittner-Fagan suggested that any test the patient is willing to get is the best test and suggested that Cologuard and FIT tests should be mentioned as alternative tests, but that colonoscopy is the preferred screening method.

New Subcommittee

Dawn Hollinger introduced a new subcommittee for Collaboration on Cancer Education and Research, part of the Early Detection and Prevention Committee. The committee will include representatives from colleges, universities, and community support. Dr. Siegel proposed a work group to address statewide breast cancer disparities using statewide data to identify high priority communities for precise interventions. He also referenced a commentary in the Delaware Journal of Public Health.

Christiana Care Research Update

Dr. Siegel discussed the disparities in breast cancer incidence and mortality rates between black and white women, attributed to lower uptake of screening mammography and adjuvant endocrine therapy among black women. He highlighted the high incidence of triple-negative breast cancer in Delaware, particularly among black women, and its impact on mortality rates. Dr. Siegel emphasized the need for improved early detection and prevention strategies, particularly in hotspots like Wilmington and Middletown. An intervention in Wilmington was implemented, with plans for a formal evaluation. The colorectal screening program is being used as a model for the initiative.

Calendar year 2025 Meeting Dates

Kate Connolly approved Delaware Cancer Consortium meeting dates for calendar year 2025: January 13, April 14, July 14, and October 6.

Sharing Time

There were no Public Comments.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Adjournment

Chair, Katy Connolly adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am after thanking all members and staff for participating.

Attachments



DCC IM 2017-2021_ BC disparities
PPT FINAL.pdf



(Siegel)_updated Oc

Meeting documentation is available on the DCC website (www.healthydelaware.org) or by contacting Jade Nagyiski (Jade.Nagyiski@delaware.gov or 302-744-1000).

Future Meeting(s)

Next Meeting: January 13th, 2025 - Hybrid	2025 meetings: January 13th, 2025 - Hybrid April 14th, 2025 - Hybrid July 14th, 2025 – Hybrid October 6th, 2025 - Hybrid
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