



Delaware Cancer Consortium
Delaware Cancer Registry Advisory Committee (DCRAC)
Monday, July 14th, 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
Did Not Attend	Stephanie Guarino, Nemours
Did Not Attend	James M. Monihan, MD, Allied Diagnostic Pathology Consultants, PA
Attended	Nicholas Petrelli, MD, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Did Not Attend	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	Dawn Hollinger, Delaware Division of Public Health
Attended	Diane Ng, Delaware Cancer Registry/Westat

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 January 2025 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. DCR is in the process of transitioning the cancer registry's database from Rocky Mountain Cancer Data Systems (RMCDs) software to CRS Plus, which is a part of the Registry Plus suite created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Staff are working to overcome some technological obstacles within the transition. The CDC have provided some digital tools to streamline the process, so those are being installed and then data will be checked for issues prior to being imported.

Registry Updates

Ms. Wilhelmina Ross, Project Manager, provided updates on the operations of the DCR. Ms. Ross shared that for the 2024 Call for Data Submission, the registry received Gold Certification for up to diagnosis year 2022 from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR). This is the highest possible data certification standard. Ms. Ross presented some statistics regarding the 2024 data submission regarding data quality and completeness. The registry's data exceeded the national completeness standard and exceeded other national data quality standards. Ms. Ross also highlighted potential areas of improvement and training opportunities for reporters and abstractors.

DCR Legislative Updates

Ms. Sumitha Nagarajan, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, and Ms. Ross brought up potential changes to the DCR Legislative Code. Ms. Nagarajan proposed starting the collection of a few state-specific fields regarding risk factors and screening during the data collection process. These data items concern risk factors for cancer such as alcohol, obesity, vaping, and smoking, for example. These items would be helpful to have in conducting future analyses. The proposed changes will be sent to the committee for member review and feedback, and then will be sent to Department of Public Health (DPH) leadership, and for public feedback as well. Ms. Ross will reach out to committee members Dr. Scott Siegel, ChristianaCare, Robert Hall-McBride, ChristianaCare, and John Shevock, Bayhealth Medical Center, to form a workgroup to provide input on these new data items.

Epidemiology Working Group Updates, Small Area-Level Estimates Report

Ms. Nagarajan shared updates from the Epidemiology Working Group, specifically the findings from the Small Area-Level Estimates Report. This report concerns small area-level cancer incidence in Delaware from 2017-2021. In this report, incidence is broken down by census tract (for all-site incidence only) and cancer reporting zone. The reporting zones allow for better quality reporting at the sub-county level. Based on initial results of this report, higher incidence rates for breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers are found in the Middletown, Odessa, and Townsend (MOT) area compared to the rest of the state. A new project has started that aims to analyze long-term cancer patterns and trends over time in this area. Risk factors will also be included in this analysis. An update on this project will be provided at the October 2025 meeting.

Legislative briefs are also being produced as planned for every few years, which give legislators a snapshot into cancer in their constituents' area.

Update on Breast Cancer Disparities Research

Dr. Scott Siegel, Director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the Graham Center at ChristianaCare, provided an update on his team's research, previously covered in January 2025's committee meeting. Delaware is ranked highest in the United States for the Black-White disparity in triple negative breast cancer incidence. Last year, Dr.

Siegel's team implemented a precision health approach which focuses on high-priority areas or hot spots. This allows for resources to be directed to where they would be most impactful. Screening and risk management activities were also increased, along with community partnerships. As a pilot intervention, a community health worker was placed in an identified hotspot to perform risk assessments and encourage screenings. If this pilot program proves to be effective it will be replicated in other hotspots throughout the state. At the next committee meeting, Dr. Siegel will present preliminary pilot intervention data, as well as the results of state hotspot identification analysis (with a focus on downstate).

Brainstorming Ideas for Future Meetings

This agenda item was not addressed during the meeting.

Next Steps:

- Ms. Ross will distribute her presentation slides to committee members.
- Ms. Ross will distribute the proposed legislative changes and the proposed new data items for collection.
- Ms. Ross will reach out to the aforementioned committee members to provide input on the proposed state-specific data items.
- Dr. Siegel will provide updates on his project at the next committee meeting.

Future Meetings	
Next Meeting: October 6, 2025	Upcoming Meetings: 2026 Dates TBD