

Delaware Cancer Consortium

Advisory Council

July 8, 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
Did not Participate	Natalie Criszeno – 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
Did not Participate	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
Did not Participate	Rishi Sawhney, MD – Bayhealth Medical Center
Participated	James Spellman, MD, FACS, FSSO – Beebe Healthcare - Tunnell Cancer Center

Staff

Participated	Helen Arthur– Delaware Division of Public Health
Did not Participate	Lisa Moore – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Rosemary Doughten-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
Did not Participate	Christinette Dixon – Delaware Division of Public Health contractor
Participated	Lauren Butscher – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Sarah Cattie – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Jade Nagyiski – Delaware Division of Public Health
Participated	Nikita Clark - Delaware Division of Public Health

Guests

Participated	Heather Bittner-Fagan, MD, MPH – Christiana Care Health System
Participated	Mike Hermann
Participated	Rita Williams – Beebe HealthCare

Welcome/Review/Approval of Minutes

Review/Approval of Minutes

Katy Connolly, Chair, began the Advisory Council meeting at 8:30 am by asking for a vote to approve the January 2024 minutes. Dr. Petrelli motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Grubbs seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the January 2024 minutes were approved as written.

Ms. Dawn Hollinger, Cancer Prevention & Control Bureau Chief announced that Nikita Clark has joined the Bureau in June as the new Screening for Life/Health Care Connection Program Administrator and Jade Nagyiski joined in March as the Administrative Specialist II.

Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP) Update

Dawn Hollinger provided an overview Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP) enrollment through FY 2024. A total of 80 applications were approved with 53 being financial hardship waiver, 14 on temporary eligibility, and 13 undocumented residents. That brings the total number of residents assisted by the DCTP since its inception to 2,067.

Ms. Hollinger also provided an update on the DCTP budget for FY 2024 noting that final funding level will not be available until all FY 2024 date of service claims are submitted and paid. For FY 2024, \$2.7 million was allocated to the DCTP which includes \$176,000 to the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance for administration of claims and \$1.8 million placed on a purchase order for payment of claims. Additional funding is used to support special projects and development of cancer awareness campaigns. A comprehensive funding report will be presented at the October DCC meeting.

Next, Ms. Hollinger asked for feedback and guidance from the DCC Advisory Council regarding the creation of a set of frequently asked questions to support the DCTP application process. Advisory Council comments were provided on what should be the qualification as a Delaware resident. It was decided that six (6) months is sufficient time to request a DCTP applicant to be in Delaware prior to cancer diagnosis and application to the Program. A complete list of frequently asked questions will be sent to Advisory Council members for further review and comment before they are added to the application.

FY24 Budget – FY25 Projection

Dawn Hollinger - The Delaware Legislature approved the FY 2025 Cancer Prevention and Control Bureau budget, slightly higher at \$9.52 million compared to \$9.47 million in FY 2024, due to additional funding for pass-through programs, not specifically for the Bureau's activities.

2024 Retreat – Review & Follow-up

Dawn Hollinger - On April 9, 2024, Bally's Conference Center 144 individuals registered with 125 attending. The event was praised for its informative content and engaging social media posts. A post-event survey revealed that 73% preferred panel discussions over breakout sessions. The next retreat is scheduled for April 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of the DCC.

Articles submitted to the Delaware Journal of Public Health and future articles

Dawn Hollinger- In June 2024, staff from the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section, to include the epidemiologist and members of the Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control, submitted three articles to the Delaware Journal of Public Health. The first article evaluated the quality of cancer care in Delaware using the American College of Surgeons Commission on

Cancer (CoC) measures, focusing on the 2018-2019 registry data. The study found that three measures met the CoC standard for diagnosis year 2018, while all four measures met the CoC standard for 2019.

The second article described the Delaware Cancer Registry's (DCR) participation in the National Cancer Institute (NCI)/North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) Zone Design Project to create sub-county geographic areas for cancer reporting and geospatial analysis. The DCR sent a survey to stakeholders to provide input on up to ten unique zone configurations for each of Delaware's three counties, which were then created through AZ Tool. The DCR then utilized the geographies for calculating overall and late-stage breast cancer incidence statistics and created choropleth maps to visualize the rates by quintiles.

The third article examined whether improvements in racial disparities for colorectal cancer (CRC) have been sustained a decade later and the status of Delaware's current cancer burden. The analysis involved cancer incidence data from the DCR, mortality data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, and cancer screening data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Results showed that between 2006-2010 and 2015-2019, CRC incidence rates decreased for non-Hispanic Black Delawareans and decreased for non-Hispanic White Delawareans. However, there were no significant differences in CRC incidence or mortality rates by race/ethnicity in either period.

In conclusion, Delaware has sustained improvements in CRC incidence, mortality rates, and disparities between non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic White groups. The state will continue to monitor CRC trends and outcomes to ensure early diagnosis and eliminate disparities. Dr. Stephen Grubbs and Dr. Heather Bittner-Fagan assisting with this article.

Updating cancer screening recommendation language to be more inclusive

Dawn Hollinger – Introduced the need for updating the cancer screening recommendation language to be more inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ community. The federal project officer from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided Ms. Hollinger with several references to use in updating the language as did marketing firm, Aloysius, Butler, and Clark. The CDC federal project officer cautioned on using the terms male and female in any part of the descriptions and suggested replacing that with the words "individuals with" since neutral terms are accepted in place of gender-specific terms.

Dr. Maduka suggested language updates for cervical cancer screening recommendations to ensure inclusivity and maintain readability.

Present draft updated bylaws for the Delaware Cancer Consortium

Since 2012, the By-laws have been in place without any formal revisions, and copies will be provided to Advisory Council members for review before being distributed to all DCC members.

Sharing Time

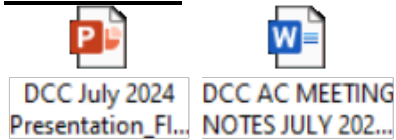
Public Comment

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



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: October 14, 2024 - Hybrid	2025 meetings: Dates TBD January 2025 - Hybrid April 2025 - Hybrid July 2025 – In-person October 2025 - Hybrid
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