**Delaware Cancer Consortium**

**Advisory Council**

**October 12, 2020**

**Approved- Minutes**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Members** |  |
| Participated | Katy Connolly – Chair |
| Participated | Heather Bittner-Fagan – Christiana Care Health System |
| Did not participate | Ruth Briggs-King – Delaware House of Representatives |
| Participated | Deborah Brown, CHES – American Lung Association |
| Participated | Joe Bryant – Governor’s Office |
| Participated | Stephen Grubbs, MD – American Society of Clinical Oncologists |
| Participated | Bethany Hall-Long, RNC, PhD – University of Delaware/Delaware Lt. Governor |
| Did not participate | Ernesto Lopez – Delaware Senate |
| Did not participate | Meg Maley, RN, BSN – Welldoc, Inc. |
| Participated | Nicholas Petrelli, MD – Christiana Care - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center |
| Did not participate | Tim Ratsep – Delaware of Natural Resources and Environmental Control |
| Did not participate | Karyl Rattay, MD, MS, FAAP – Delaware Department of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Health |
| Participated | Rishi Sawhney, MD – Bayhealth Medical Center |
| Did not participate | Ray Seigfried – Delaware House of Representatives |
| Participated | James Spellman, MD, FACS, FSSO – Beebe Medical Center - Tunnell Cancer Center |
|  |  |
| **Staff** |  |
| Participated | Heather Brown – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Participated | Michele Corkell – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Participated | Helen Arthur – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Participated | Cassandra Codes-Johnson – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Participated | Rosemary Doughten – Delaware Division of Public Health |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Guests** |  |
| Participated | Wilhelmina Ross – Westat/Delaware Cancer Registry |
| Participated | Diane Ng – Westat/Delaware Cancer Registry |
| Participated | Tanner Polce – Office of the Lt. Governor |
| Participated | Jeanne Chiquoine – American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network |
|  |  |

**Welcome/Review/Approval of minutes**

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

Chair, Ms. Katy Connolly began the virtual meeting at 8:30 am. Dr. Stephen Grubbs made a motion for the July 2020 minutes to be approved and Dr. Nicholas Petrelli seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

**Finalized HFAC Budget Submission**

Ms. Heather Brown reported that she submitted the requested FY22 budget, that had been approved by the Advisory Council at the July meeting, on September 2nd for review by the Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC). The first HFAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd from 2 – 4 pm and anyone may attend the virtual meeting, however you must register in advance. The HFAC meetings are held to determine the funding for the next fiscal year. Chair Katy Connolly stated she hopes the budget will remain intact but because of the pandemic, she anticipates there will be cuts.

**Healthy Lifestyles Subcommittee Report – status and next steps**

Section Chief of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Helen Arthur advised that there has been a brief pause in the presentation to the Office of the Governor of the Healthy Lifestyles Subcommittee report. The draft report has been developed and there have been attempts to have the meeting scheduled on several occasions. Co-chairs, Lt. Gov. Hall-Long and Dr. Rattay, feel it is extremely important work and both want to participate in the presentation.

**I & M 2012-2016 report presentation**

Diane Ng from the Delaware Cancer Registry presented the Incidence & Mortality (I & M) 2012-2016 report to the Advisory Council members. According to the report there were 28,581 incidences of cancer during the time period 2012-2016. Delaware remained ranked 2nd highest nationally for cancer incidence (statistically significantly higher than the U.S. incidence rate) Delaware males ranked 3rd highest and females ranked 5th highest for cancer incidence (both statistically significantly higher than the U.S. rate) The most commonly diagnosed cancers in males is: prostate, lung, colorectal, urinary bladder, melanoma, non-hodgkins lymphoma (NHL), kidney, oral, leukemia and pancreas. For Delaware females the most commonly diagnosed cancers are: breast, lung, colorectal, uterine, thyroid, melanoma, NHL, pancreas, kidney and ovary.

According to the I & M Report, there were a total of 9,945 deaths from cancer during 2012-2016. DE ranked 15th highest nationally for cancer mortality (statistically significantly higher than the U.S. mortality rate).

As of January 1, 2016, there were an estimated 50,760 cancer survivors in Delaware. Delaware continues to provide services and access to care to cancer survivors via the programs in the following areas: cancer screening and prevention, insurance and treatment, follow-up and maintenance.

In Summary:

• Delaware continues to have the second highest cancer incidence in the nation even though incidence rates are declining.

• Delaware mortality rates are decreasing even though Delaware ranks 15th nationally for cancer mortality.

• Cancer screening rates continue to be high in Delaware with an increasing number of cancers being diagnosed at earlier, more treatable stages.

• Delaware cancer survivorship is increasing due to proper coordination and care between cancer specialists and primary care physicians.

o Delaware has available cancer programs and services that focus on the needs of cancer

survivors that include screening and prevention, insurance, treatments, and survivorship

programs that have goals in improving the cancer survivor’s health and quality of life.

• There need to be continued efforts to improve and enhance not only cancer screening, but also cancer prevention in Delaware by addressing behavioral risk factors and social determinants of health.

Ms. Helen Arthur, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Section Chief, stated that the collaboration between the Delaware Cancer Consortium and DPH has made good strides in the work to reducing cancer however there is more work to be done. Work is diligently being done in advancing healthy lifestyles, prevention, COVID19 and cancer screening impact, achieving health equity and creating my Healthy Community portal. The subcommittee – Healthy Lifestyles – was created to focus on the goal to prioritize areas and draft a report that has a list of items that are actionable. Ms. Arthur added, the Lt. Governor’s Challenge awards are being presented virtually tomorrow to individuals and communities that promote physical and emotional well-being. The impact of COVID19 on cancer screening is also being addressed as screening numbers abruptly dropped since the beginning of the pandemic. Ms. Arthur added that the Chronic Disease Bureau was recently awarded the WiseWoman Grant and the programs are excited to work towards reducing risk factors for stroke and heart disease. The focus will be on uninsured and under insured individuals.

**DCTP Spending and Enrollment Numbers**

Ms. Heather Brown, Chronic Disease Bureau Chief, shared that there was $3.5mm of funding allocated for FY20 to the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP). A total of $3mm has been spent to date and $250,000 was re-allocated in April to focus on lung cancer. There is still $250,000, however there has been a lag in claims due to COVID19 so that funding needs remain available. There are currently 65 people in the program which consists of 20 undocumented individuals that are 100% eligible. There are 11 temporarily eligible as gap coverage and they will be terminated as of December 31, 2020 because they will then be eligible for the health insurance marketplace. There are 34 clients covered under the financial hardship waiver and 27 of the 34 are on Medicare. The majority of the cancers that are in the program are lung and breast.

**DCTP Coverage Discussion**

Dr. James Spellman inquired about testing to be covered, specifically one of his skin cancer patients, by the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP). Chair, Katy Connolly responded that the DCTP has never covered testing, only treatment. Dr. Petrelli also stated that testing has never been covered and he didn’t recall any physicians or social workers complaining that it has been a problem. He feels it cuts down on a lot of testing that is not needed. Dr. Spellman went on to explain that he had a young woman that needed staging imaging and found out that PET scan was not covered. He felt that this type of imaging would be considered part of the treatment. Dr. Petrelli responded that there are always exceptions to the rule but from the allocation of money the DCTP receives, only treatment can be covered. Ms. Brown confirmed that the program has never covered imaging or testing before a treatment plan is developed since the DCTP started.

**Final Epilogue Contract Summary for FY20**

The summary of the Final Epilogue Contract for FY20 was presented by Ms. Heather Brown, Chronic Disease Bureau Chief. A total of $431,800 was awarded in the budget bill to Cancer Care Connection (CCC), Cancer Support Community (CSC), Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) and American lung Association (ALA).

CCC was awarded $169,400 to fund operational expenses of their statewide, telephone-based coaching and referral service for people in Delaware affected by cancer. In the future they will be joining with Jewish Family Services.

CSC received $120,500 to offer programs of support and education in an effort to help alleviate emotional issues that people affected by cancer in Delaware face.

DBCC was awarded $100,000 to host an Annual Breast Cancer Update Conference. The April 1, 2020 event was postponed due to the pandemic and has been re-scheduled to be held virtually in February 2021.

ALA received $41,900 and they conducted an asthma program in the Southbridge, Claymont and the Bear-Glasgow regions.

**Sharing Time**

No items were discussed

**Public Comment**

No items were discussed.

**Adjournment**

Chair Connolly thanked everyone for being available for the call and reminded participants of the lunchtime presentation of the I & M Report. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

**Attachments**

  

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

**Future Meeting (s)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Next Meeting:**  **Monday, January 11, 2021 - VIRTUAL** | **2021 meetings:**  **Monday, April 12, 2021**  **Monday, July 12, 2021**  **Monday, October 11, 2021** |