**Attendees**

**Delaware Cancer Consortium**

**Advisory Council**

**October 17, 2011**

Minutes

Office of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Wilmington, DE

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| **Members** |  |
| Attended-Via Phone | Ruth Briggs-King – DE House of Representatives |
| Attended | William Bowser, Esq, - Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor, LLP |
| Did Not Attend | John C. Carney, Jr. – U.S. Congress |
| Did Not Attend | Matt Denn – Lt. Governor |
| Attended | Christopher Frantz, MD – AI DuPont Hospital for Children |
| Did Not Attend | Robert Gilligan – DE House of Representatives |
| Did Not Attend | Stephen Grubbs, MD – Medical Oncology Hematology Consultants, PA |
| Attended –Via Phone | Bethany Hall-Long, RNC, PhD – University of Delaware/Delaware Senate |
| Attended | Patricia Hoge, PhD – American Cancer Society |
| Attended – Via Phone | Rita Landgraf, Department of Health and Social Services |
| Attended | Meg Maley, RN, BSN – Welldoc, Inc. |
| Did Not Attend | David McBride – Delaware Senate |
| Attended – Via Phone | Collin O’Mara – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control |
| Attended  | Nicholas Petrelli, MD –Christiana Care - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center |
| Did Not Attend | Rishi Sawhney, MD – Bayhealth Medical Center |
| Attended | Liane Sorenson – Delaware Senate |
| Attended – Via Phone | James Spellman, MD, FACS, FSSO – Beebe Medical Center - Tunnell Cancer Center |
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| **Staff** |  |
| Attended | Lisa Henry – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Jill Rogers – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended – Via Phone | Bob Zimmermen – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control |
| Did Not Attend | Dr. Karyl Rattay – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Janet Berry – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Rosemary Doughten – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Sangeeta Gupta – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| **Public** |  |
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**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Council members approved the August 15, 2011 meeting minutes without changes.

**Old & New Business**

**Cancer Education Alliance –**

Senator Bethany Hall-Long gave an update on the Cancer Education Alliance Summit and advised that the October 5th meeting at Delaware State University was very successful and had over 122 in attendance. She thanked all that helped to make it a success and said that it was well attended, well received and some great feedback was obtained.

**Indian River Power Plant –**

Secretary Collin O’Mara wanted to thank everyone for their help in pulling resources together to fund the project, especially Mr. Bob Zimmerman and Congressman John Carney. He continued by saying now is the time to think about the future phases of the project because they are critically important and there is a limited window of time because of the plant shutting down. Mr. Bill Bowser reminded the Council of the press conference for the Indian River Power Plant that will be held on November 19th in Millsboro. He thanked Meg Maley for her hard work and perseverance in getting this study accomplished and said it was very noteworthy.

**Patricia Hoge Retirement**

Mr. Bowser presented Advisory Council Member Dr. Patricia Hoge with a plaque commemorating her retirement from the American Cancer Society as well as her contributions to the Delaware Cancer Consortium (DCC). He gave her special thanks and stated that she is completely and totally dedicated to fighting cancer. He continued by saying she is a leader not only in Delaware, but in the world. He noted that when he was appointed chair of the Consortium she was the one that guided him and helped him to get it organized in a unique way. He stated that she has a vision and must continue helping the Consortium. Dr. Hoge appreciated the presentation and advised that she just retired and she wasn’t going away. She continued saying there is still a lot to do. She said she is especially excited about what she with regard to state agencies voluntarily sharing resources.

**Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee (DHFAC) Application**

Ms. Jill Rogers informed the Council that it is that time of year to think about the Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC) and the Fiscal Year 13 budget. She continued by adding there are significant challenges facing the HFAC because if they fulfill all the applications they received then they will exhaust both the money that they will be paid this year as well as the reserve fund except for about 2 – 3 million. She added, for perspective, several years ago the reserve fund had upwards of 60-70 million dollars in it. Ms. Rogers reminded the DCC Council that in FY09 the Tobacco and Cancer programs were funded at 19.9 million and in FY12 they are funded at 16.2 million. She advised that some specific questions are being asked related to if the work the DCC is doing and the approach taken is science based in any way and also some questions have surfaced related to actual smoking rates for adults and youth. Ms. Rogers informed the group that the adult rates are ticking up again and it is thought that the increase is due to tobacco use. She said that it is possible that it is related to several things and a recession always makes people smoke and drink more. Ms. Rogers noted that another thing that could cause the change is the way we are looking at the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) data since we are getting many more cell users to participate in the survey. Ms. Rogers added that the good news is that youth rates are continuing to go down and there is no change in funds for youth. However, Ms. Rogers noted that one difference in tobacco prevention and control is that children are being marketed to in different ways by the tobacco manufacturers. Dr. Hoge informed the group that there are smokeless items such as mints, like Tic Tacs and Listerine tabs, that are tobacco that individuals can use in places where smoking is not allowed. Senator Liane Sorenson asked if nicotine in that form has the same health hazards. Dr. Hoge responded by saying that still has to be looked into with regards to ingestion but continued by advising tobacco pickers are known to become addicted with the tobacco only on their hands.

Ms. Rogers stated that the HFAC will have two meetings, October 24 and October 27, 2011 and that the committee has reviewed the applications. She also advised that there is a public comment period and emphasized again the significant challenges facing the DCC with being down by about $4 million in the last three years. She advised that a little money went in the DCC budget towards the All Payer Claims Database (APCD) in the amount of $250,000 for maintenance and also some money for the 2nd year of the Body Burden study (IRPP study). Dr. Nicholas Petrelli added that it will cost millions to get the APCD started and the maintenance will be between $250,000 -$300,000. Ms. Rogers said that it was decided that the APCD was not the whole responsibility of the DCC.

Mr. Bowser asked why is tobacco at the end of the line and not the beginning? He continued by stating the money comes from the tobacco companies so why should the tobacco program be the one that has funding cut. Dr. Petrelli stated that we are not only talking about tobacco use and cancer, that it is everything health related. Mr. Bowser added that tobacco related problems and products should not be lost. Dr. Hoge also added that Dr. Rattay had mentioned a number of states look at the return on investment (ROI) in that every state that invests $1 in tobacco prevention, they save $5 in health related costs. Mr. Bowser commented that we always seem to have a crisis and to always be chasing about $4 million.

Dr. Petrelli commented that we need to think about a plan to present during the public comment of the HFAC meeting. Senator Bethany Hall-Long stated that the Delaware Health Fund has picked up funding programs that were not originally funded. Mr. Bowser added that it is a lot harder to have our program on the back end than the front end. Dr. Petrelli inquired as to how we are doing with cancer treatment funds and Ms. Rogers responded that we are paying out the same amount of money but screening more people. She continued by saying those are the statistics that will be looked into next. Mr. Bowser added that there is a cost savings per case as a result of the screening. It was stated that treatments are for less advanced stages of cancer.

Dr. Petrelli informed the Council of a couple of challenges facing hospitals across the country.

1. There is a shortage of chemotherapeutic drugs.
2. Recently approved FDA drug prices are skyrocketing.

He continued by saying there will be some medical and ethical questions that will be difficult. There was some discussion regarding this being a Federal issue and the government has not empowered the FDA to address it. It was also asked if the federal government is doing anything about the shortage.

**Colorectal Cancer Update**

Sangeeta Gupta gave a presentation of the overview of Colorectal Cancer in Delaware. (presentation posted to DCC website). Much discussion followed the presentation including questions and comments below, some prompting more research and review of the data:

* Did individuals come with symptoms or did screening identify them?
* Are the majority of individuals over 50 getting colonoscopies instead of a sigmoidoscopy?
* The disparity between Caucasians & African Americans was narrowed in less than a decade.
* Is there another cancer for us to focus on?
* Lung is a preventable cancer and treatment is very expensive.
* We will make a dent in cervical cancer
* Breast cancer does well with screening.

Dr. Hoge asked if the Division of Public Health (DPH), with their data points, were at a point with colon cancer to be able to project what the costs for the future will be? Will people that we screened need to be rescreened? Can we look for long term planning so we can say we need this much money? Mr. Bowser responded that is how it all ties into the APCD.

Senator Sorenson made the comment that the information presented by Dr. Gupta needs to be published. Mr. Bowser added that at one point the DCC had an ad hoc writing committee and that in a month the Consortium may need to put that committee back together. He also added that it is ground breaking work and we need a physician to explain how it places in real academia and real science. Ms. Rogers suggested thinking about a venue for this data that is far beyond cancer. Ms. Meg Maley asked how do we make sure everyone on the DHFAC understands this information. Dr. Hoge stated that if a ROI is presented for the DHFAC with the results then that would be the proof of the investment. Secretary Landgraf advised the Council that the DHFAC is a recommending body and not the final end and it is an ongoing education process for the members.

Dr. James Spellman recommended the information be presented at the spring meeting of the Society of Surgical Oncologists. Dr. Petrelli stated that he would prefer to submit it to the New England Journal of Medicine and didn’t want to jeopardize publication in a high profile journal for a society presentation. Mr. Bowser suggested that it be discussed more in the Ad Hoc Writing Committee when it is reconvened.

**All Payer Claims Database**

Mr. Bowser brought the attention back to the APCD and stated that the council determined that it is bigger than cancer. There is an opportunity to present to the Governor and to possibly move forward through legislation. He added that we are in the perfect spot with health care reform and Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) and can use the synergies of the states before us. He continued saying that our issue is to keep moving along so that it will actually happen. We need legislation and so far no one is opposed. Dr. Christopher Frantz added that the payers would also have to be at the table. Mr. Bowser stated that an estimate to get it started is $1 million and that is based on what others states are paying. Mr. Bowser report that currently 17 states have it. Dr. Hoge calculated that we would need 20 partners willing to each put in $50,000. Mr. Bowser continued by asking who would get access to the data but also saying that the standards seem to be all set on collection, access and ethical guidelines. The next APCD meeting will be November 10 at the Helen F. Graham Center at 1:30 pm.

**Sharing Time**

The Delaware Cancer Consortium annual retreat date was discussed and it was determined that it will occur on February 20, 2012 in Dover. The exact location is yet to be determined. The data presentation on colorectal cancer will be offered at the retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

**Documentation**

Meeting documentation is available on the DCC website (www.delawarecancerconsortium.org) or by contacting Rosemary Doughten (Rosemary.Doughten@state.de.us or 302-744-1002).

**Future Meeting(s)**

Next Meeting: December 19, 2011 – 8:30 am at the Offices of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor Wilmington, DE.