**Attendees**

**Delaware Cancer Consortium**

**Advisory Council**

**April 15, 2013**

Minutes-APPROVED

Office of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Wilmington, DE

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| **Members** |  |
| Attended | 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 | Deborah Heffernan – DE House of Representatives |
| Attended | 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 |
| Did Not Attend | Rita Landgraf, Department of Health and Social Services |
| Did Not Attend | Meg Maley, RN, BSN – Welldoc, Inc. |
| Did Not Attend | David McBride – Delaware Senate |
| Did Not Attend | Collin O’Mara – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control |
| Attended-Via Phone | Nicholas Petrelli, MD –Christiana Care - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center |
| Attended-Via Phone | Rishi Sawhney, MD – Bayhealth Medical Center |
| Attended | Liane Sorenson – Delaware Senate |
| Attended | James Spellman, MD, FACS, FSSO – Beebe Medical Center - Tunnell Cancer Center |
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| **Staff** |  |
| Did Not Attend | Karyl Rattay – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Lisa Henry – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Rich Killingsworth – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Rosemary Doughten – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Heather Ryan-Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Judy Walrath – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Emily Knearl – Delaware Division of Public Health |
| Attended | Bob Zimmerman – DNREC |
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| **Public/Other** |  |
| Attended | Jeanne Chiquoine – American Cancer Society |
| Attended | Albert Shields – Congressman Carney’s Office |
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**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Bill Bowser began the meeting at 8:30 am. Motion was made by Dr. Grubbs to approve the minutes as written from the December 17, 2012 meeting and seconded by Dr. Petrelli. Motion passed.

**Old & New Business**

**Welcome/Introduction of DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager**

Heather Ryan was introduced as the new Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager in DPH. She provided a brief summary of her background and all AC members welcomed her to her new position.

**Delaware Cancer Consortium Annual Retreat-Recap**

Lisa Henry reported that there was a 20% increase in registration for the 2013 Retreat and 52% that attended were DCC members. According to the surveys received the highlight of the Retreat was the testimonials. Everyone agreed that the stories are always emotional and heartfelt. Bill Bowser commented that the testimonials always generate renewed energy. The committee updates were also very informative. Some suggestions received regarding future retreats include: panel discussions with legislators and DCC members, Q & A session after each presentation, and table working groups. Chair Bill Bowser also suggested picking a date for next year as soon as possible to that everyone can reserve the date on their calendar. Patricia Hoge suggested getting HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for the 2014 Retreat and wondered if perhaps Congressman Carney could use his power to make the invite. Albert Shields from Carney’s office advised he would ask the Congressman.

Bill Bowser thanked all in Public Health for their role in organizing the Retreat and having it run smoothly in spite of the events of the day that included the shooting in the Wilmington courthouse and the snow storm that kept the guest speaker in New England.

**FY14 Budget**

Lisa Henry provided a handout with the comparison of the FY13 and FY14 budget to illustrate where the cuts have been made. The cut is about 9.7% which equates out to 1.3 m. Funding for the tobacco prevention and control community programs has been cut drastically over the last several years. Money from the budget was also pulled out for the All Payer Claims Database (APCD) in the amount of $250,000. The Delaware Cancer Treatment Program was cut $396,000 and the program currently runs in a deficit. With the new healthcare regulations, some people that are currently in the program may be covered under the ACA and that may free up some money in the future. The Epilogue requirements that were listed – Cancer Care Connection, Wellness Community, and Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition – all received a decrease in funding. The Helpline is not in the Epilogue and the expectation is that it will still be funded.

Bill Bowser commented that it is a difficult year in Public Health with the ACA coming in halfway through the year to determine the funding. He continued saying that some functions that the state has been paying for may get picked up by the Federal government and we will need to watch how much in savings can be found. Lisa Henry advised that the Affordable Care Act will pick up prevention but that diagnostic work after will not be covered. She gave the example that a mammogram may be free but co insurance payments may not be covered for follow up appointments and biopsy procedures. Mr. Bowser added that in working with the Health Care Commission (HCC) questions have been raised as to how much the ACA will save the state and how do we preserve the services for the underinsured people. We want to continue to provide services and not go backward. Patricia Hoge added that under the ACA insurers will be allowed to charge up to 50% more for smokers. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of the penalty tax for not adhering to the ACA being less than the actual premium and individuals choosing to pay the penalty instead of health insurance. It was noted that activity between July and January must be watched very closely in the cancer programs. The possibility also exists for there to be a waiting period for cancer treatment that could be very dangerous for some patients. Bill Bowser emphasized again the need to move forward, not backward and to get ahead of the possibility of any scenario. He asked Lisa Henry to summarize the program services so legislators can be contacted. He continued by asking why does the number one cause continue to get cut every year? Dr. Hoge added that evidence has shown the impact of tobacco use on health plus the tobacco product of 2013 looks very different than the product of 2003. Chair, Bill Bowser pointed out that the non-cancer epilogue requirements are larger than the tobacco program funding. Little of what the DCC does comes from the general fund so the taxpayer pays nothing of what we do – tobacco companies pay for it all. He said that if we raise the tobacco tax, none of the money seems to come back to the tobacco prevention programs. He reiterated that we should preserve the original intent of the Health Fund. The Epilogue for non-cancer being higher than tobacco is awkward and embarrassing.

Dr. Grubbs brought up the requirement for physicians to obtain certain data that is never used but costs money to gather. Dr. Petrelli advised that the law must get changed and that the Delaware Cancer Registry taskforce is working with Paul Silverman to resolve the issue.

**Incidence and Mortality Report – Presentation**

Judy Walrath provided an overview of the Cancer Incidence and Mortality Report that is due to be released on April 30, 2013 in the morning at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center and in the afternoon at Beebe Medical Center. It was also pointed out that Delaware had been listed as either the number one or number two state in cancer mortality and now we are 14th. Delaware is also better than the surrounding states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and equal to Maryland. Dr. Hoge said that the reason Delaware has dropped is because of the investments that were made and in order to continue to make ground, we must spend money. Bill Bowser asked are we going to continue to be leaders or are we going to just barely defend the status quo? Now is the time to push all the money back into tobacco and reorient where the money is spent in the budget. He suggested a tobacco tax of five cents as a call to action that would allow all other cuts to go away.

**Delaware Cancer Treatment Program**

Lisa Henry provided some options with regards to the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program once the Affordable Care Act is in place. In forming policy decisions some major questions come up: 1) Does the treatment program remain for uninsured only? If it starts to include underinsured, that will require very different decisions. 2) Do we continue to enroll people for 24 months? 3) Do we continue coverage for 650% of poverty level? In order to make informed recommendations we need to know what we think will happen with the ACA and how the scenarios will change. Basic forecasting needs to take place. Lisa Henry advised that about 30,000-35000 individuals will be eligible to go into the health benefits marketplace but we don’t know how many of those will actually go because they may choose the penalty over the premium if it is less. Jeanne Chiquoine commented that people may start in one plan and then become diagnosed and find they want to move to a different plan. The formulas are different. Another question raised by Lisa Henry is will we continue to cover the undocumented and Dr. Grubbs responded yes, until someone tells us no.

Rich Killingsworth suggested two meetings take place – one covering the tobacco tax policy and another to cover the transition of the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program (DCTP)

**Sharing Time**

Dr. Grubbs advised that DE Medicaid has a proposed regulation in the April issue of the Register of Regulations. Professional Reg. is accepting comments through April 30. This proposed regulation may impact cancer patients and survivors. The concern lies in the statement: "Quantity limits are placed on therapeutic categories that will allow for coordinated care and improve outcomes. They are changing the limits on opioid analgesics from 200 doses per 30 days to 720 immediate releases per 365 days." Many patients have a legitimate medical need, some with cancer and chronic pain. Bill Bowser made a motion for the DCC to write a letter proposing that the regulations need to be amended and Patricia Hoge seconded.

Dr. Grubbs announced that the Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO) will be releasing the article on the treatment program and shows Delaware in a favorable way in a journal that is highly regarded. Albert Shields added that Congressman Carney recorded a pod cast on the same subject and he will send the link to the Advisory Council. He also advised that he will be meeting with the News Journal. Dr. Grubbs added that he would like to present something to former Governor Minner regarding the article because of her past involvement.

Dr. Grubbs informed the Council that he presented at the National Conference in September the information on disparities in cancer and that it was the highlight of the symposium. The State of Washington has requested someone from the DCC present the data on May 31st in their state. Several of the members are unable to do it because of another medical convention during the state time frame but Dr. Grubbs mentioned the possibility of Jill Rogers presenting. Washington would cover all expenses.

Lisa Henry advised that Jill Rogers gave a slide presentation on the CMMI Grant and the APCD for the Health Care Commission (HCC). If anyone is interested in working on data analytics work stream to contact Jill.

Lisa Henry announced that May is skin cancer awareness month. There will be an event in Rehoboth to talk about skin cancer and melanoma.

Jeanne Chiquoine stated a tanning bill to ban minors from using tanning beds will be introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Meeting documentation is available on the DCC website (www.delawarecancerconsortium.org) or by contacting Rosemary Doughten (Rosemary.Doughten@state.de.us or 302-744-1000).

Attachments:

 

**Future Meeting(s)**

Next Meeting: June 17, 2013 – 8:30 am at the Offices of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor Wilmington, DE.