

PA Cancer Coalition

Cancer Equity Committee Minutes

September 10th, 2024

- I. Introductions of new members
- II. April Barry (PADOH) provided members with an overview of Project ECHO a platform to disseminate information. This platform will be used to provide primary care providers with education about clinical trials. It will also provide a link with access to cancer trials.

Genetics Toolkit –development of this toolkit is intended to help providers better explain genetics and cancer. The toolkit is in the planning stage and is focused on helping patient have a more comprehensive understanding.

The workgroup's goal is to assess the needs, identify gaps in care, and identify the lack of accessibility in rural areas. It will focus on English first; no other languages are yet.

- III. Evelyn – provided an update on our progress with the health equity strategies: Towards goals of the reducing cancer burden (Slide set included)
 1. (Strategy 1) Use of quality data & population surveillance to perform environmental scans to identify disproportionately high cancer burden, SDOH and environmental risk in populations and geography.
 - a. Quality data – risk factors – focusing on SDOH but will expand to environmental factors
 - b. The Equity Committee supported the CRC group to define the burden for colorectal cancer in individuals under age 45 (incidence). Penn State (Cheryl and Nate) prepared maps for the CRC team.
 2. (Strategy 2) Literacy – Health literacy training was completed in May 2024.
 3. (Strategy 3) Work with community organizations in high-risk areas to understand their needs, ideas, and risk factors to develop prevention or intervention strategies.
 - a. Members were asked if this strategy would work as a student project or would a survey be more realistic. Some of the information required to better understand community needs may be available already.
 - b. Group suggestion is to approach schools with public health programs for student interns.
 - c. Transportation – was identified as perhaps the primary need (barrier) specifically in rural areas of PA
 - i. Brenda – Will query DHS. What resources may be helpful?
 - ii. Data – through the DOH – Community health systems survey
 - a. Survey – United Ways – know about innovative transportation
 - b. Every county has Family Services – is there an alliance?

4. (Strategy 4) Promote PSE (policy, systems & environment) changes to support workforce development of CHW to reduce barriers to cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment
 - a. Survey – ACS – PA Community Health Worker Collaborative – will assess needs of folks in communities
 - b. Do we need a template for CHW training and successful billing—IMPACT Program through the University of Pennsylvania—2026?
 - c. There is a lack of understanding of how to use the codes.
 - i. Suggestion – do a webinar for the state in January focused on providing an update on billing practices and coding when using community health workers.
 5. Policy (Strategy 8) Advance partnerships to advocate for policies to increase access to care for rural PA (transportation, telehealth, reducing financial barriers/out-of-pocket costs for cancer screenings and services)
 - a. ACS CANS – has an initiative looking a social determinants and Black men health
 - b. Susan G Komen – Health Disparities initiative focused on Black Women’s Health
 6. Goal #2, Strategy 1: Increase the number of coalition members who represent underserved populations and communities
 - a. We need a working group of Equity members to develop a membership recruitment plan– Identify who is there and who is not here.
 - b. A list of members has been provided by Evaluators and Brenda can collate by zip code at the state level. It will indicate where members are based – and which sector each person represents.
- IV. Isabel Martin presented an update on the CRC/PA work being developed (slides included) update from Isabel.
- V. Next meeting is on November 12th, 2:00-3:00pm
- a. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Submitted by Peg Rosenzweig