

PA Cancer Coalition (PCC) Disparities Subcommittee

October 2020 Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Nate Burden, Lisa Davis, Oralia Dominic, Barbara Jackson, Kathryn McCarter, Christina McEachern, Margaret (Peggy) Rosenweig, Karen Schwaderer, Chrissy Valania (co-chair), Charnita Zeigler-Johnson (co-chair)

- PCC Requests for 2020-2021 year

We addressed requests from Sharon Sowers to consider ways that we can increase effectiveness in our supportive roll in the PCC. Rather than disperse our members to other workgroups and sub-committees, we would like the PCC to implement structural changes that will allow more cross-germination of ideas among the workgroups and sub-committees. Distributing notes/short reports from each workgroup and sub-committee is one way to facilitate sharing of activities and challenges, and promote collaboration among groups.

We also defined our goals for the coming year. Members suggested increasing our activities in the following areas:

- 1) Cancer Awareness Programs: target disparate communities for educational programs about cancer type and risk factors. Can be shared remotely, building upon community organization programming (Webinars, Zoom meetings, question and answer sessions.) Perhaps present weekly/monthly programming.
- 2) Research on Environmental Risk Factors: Areas identified as hot spots caused by environmental issues. Provide education and health care services to high-risk populations in those areas.
- 3) Young Colorectal Cancer Patients: examine rising incidence among patients too young for recommended colorectal cancer screening (<age 50). They are at risk for late diagnosis and metastasis. Develop plan for education and health care services in high-risk populations.

We discussed the need to diversify our PCC membership. Members were asked to invite new members to join the PCC, especially cancer survivors, patients, and advocates.

- Video Development

Dr. Oralia Dominic shared plans to develop a video that discusses cancer care inequities in PA. All counties will be included. The video will highlight programs, patients, and survivors, providing different perspectives on the effects of social determinants of health on cancer development and treatment outcomes. It will also include an invitation to learn more and get involved with the PA PCC. Oralia will keep us abreast of new developments.

- Metrics

We discussed ideas for metrics that can be used to assess changes in disparities as we implement out programming. In addition to data provided by the PA Cancer Registry (incidence, mortality, stage), members suggested other data points that will be important to track if we can find appropriate and reliable data sources:

- 1) Co-morbidities: underlying conditions impact cancer risk, treatment options, and risk for mortality
 - 2) Race and Ethnicity data: examining race/ethnic disparities by more detailed data, particularly about who is included in the “Other race” category
 - 3) Leverage data resources from the four Cancer Centers in PA: each cancer center (1 in Pittsburgh, 3 in Philadelphia) has generated a report of the cancer burden and disparate groups in its catchment area. Sharing data among the cancer centers will provide data that can guide our cancer control activities in the eastern and western parts of the state. Specific projects can be defined for collaboration.
 - 4) Medicaid and Immigrant populations: special attention should be given to reducing cancer burden in areas with higher proportions of Medicaid and immigrant populations.
- Next Steps

Charnita and Chrissy will schedule a meeting with Sharon to discuss goals for the Sub-Committee. They will also discuss the suggestions provided by the members (included in this meeting report).

Future meetings of the Disparities Sub-Committee will occur every 2-3 months.