

## **Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition**

Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2022

### **Attendees: (Microsoft Teams meeting)**

Emma Watson (ACS), co-chair

Ruth Modzelewski (Hillman Cancer Center, Univ Pgh), co-chair

Jan Eberth (Drexel University)

Rebekah Glick (Susan G. Komen, PA Policy)

Tracie Gray (PA Department of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition Manager)

Julianne Maita (Fox Chase Cancer Center)

Becky Mastin (Access Matters)

Jen Pensinger (PA Breast cancer Coalition)

Gary Rathsmill (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; volunteer)

Karen Saunders (Northeast Regional Cancer Institute)

Grant Young (Adagio Health, Inc.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:31am.

1) Emma started with an overview of the state legislature post the election in November.

The following is a list of the changes:

#### Senate Republican Leadership

- Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward (Westmoreland)
- Majority Leader Joe Pittman (Indiana)
- Appropriations Chair Scott Martin (Lancaster)
- Whip Ryan Aument (Lancaster)
- Caucus Chair Kristin Phillips-Hill (York)
- Caucus Secretary Camera Bartolotta (Washington)

#### Senate Democratic Leadership

- Leader Jay Costa (Allegheny)
- Caucus Whip Christine Tartaglione (Philadelphia)
- Appropriations Chair Vincent Hughes (Philadelphia)
- Appropriations Vice Chair Tim Kearney (Delaware, Chester)
- Caucus Chair Wayne Fontana (Allegheny)
- Caucus Secretary Maria Collett (Montgomery)
- Caucus Administrator Judy Schwank (Berks)

#### House Democratic Leadership

- Democratic Leader Joanna E. McClinton (Philadelphia, Delaware)
- Democratic Whip Jordan Harris (Philadelphia)
- Appropriations Committee Chair Matt Bradford (Montgomery)
- Policy Committee Chair Ryan Bizzarro (Erie)
- Caucus Secretary Tina Davis (Bucks)
- Caucus Administrator Mike Schlossberg (Lehigh)

- Caucus Chair Dan Miller (Allegheny)

#### House Republican Leadership

- Republican Leader Bryan Cutler
- Republican Whip Tim O'Neal
- Appropriations Committee Chair Seth Grove
- Policy Committee Chair Josh Kail
- Caucus Secretary Martina White
- Caucus Administrator Sheryl Delozier
- Caucus Chair George Dunbar

#### 2) Open Discussion with Subcommittee members:

- a) Karen Saunders noted that in Northeast PA, many of the seats were won by incumbent, and so won't see much change in that area
- b) Rep. Gaydos has been in contact with the Policy Subcommittee for further education with eh Cancer Caucus, no movement on this is expected before the special elections are settled.
- c) Additional opportunities for "education" of new members as well as those moving into leadership as to what the PCC does and the resources in expertise that the coalition contains. Emma and Ruth will find and edit the "one pager" that the subcommittee has used before. This will be reviewed/discusses with the Policy sub committee at the January 5, 2023 meeting.
- d) Jan Eberth mentioned two bills (house and senate) that are to address some issues around hospital closures in rural area of PA. The goal is to expand the number of days from announcing a hospital closure (from 90 to 180) as well as providing an impact study of the closure upon the residents (assumed service area of the hospital).

Additional information:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2021&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=1324>

Paper from Jan's group of the impact of hospital closures on cancer care:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36128753/>

Jan is interests in knowing if any Policy member are interested in supporting the bills.

- 3) Rebeka Glick asked for some clarification on what the changes to the composition of the house and senate might mean: With the many anticipated changes in leadership, there may be some gridlock for moving forward. Further discussion around the potential for new relationships as the leadership shifts. The ideal may be to forge relationships with congressional member who work across the aisle for more successful progress on initiatives for our respective organizations.

Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

(minutes prepared by Ruth Modzelewski)