

Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition

Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023

Attendees: (Microsoft Teams meeting)

Ruth Modzelewski (Univ Pittsburgh, School of Nursing; Research Project Manager), co-chair

April Barry (DOH)

Monica Baskin (Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement, Hillman Cancer Center)

Joanne Boyd (Soon: UPMC Hillman CC Director OE, Program Director for Community Based cancer prevention)

Stephanie Darwak (Astra Zeneca (Cullari Communications Global, Inc), Health Policy Consultant)

Danyelle Gibson (Lead Clinical Research Associate – Oncology, Tower Health)

Evelyn Gonzalez (Senior Director Office of Community Outreach, Fox Chase Cancer Center)

Tracie Gray (DOH)

Donna Greco (PA Government Relations Director, ACS-CAN)

Becky Mastin (Access Matters; BCCEDP in Philadelphia area)

Andrea Plashoff (Cancer Screening Patient Navigation Coordinator, Adagio Health)

Jen Pennsinger (PA Breast Cancer Coalition, President)

Gary Rathsmill (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; volunteer)

Karen Saunders (Northeast Regional Cancer Institute)

Grant Young (Health Policy Coordinator, Adagio Health)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

- 1) The group had a brief discussion regarding acting Secretary of Health Dr. Debra L. Bogenas well as the pending state budget. From the meeting chat, Donna Greco provided the link indicating that the budget has passed both chambers:
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2023&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0611&pn=1811>
- 2) Attendees introduced themselves; Ruth reviewed the purpose of the group is to support the Cancer plan goals through policy activities and building partnerships.
- 3) In reviewing the Policy Tracking Table updates were made of note:
 - a) Copay Accumulator (SB372)-- Donna Greco updated and indicated that ACS-CAN received a grant from Pfizer to educate regarding the impact of co-pays towards the financial toxicity of receiving cancer care. Social media campaigns are being formulated and Donna will update as things progress.
 - b) PA Biomarker Testing Legislation Coalition: Donna Greco: if you and your organization are interested in being a part of this work, contact Donna (donna.greco@cancer.org). Bi-weekly meetings; a group or individual may participate as they are able. There are co-sponsors in the Senate, and the bill is just about ready to be introduced; Mullens and Cutler submitted a co-sponsorship memo for the House (not yet available online)

- c) PA Preventive Care Act (HB1050): Gary Rathsmill will update us further next month; this appears to be in response to the overturning of some coverage by ACA by a judge in Texas. Donna Greco heard that the Senate was interested in this as well, but that there would be no activity until the fall session.
Link to the edited bill: <https://trackbill.com/bill/pennsylvania-house-bill-1050-an-act-providing-for-health-care-insurance-preventive-services-coverage-protections-conferring-authority-on-the-insurance-department-and-the-insurance-commissioner-and-providing-for-regulations-for-enforcement-and-for-penalties/2422013/>

 - d) Federal Bills to be watched: H.R. 4363 and S. 2213: Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act (CCSA); just reintroduced. Link to an information page from the Children's Cancer Cause website: <https://www.childrenscancercause.org/ccsa>
Link to information sheet from NCCS (from the original bill in 2021): https://canceradvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-CCSA-Fact-Sheet_final_118th.pdf
- 4) All members are encouraged to email either Ruth (ram305@pitt.edu) or Jan (jme336@drexel.edu) to provide information to update the Policy tracking table.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.
(minutes prepared by Ruth Modzelewski)