

Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition

Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

Attendees: (Microsoft Teams meeting)

Jan Eberth (Drexel University), co-chair

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)

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

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

Rebekah Glick (Susan G. Komen, PA Policy)

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

Tracie Gray (DOH)

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

Mary Horak (Assoc Dir Clinical Services, Pgh Cancer Institute (PCI-CRS Administration HF))

Juliann Maita (Project Manager, Community Outreach and Engagement; Fox Chase)

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

Jen Pennsinger (PA Breast Cancer Coalition, President)

Gary Rathsmill (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; volunteer)

Lyn Robertson (University of Pgh, Hillman Cancer Center)

Karen Saunders (Northeast Regional Cancer Institute)

Janine Strick (DOH)

Christine Twentier (Executive Director, Feel Your Boobies)

Grant Young (Health Policy Coordinator, Adagio Health)

Guests: Allison Griffin and Kelley Rooney (both from Cullari Communications Global)

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

- 1) Jan Eberth discussed with the group upcoming communications that the subcommittee will work on. Jan has assigned a student in my research lab to start working on a Policy Memo template using the PA Cancer Coalition colors/logo. This template will be used to populate w/ our chosen messaging in the future. The first likely action item would be to create a “Get to know us” memo (not a policy memo per-se, but would be a good introductory document, which can also be a place to promote the new Cancer Plan. Examples of Policy memos were shared in the chat:
<https://www.cdc.gov/ruralhealth/cancer/policybrief.html>,
https://policymemos.hks.harvard.edu/files/policymemos/files/buckeye_institute_memo_remove_barriers_to_mental_health.pdf?m=1602678080, <https://sites.wustl.edu/prosper/policy-memo-health-nutrition-access/>,
- 2) Ruth began to review the Policy Tracking Table and had Donna Greco to inform the group about the plan to introduce a bill that is being supported through the PA Biomarker Testing Legislation coalition (if you and your organization are interested in being a part of this work, contact Donna (donna.greco@cancer.org)). The bill will be introduced by “Sen. Devlin Robinson, R-Allegheny, plans to draft legislation requiring that state-regulated insurance plans — including Medicaid — offer biomarker coverage “supported by clinical practice guidelines or peer-reviewed scientific evidence.”

The testing uses samples to check for signs that someone could be at risk for developing cancer or another disease.” (ref: <https://www.penncapital-star.com/blog/pa-lawmaker-proposes-expanded-coverage-for-biomarker-testing/>); also from Sen Robinson’s website: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20230&cosponId=40872>

- 3) Kelley Rooney (of Cullari Communications Global; krooney@cullarigroup.com) discussed the FIND Act – which while not strictly focused on cancer, will increase access of cancer patients to imaging through overcoming Medicare’s barriers to reimbursement of nuclear diagnostic imaging. Please find the requested social media and outreach letters attached to the email containing these minutes.

- 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 10:38 am.
(minutes prepared by Ruth Modzelewski)