

## Carroll County Cancer Coalition Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** September 25, 2025

**Time:** 9:00-10:30 AM

**Location:** CCHD/Virtual

**Chair Person:** Taina Metsa-Mahka, Kelly Kromm

Attendance: Lisa Bland -MDH- , Deborah Cass -MDH- , Brooke Fox -MDH- , Hazel Fuentes -MDH-  
Paul Galonsky -MDH- (virtual), Mary Hernandez, Deanna Bridge Najera (virtual), Catherine Berdini (virtual), Stef Gayhart,  
Kristan Zylka, Rick Glass , Karen Haughey (virtual), Brian Mattingly -MDH- , Taina Metsa-Mahka -MDH- ,  
Melissa Murdock , Connie Ford -MDH-

Agenda Topic	Discussion Topic	Follow Up
<b>Welcome/Introduction</b>  Taina Metsa-Mahka, BSN, MBA, DBA	The meeting commenced with Taina extending a welcome to all attendees. Following the welcome, participants introduced themselves and the organizations they represented. The notes from the previous meeting were subsequently approved.	
<b>Cervical Cancer: Guidelines and Prevention</b>  Deanna Najera, PA-C, Carroll County Health Department	Deanna Bridge-Najera provided a comprehensive overview of Pap smears, HPV's link to various cancers, including head and neck cancers, and the historical context of Henrietta Lacks. She also discussed HPV vaccination as a preventative measure, screening guidelines, and disparities in cancer incidence and mortality	<b>Review Slides</b>  <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Reproductive-Health-Services.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Reproductive-Health-Services.aspx</a>  <a href="mailto:cchd.reprohealth@maryland.gov">cchd.reprohealth@maryland.gov</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pap smears examine cervical cells, and their use has significantly reduced cervical cancer deaths.</li> <li>• HPV is a virus linked to over 90% of cervical cancer diagnoses, with different strains causing various cancers.</li> <li>• HPV vaccination, like Gardasil, is effective in preventing HPV-related cancers and genital warts.</li> <li>• Regular annual exams and HPV vaccination (if under 46) are recommended for prevention.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9 Healthy Habits of a Community Health Coalition</b></p> <p>Paul Galonsky, MPA Programs Administrator Maryland Department of Health Cancer Screening Programs Unit</p>	<p>Paul discussed two of the "Nine Habits of Successful Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions" developed by the American Cancer Society and the Comprehensive Cancer Control National Partnership.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Empowering leadership</li> <li>2. Shared decision-making</li> </ol> <p>Paul explained that empowering leadership involves strong, inclusive leaders who facilitate rather than dominate, building trust and credibility among members. He emphasized that decisions should be made participatorily, with multiple voices and transparency, which fosters accountability and buy-in among coalition members.</p>	<p><b>Review Nine Habits resource guide</b></p>
<p><b>Carroll County Health Department Cancer Screening Performance Measures FY 26</b></p>	<p><b>Maryland Cancer Fund</b></p> <p>Taina discussed increasing public awareness of the Maryland Cancer Fund, particularly for individuals receiving care outside</p>	<p><b>Review Slides</b></p> <p><a href="https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/MD-Cancer-Fund.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/MD-Cancer-Fund.aspx</a></p>

<p>Taina Metsa-Mahka, BSN, MBA, DBA, Maryland cancer fund</p> <p>Lisa Martin-Bland, RN, Colorectal Cancer Screening Program</p> <p>Debbie Cass, RN, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program</p> <p>Hazel Fuentes, MPH, Health Services Specialist</p>	<p>Carroll County. She noted that most referrals currently come from the cancer center, and expressed a desire to ensure that all eligible residents are aware of their ability to apply for grants, regardless of where they receive their care</p> <p><b>Colorectal Cancer Screening Program:</b></p> <p>For Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), the goal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of new individuals served, through colonoscopies and stool DNA tests.</li> <li>• Serve 69 individuals.</li> <li>• Serve 10 male individuals.</li> <li>• Continue efforts to serve 6 non-Hispanic, Black, and African-American individuals, despite county demographics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program:</b></p> <p>For Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), the goal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide breast cancer screenings to 213 individuals.</li> <li>• Serve 61 individuals for cervical cancer screenings.</li> <li>• Serve 7 non-Hispanic, Black, and African-American individuals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Outreach:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve 30 outreach activities for the fiscal year, including social media engagement and community events.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/pages/mcf_home.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/pages/mcf_home.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Colorectal-Cancer-Screening-Program.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Colorectal-Cancer-Screening-Program.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Breast-and-Cervical-Cancer-Program.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Breast-and-Cervical-Cancer-Program.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Request form health department for outreach event</b></p> <p><a href="https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Outreach.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/Outreach.aspx</a></p>
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<p><b>Group Discussion:</b></p> <p>Cancer Resource Fair</p>	<p>The team discussed organizing a comprehensive cancer resource fair, tentatively scheduled for April of next year, with the aim of gathering all cancer resources in Carroll County under one roof.</p> <p>William E. Kahlert Regional Cancer Center was suggested as a potential venue and a committee will be formed to coordinate the event, and they plan to meet more frequently than quarterly to ensure its success, potentially utilizing virtual meetings and a shared Google platform for idea collection and organization.</p>	
<p><b>Other updates</b></p>	<p>Next meeting date/time: January 15th, 2025 9:00-10:30 AM.</p>	