

**Maryland State Council on Cancer Control**  
**May 15, 2020**  
**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance**

Kevin Cullen  
Biana Arentz  
Joan Mischtschuk  
Arun Bhandari  
Kathleen Connors-Juras  
Stephanie Cooper-Greenberg  
Catherine Fenwick  
Donna Gugel  
Roger Harrell  
Dominique Haynes  
Matthew Hjortsberg  
Ben Kosewski  
Mark Mank  
Christine Miller  
Liza Fues  
Kathleen Hoke  
Tiffany Mathis  
Elizabeth Platz  
Eden Stotsky-Himelfarb  
Michele Walsh

**Members Absent**

William Nelson  
Jay Perman  
Paul Rothman  
Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes

**Staff and Guests in Attendance**

Brian Mattingly  
Erica Smith  
Meredith Shiels (presenter)

**1. Welcome (Kevin Cullen)**

- Council members were informed that Senator Joanne Benson is no longer on the Cancer Council. She had joined the Council in the Fall of 2020.

**2. Review of Minutes from 1/17/2020 Meeting (Kevin Cullen)**

- The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from January 17, 2020. There were no comments or edits, and the minutes were accepted as written.

**3. Cancer Council Vice-Chair (Kevin Cullen)**

- Dr. Cullen presented the recommendation that the council appoint a Cancer Council Vice-Chair who would assist with facilitation in the event that the Chair is not available. He nominated Dr. Elizabeth Platz the role of Vice-Chair and all 18 council members in attendance voted to approve this motion.

#### 4. **Maryland Cancer Registry Advisory Committee Update** (Elizabeth Platz)

- **Participation in NAACCR's Virtual Pool Registry**

The MCR is participating in NAACCR's virtual pooled registry which allows researchers to determine if there are significant data for research without having to submit all the paperwork with minimal results.

- Designed to facilitate minimal risk linkage studies (*National linkages are ideal*)
  - One-stop-shop for linkage application and secure file exchange
  - Standard linkage methodology across registries
  - Streamlined process to apply for and track registry/IRB requests for release of individual-level data
- Minimize burden and cost to researchers and registries/IRBs
- Increase ease of access and timely use of high quality and complete registry data

- **Data Submission (NPCR and NAACCR)**

The MCR is wait to find out its recognition/certification status based on the 2016 data submitted to NPCR and NAACCR.

- **Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community**

The MCR has joined the Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community and will be using this platform to post all NAAACR webinars and MCR trainings.

#### 5. **Maryland Cancer Collaborative Update** (Joan Mischtschuk)

- The Maryland Cancer Collaborative has 5 workgroups and are working on the following activities:
  - Tobacco Cessation Support to Providers
    - The workgroup analyzed Quitline data and is identifying opportunities to share this information with providers.
    - They are also identifying opportunities to engage medical associations to promote smoking cessation.
  - HPV Vaccination
    - The workgroup is offering an online HPV QI Project for individual physicians. Participating physicians can earn Part 4 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credits.
    - In collaboration with ACS, the workgroup was able to offer a Health System QI Project. Johns Hopkins Community Physicians and Total Healthcare are currently participating.
  - Cancer Survivorship Education

- The workgroup is developing a survey for family practitioners and internists to assess attitudes toward and likelihood of referring patients to a specialty palliative care team.
- The workgroup is also creating a guide on “Building / Improving a Palliative Care Program.”
- High Risk Population Community Outreach
  - The workgroup is developing a survey for statewide stakeholder to identify what is being done to engage high risk populations.
  - The workgroup is also developing a presentation to raise awareness of high-risk populations and evidence based strategies to engage high-risk populations.
- Communication - Lesser Known Cancer Risk Factors
  - The workgroup created various articles, papers, and fact sheets:
    - Link between breast cancer risk and alcohol consumption
    - Radon and Lung Cancer
    - “Three Decades of Progress in Cancer Control” paper which will be published soon.
  - Currently, they are exploring projects and collaborations around:
    - Viral hepatitis and cancer
    - Obesity and cancer

**6. Cancer and Long Term Survivors of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**  
 (Meredith Shiels, Ph.D. Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch, National Cancer Institute)

- PDF version of this presentation has been shared with members.

**7. 2020 Legislative Session**

- **Council Response to Bills** (Brian Mattingly)
- **Legislative Session Update** (Kathleen Hoke)

- PDF version of presentation has been shared with members.
- The Council initially provided letter of support (LOS) for HB3 – Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibitions. This bill was amended in March 2020, and the LOS was modified to a letter of information. HB3 did not pass.
- The Council had expressed interested in SB3/HB723 – Taxation – Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax and was awaiting the 3<sup>rd</sup> reader to take a position. Due to the compressed timeframe as a result of the early end of Legislative Session due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Council was not able to take a position. HB723 was passed by Legislature but vetoed by the Governor
- Additional bills of interest:
  - SB 440 / HB 1594 – Failed
    - Would have allowed pharmacists to prescribe nicotine replacement therapy
  - SB 661 / HB 852 – Passed and not vetoed

- Prohibits insurers from imposing cost-sharing for prostate cancer screening
- SB 695 – Failed
  - Would have required school systems to have age-appropriate skin cancer education for K-12

**8. Comprehensive Cancer Centers and Response to COVID-19** (Kevin Cullen and Bill Nelson)

- UMGCCC has been involved in a variety of activities to respond to COVID-19. These include clinical trials to repurpose existing drugs, stem cell research, and cloning antibodies that may help to neutralize the COVID-19 virus.
- In Maryland and across the nation, there has been a decline in preventative vaccines and cancer screenings as people are unable to go to medical services. As restrictions are relaxed there has been hesitancy to seek medical services.

**9. State Cancer Conference**

- **Update on Topics** (Brian Mattingly)

- For the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual State Cancer Conference, the following topics and speakers have been identified:
  - Accelerated Aging Following Cancer Treatment
    - Jennifer Guida, PhD, MPH, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute
  - Cancer and Mental Health
    - Kristi Graves, PhD, Director, Survivorship Research Initiative, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- For an additional topic, it was recommended that we include a topic related to caregivers that includes evidence-based best practices.

- **Abeloff Award** (Kevin Cullen)

- This year, the Cancer Conference will include the Martin D Abeloff Award for Excellence in Public Health and Cancer Control. As a reminder, this is offered every other year. The Public Health Award was given last year.
- Brian Mattingly will send information to members asking for nominations in August.

**10. Future State Council Meetings**

- **Topic Suggestions** (Kevin Cullen)

- Council members offered the following topic suggestions:
  - Impact of COVID on cancer treatment and screening.

- Dr. Bhandari also suggested having someone from the Maryland and District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology present. He will send additional information.
- If the state legislature returns for special session, recommendation is to have a legislative update.

**11. Updates from Council Members (Kevin Cullen)**

- There were no updates from members.

**12. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Meetings and Conference to be held at Anne Arundel Medical Center, pending COVID-19 restrictions:

- September 18, 2020 - 9:30am to 11:30am
- November 18, 2020 – 27<sup>th</sup> Annual State Cancer Conference