

**Maryland State Council on Cancer Control**  
**May 21, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance**

Kevin Cullen  
Biana Arentz  
Arun Bhandari  
Otis Brawley  
Stephanie Cooper-Greenberg  
Catherine Fenwick  
Donna Gugel  
Roger Harrell  
Matthew Hjortsberg  
Ben Kosewski  
Mark Mank  
Christine Miller  
William Nelson  
Liza Fues  
Kathleen Hoke  
Elizabeth Platz  
Adam Riker  
Eden Stotsky-Himelfarb  
Michele Walsh  
Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes

**Members Absent**

Kathleen Connors-Juras  
Tiffany Mathis  
Paul Rothman

**Staff and Guests in Attendance**

Devon Adams  
Jocelyn Collins  
Hilary Goeckner  
Brian Mattingly  
Caitlin McDonough  
Erica Smith

**1. Welcome (Kevin Cullen)**

- Council members were informed that 3 new members have joined the Cancer Council:
  - Tasha Museles
    - President of the Children’s Cancer Foundation
    - Served as Executive Director of the Children’s Cancer Foundation since 2015 and transitioned to President in 2019.
  - Dr. Otis Brawley
    - Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology
    - Previously served as served as Chief Medical and Scientific Officer for the American Cancer Society.
  - Dr. Adam Riker
    - Dr. Riker is chair of Oncology at Anne Arundel Medical Center’s (AAMC), Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute (DCI).

**2. Review of Minutes from 1/22/2021 Meeting (Kevin Cullen)**

- The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from January 22, 2021. There were no comments or edits, and the minutes were accepted as written.

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

- The Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR) received Gold certification for data submitted to the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). In addition, the MCR data also met the United States Cancer Statistics (USCS) publication standards and was awarded the “2020 Registry of Distinction” by the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR).
- Quest Diagnostics, the large clinical laboratory, has been submitting vaccine data to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and has worked with NPCR and other states to also submit cancer lab data through the same portal. With the success of Quest Diagnostics submitting cancer lab data, the hope is that other clinical laboratories will also use this portal and improve lab reporting.
- Myriddian, the MCR vendor, has made upgrades to a program which they developed known as the Myriddian Quality Assurance Tool or MQAT. Upgrades include changes that will assist with class of cases and patient details and will also assure overall less duplications. The upgrades should also reduce the number of Death Certificate Only cases.

#### 4. **Maryland Cancer Collaborative Update** (Brian Mattingly)

- The Maryland Cancer Collaborative met recently and selected strategies for the new 2021-2025 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. This summer, MCC members will be encouraged to join workgroups which will be formed around these strategies:
  - **Tobacco Workgroup Strategies:**
    1. Educate vulnerable populations, such as low socioeconomic and minority communities, LGBTQ communities and those with mental health and substance use disorders, through health communications efforts, including mass-reach media, to change social norms about tobacco use (including ESDs) and to promote evidence-based tobacco cessation and treatment services including the Maryland Tobacco Quitline, local health department-funded resources, and available Medicaid benefits.
    2. Work with health systems to expand utilization of evidence-based tobacco cessation and treatment methods, including inpatient tobacco treatment counseling, referrals to the Maryland Tobacco Quitline, and nicotine replacement therapy.
  - **HPV Vaccination Workgroup Strategies:**
    1. Educate health care providers, particularly pediatricians, on the importance of making a strong and timely HPV vaccination recommendation, with a focus on cancer prevention.
    2. Educate parents and/or guardians about the availability and importance of HPV vaccination for adolescent girls and boys, with a focus on cancer prevention.
    3. Implement systems changes within health care practices to:
      - i. Check teenage patients’ vaccination status and offer all indicated vaccines at each visit,
      - ii. Schedule the next HPV vaccination dose before the end of the current appointment, and
      - iii. Utilize reminder and recall strategies.
  - **Cancer Screening Workgroup Strategies:**

1. **Modification of a strategy:** Compile a resource for healthcare providers on best practices to reduce structural barriers to cancer screening and diagnostic work-up.
  2. Educate providers and medical professionals on the rising incidence of colorectal cancer in adults under 50 years old and the needs for screening for colorectal cancer in 45+ individuals.
- **Advanced Care Planning Workgroup Strategies:**
    1. Partner with Maryland cancer support networks and coalitions to determine effective strategies to support advance care planning among cancer survivors.
    2. Educate health care providers on having culturally sensitive advance care planning discussions, including the sharing of key documents, with all newly diagnosed Marylanders with cancer.
  - **Communications Workgroup and Support Team:**
    1. Support the activities of the other MCC workgroups through the lens of health equity and addressing the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations.
5. **Presentation: Cancer Control: The Low Hanging Fruit** (Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology)
    - Presentation as shared with Council members.
  6. **Presentation: 2021 Legislative Session** (Kathleen Hoke)
    - Presentation as shared with Council members.
  7. **Presentation: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network - Improving Access to Biomarker Testing and Advancing Precision Medicine** (Jocelyn Collins, Delaware, Maryland and Washington DC Government Relations Director, and Devon Adams, Senior Analyst, Policy and Legislative Support – Emerging Science)
    - Presentation as shared with Council members.
  8. **Abeloff Award Nomination Committee** (Kevin Cullen)
    - Dr. Cullen reminded the Council that the Abeloff Award is designed to recognize people from the Maryland cancer community who have made a significant contribution and have received national or international recognition. To help the Council identify nominees for this award, the Abeloff Award Nomination Committee is being formed. Currently Dr. Cullen, Dr. Nelson, and Dr. Bhandari have volunteered and the committee is in need of two additional members. Those interested should contact Brian Mattingly. The committee will meet this summer to select the Abeloff Award Nominee.
  9. **State Cancer Conference** (Brian Mattingly)
    - The 28th Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference will be held in November. Topic suggestions from the prior year's conference include:
      - COVID-19 and Cancer Screening
      - Advanced Directives
      - Financial Toxicity

- Council members also suggested today's presentation on *Cancer Control: The Low Hanging Fruit* be a presentation for the conference. A topic on depression and cancer was also suggested, and specifically, research that suggests depression is associated with increase cancer risk.

**10. Future State Council Meetings**

- **Topic Suggestions** (Kevin Cullen)
  - Dr. Paul Celano, President of the Maryland and DC Society of Clinical Oncologist, will present at the September meeting.

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

- No additional updates from members.

**12. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- September 17, 2021