

### Introduction

The New Mexico Cancer Council (Council) plays a vital role in the development and implementation of the New Mexico Cancer Plan. Each year Council members are invited to complete a satisfaction survey regarding their Council membership. The survey's purpose is to help gauge Council success and member attitudes, which will assist with planning or modifying Council priorities and actions in the upcoming year and improving the Council's work process.

The Satisfaction Survey consisted of 10 questions. The first three questions were descriptive and helped paint a picture of the respondent Council membership. Question 4 presented nine statements regarding Council participation and member satisfaction, and respondents were asked to answer according to a 4-point Likert scale that ranged from "strongly disagree" and "disagree" to "agree" and "strongly agree." Question 5 called for additional Council participation comments. Question 6 surveyed workgroup membership, and question 7 probed why respondents were not workgroup members. Question 8 surveyed respondent educational opportunity preferences, and question 9 concerned the status of members' cancer disparity activities. Finally, question 10 asked respondents if they or their organization would support the Council priorities for 2009. This question was also based on a 4-point Likert scale.

### Respondent Information

- A total of **36** out of a potential of **70** Council members **responded to the survey**.
- **44.4%** of the respondents were **Executive Committee** members.
- Close to **50%** of the respondents have been **Council members for over three years**.
- An overwhelming majority (almost **90%**) of the respondents **represent an organization**.

### Council Participation Satisfaction

- Over **94%** of respondents either **agreed** (58.3%) or **strongly agreed** (36.1%) that their **participation on the Council helped to develop collaborative relationships with other agencies**. 5.6% of the respondents disagreed with this statement.
- Almost **83%** of respondents either **agreed** (65.7%) or **strongly agreed** (17.1%) that **participation in the Council has helped their organizations move toward meeting their goals**. 17.1% of respondents disagreed with this statement.
- Close to **92%** of respondents either **agreed** (77.8%) or **strongly agreed** (13.9%) that **participation in the Council has helped them build collaborative skills**, while a little over 8% disagreed with this statement.
- Approximately **86%** of respondents either **agreed** (83.3%) or **strongly agreed** (2.8%) that **being a Council member has helped them gain credibility in their field**, while almost 14% disagreed with this notion.
- Almost **67%** of respondents **agreed** that **attending Council meetings was a good use of time**, while **22% strongly agreed** with this statement. A little over 11.1% of respondents disagreed that Council meetings were a good use of their time.
- Close to **78%** of respondents **agreed** that they **felt valued by other Council members**, while almost **14% strongly agreed**. 5.6% of respondents disagreed and 2.8% strongly disagreed with this statement.

- Almost **92%** of respondents either **agreed** (75%) or **strongly agreed** (16.7%) that **people and organizations in the Council work well together**. 8.3% of respondents do not believe people and organizations in the Council work well together.
- Over **83%** of the respondents are **satisfied with their influence in the Council**. Close to 17% of respondents are not satisfied with their influence.
- Over **86%** of respondents are **satisfied with their role in the Council**, while almost 14% are not satisfied with their role.

### Council Workgroup Membership

30 respondents indicated membership in a Council workgroup. Please see Figure 1 for a complete breakdown.

Several of the respondents were not workgroup members because they were either new Council members or their colleagues were workgroup members and attended the meetings. One comment suggested that there was too much overlap between the Albuquerque Cancer Coalition and the Council and [the individual] expected to work more specifically on particular objectives.

Figure 1  
Council workgroup membership

Respondent Breakdown By Workgroup Memeber	Response Percent	Response Count
Albuquerque Cancer Coalition	26.7%	8
Colorectal Cancer Workgroup	23.3%	7
Communication Workgroup	23.3%	7
Data Workgroup	10.0%	3
Membership Workgroup	13.3%	4
Policy and Advocacy Workgroup	33.3%	10
Survivorship Workgroup	30.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		30
<i>skipped question</i>		6

### Educational Opportunities

The survey listed twenty-one educational topics, and respondents were asked to check the topics about which they or their organizations would like to receive opportunities for education. The most popular category, checked by over **60%** of respondents, was **“grant funding agencies and potential funding sources,”** followed by **“survivorship” (54.5%), “evidence-based approaches” (48.5%),** and **“program development” (39.4%).** **“Advances in cancer treatment,” “evaluation,”** and **“building relationships”** tied for the next spot with **36.4 %**. Please see Figure 2 for the full report.

Figure 2  
Breakdown of all the topics and responses

Topics	Response Percent	Response Count
Grant funding agencies and potential funding	60.6%	20
Survivorship	54.5%	18
Evidence-based approaches	48.5%	16
Program development	39.4%	13
Advances in cancer treatment	36.4%	12
Evaluation	36.4%	12
Building relationships	36.4%	12
Prevention	33.3%	11
Insurance issues	33.3%	11
Use of national databases	27.3%	9
Software relevant to cancer control activities	24.2%	8
Basic information about clinical trials	21.2%	7
Grant budget management	21.2%	7
Assessing needs	18.2%	6
Use of Medline and other software for library	18.2%	6
Epidemiologic methods	15.2%	5
Returning to work after a cancer diagnosis	15.2%	5
Retaining your job	15.2%	5
Questionnaire design	12.1%	4
Children going back to school after a cancer	6.1%	2
Human subjects protection	6.1%	2
<i>answered question</i>		33
<i>skipped question</i>		3

## Partner Activity Progress

Question 9 applied only to individuals who attended the New Mexico Cancer Council retreat in November 2007. At that retreat, participants were asked to bring information about one activity their organization would be conducting in calendar year 2008 that addressed cancer disparities and was related to a Cancer Plan objective. For this Satisfaction Survey, applicable respondents were asked to report on that activity's current status. Seventeen respondents answered the question, with over **70%** reporting that the activity was **"ongoing"** and **17.6%** reporting that the activity was **"completed."** **5.9%** said that the activity would be **completed by year's end**, and **5.9%** said that their activity would **not be completed by year's end**.

## Council Priorities for 2008-2009

The final question on the survey concerned the three 2009 priority areas identified by the Council's Executive Committee at its August meeting. Respondents were asked if they or their organization would support these priorities in 2009.

- Close to **97%** of respondents either **strongly agreed (54.5%)** or **agreed (42.4%)** that **evaluating the New Mexico Cancer Plan should be a Council priority for 2009**. Only 3% disagreed with this priority.
- Over **94%** of respondents either **agreed (52.9%)** or **strongly agreed (41.2%)** that **cancer survivorship should be a Council priority for 2009**. Only 5.9% disagreed with this priority.
- Over **94%** of respondents either **agreed (52.9%)** or **strongly agreed (41.2%)** that **colorectal cancer should be a Council priority for 2009**. Only 5.9% disagreed with this priority.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Although the **Satisfaction Survey results were overwhelmingly positive**, the following recommendations will help the Cancer Council become even more effective.

- Clarify expectations around Council purpose to ensure all Council members know and work toward the same goals.
- Clarify expectations around Council member benefits, which will enable members to utilize their membership more proactively.
- Refine the role of Council members so all members are aware of what is expected of their participation.
- Consider modifying the process used in Council meetings. Comments such as "[the meetings are] getting un-wieldy as it gets bigger and bigger", "The meetings are not efficient—too much reporting and not enough action", and "There are strong personalities that do not allow for new voices" suggest that more serious thought should be dedicated to streamlining meetings for better organization and improving the facilitation process to allow more voices to be heard.
- Consider developing creative ways to provide requested training to Council members. Some options include holding brown bag meetings and exploring member skills and interests in depth.
- For the 2009 Cancer Council Satisfaction Survey, consider adding a comment box at the end of the survey to encourage more diverse comments.

Approximately half of the New Mexico Cancer Council members contributed to the Satisfaction Survey. This strong sample size gives a reliably clear picture of Council member attitudes and views. The results will enable the Cancer Council to move forward with developing more accurate priorities, plans, and member training for 2009 and take necessary steps to improve the Council's work and meeting process.