



Issue 1 / July 2012

WELCOME to the very first edition of our regularly published New Mexico Cancer Council e-newsletter, *The Council Times*!

2012-2016 New Mexico Cancer Plan in Development

During the past year, the New Mexico Cancer Plan Revision Ad Hoc Group worked diligently to create a new, updated five-year Cancer Plan to guide cancer control in our state. The Plan will contain revised goals and objectives to best address the burden of cancer in New Mexico. Information on the most prevalent cancers in New Mexico, health disparities and the spectrum of cancer care will be included.

To foster an understanding and use of evidence-based practices among Council members, information on evidence-based practices will enhance this version of the Plan.

The Cancer Plan is expected to be released and ready for distribution in the fall of 2012.



COLLABORATION CORNER

Encouraging Collaboration within Coalitions

While coalitions are useful for accomplishing broad goals, turf issues within the coalition can be a common occurrence. More and more, funders are requiring that groups work together to solve a problem via the work of a coalition. Yet, turf struggles can threaten a coalition's effectiveness. Frequently, members are asked to leave their individual bias out of coalition discussions. Doing so can drain the coalition of its purpose and energy and make some members feel alienated.

A 2003 article developed by the Prevention Institute, *The Tension of Turf: Making it Work for the Coalition*, provides a different and realistic perspective on dealing with tensions. In the article, the authors acknowledge that coalition members have differing and conflicting agendas at times, and that creating an environment where coalition members feel comfortable acknowledging these issues is vital to the health of the organization.

The term "turf" refers quite literally to how the "property" is divided up – who gets the recognition and the resources, be they financial or political. And turf struggles affect not only those who win or lose, but every participant and the very well-being of the coalition itself.

There is no one best way for coalitions to avoid turf issues. Working collectively takes hard work and a focus on the big picture.

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Do you have ideas for the NMCC newsletter? Share them with the PR workgroup for consideration! Contact Christine Brown at christina.brown@state.nm.us.

This newsletter is published to help New Mexico Cancer Council members stay connected between Council meetings and to share important information about past, present and upcoming Council events and initiatives. Be sure to visit the Council's website at www.cancernm.org/cancercouncil.

The article suggests some ways organizations can manage issues related to turf tensions:

- **Acknowledge potential turf issues.** Having honest conversations with members about the history of relationships between potential members and their organizations can be helpful in determining which people are best suited to invite to join the coalition.
- **Talk details.** Coalition members should be encouraged to openly discuss their reasons for being at the table and to share information about their respective organizations. Allow time for discussions among members (including new members) about such topics as their organization's mission, funding sources, potential threats to their funding base or what would enhance it, and key constituents.
- **Shape collective identity.** Members must be invested in the coalition's success and see how the work of their organizations fits into the larger vision of the coalition. Share the limelight! Allow all members to represent the coalition at meetings, in the media or political gatherings.
- **Make fair decisions.** It's important that the decision-making process is applied consistently and is based on majority support. Create a clearly stated decision-making policy in conjunction with coalition members. There should be time for all coalition members to discuss the impact of the potential decision on their individual organizations before the decision is made. The Council's recent trainings on sustainability and collaboration held in June encouraged members to identify opportunities for collaboration with each other.

Check out the next issue of *The Council Times* for more steps coalitions can take to streamline effective working relationships.

Executive Committee Elections

Nominations recently took place for the New Mexico Cancer Council Executive Committee for the 2012–2014 term. This Council activity is typically held in late Spring with new members serving a two-year term that starts on July 1st of every year. Nominations were open to Council members who could nominate other members or themselves.

Look for future email correspondence that will provide detailed information about Council voting for new Executive Committee nominees.

Welcome New Council Members!

The Executive Committee has approved the following new NMCC members during the last six months:

Benjamin Jacquez

New Mexico Department of Health, Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program, Albuquerque

Nikki Quinlan

Individual Member, Albuquerque

Jeffrey Diamond

Listen to Your Mom, Carlsbad

Evy Diamond

Individual Member, Carlsbad

Lacey Daniell

Individual Member, Albuquerque

Geri Schmotzer

Individual Member, Las Cruces

Ana Portillo

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Albuquerque

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2012 Cancer Council Meetings

All meetings can be found on the Council website at www.cancernm.org/cancercouncil

July 18

8:30a–1:00p

Meeting

Location to be determined

Nov. 14

9:00a–12:00p

Meeting

Location to be determined

2012 Executive Committee Meetings

Feb. 21, 2:30–4:30p

Apr. 17, 2:30–4:30p

June 19, 2:30–4:30p

Aug. 28, 2:30 – 4:30p

Oct. 16, 2:30–4:30p

Dec. 11, 2:00–4:00p

2011 New Mexico Cancer Council Annual Retreat

The 2011 NMCC Annual Retreat was held December 9, 2011 and was facilitated by Kelley Daniel, PhD, Senior Representative State and Local Campaigns with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. The NMCC discussion focused on the importance of policy efforts as well as strengths and challenges the Council could face when addressing future policy initiatives.

Council Sustainability and Collaboration Trainings

On June 13, 2012, Council members participated in trainings to learn about program sustainability and collaboration. Participants learned of strategies that can be applied to create more potent, impactful and sustainable programs and the important role of collaboration in maintaining the provision of cancer services throughout the state.

2011 New Mexico Cancer Conference and BCC Provider Annual Meeting

The conference was a huge success with 250 attendees from 134 organizations. This year's speakers were well received and Susan G. Komen sponsored a luncheon to honor the 20-year anniversary of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. A general Cancer Council meeting was held in conjunction with the Conference at which Susan Baum, MD, MPH, and Laura Tomedi, PhD, MPH, presented "Analysis of data collected in Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Cancer Survivorship Module."

HEALTH OBSERVANCES JULY - SEPTEMBER

July

July is **UV Safety Month** and a great time to spread the message of sun, fun and UV safety in your communities. Sponsored by the National Academy of Ophthalmology.

September

In September 2011, President Obama proclaimed September as the month to recognize the following events:

National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month



An Online Community of Practice for Cancer Control

Developed and supported by the National Cancer Institute, Research to Reality is an online community of practice that links cancer control practitioners and researchers and provides opportunities for discussion, learning and enhanced collaboration on moving research into practice. This is achieved in a number of ways including cyber-seminars, discussions and notices about upcoming conferences, meetings and trainings related to moving cancer control research into practice.

All Research to Reality cyber-seminars are archived and available for viewing on the Research to Reality website. Here are some recent topics:

- Ensuring the Delivery of Patient-Centered Cancer Care
- Using Systems Thinking and Tools to Solve Public Health Problems
- Health Initiatives: Mobilizing Cancer Prevention and Control
- Reaching Minority Populations: Cancer Control and Prevention for Latino Populations
- The Community Guide: A Resource to Improve Health and Prevent Cancer in Your Area

To learn more about Research to Reality, visit <https://researchtoreality.cancer.gov/>