

THE COUNCIL TIMES



Issue 2 / November 2012

WELCOME to the *Council Times*, the official newsletter of the New Mexico Cancer Council

New Mexico Cancer Council Strategic Framework Developed to Guide Council Efforts

One of the challenges for cancer control organizations is how to sustain programs or services to achieve meaningful results, reach and engage disparate communities, and to become integrated into the community's culture. How can organizations continue to thrive when faced with the reality of diminished funding? It is incumbent upon cancer programs to not only deliver services, but to create long-term capacity and organizational viability. Sustainability means having the human, financial, technological, and organizational resources to provide services to meet needs and attain results on an ongoing basis.

On June 13th and 14th, the New Mexico Cancer Council participated in trainings focusing on program sustainability. Both trainings were facilitated by Shelli Bischoff from Nonprofit Impact <http://nonprofitimpact.com/>. The Council identified the importance of sustaining cancer control services in the state as a priority activity, and these facilitated meetings were the first step in that process. The first training was open to all Council members and utilized the Integrated Strategy, a proven strategy for creating more sustainable operations. Participants were provided with tools that can be applied to organizations, agencies, and programs and help them work with their staff and partners to determine if sustainability is feasible. On the same day, Council members also participated in a workshop on collaboration, in recognition of the important role of collaboration in maintaining the provision of services throughout the state. Increased collaboration allows Council members to benefit from the wealth of expertise other members bring to the organization.

The second training consisted of a day-long planning meeting for leaders of the Council to address sustainability of the New Mexico Cancer Council and its member organizations. Discussions were focused on agreement about what sustainability means for Council members, what the Council is working to sustain, development of a strategic framework to guide decisions, actions and priorities of the Council, implications for New Mexico communities and the Council and future action steps necessary to adequately address sustainability.

As a result of this meeting, a strategic framework was developed to help guide future efforts of the Council. Rather than redirect the Council's mission and purpose entirely, the framework demonstrates that the Council provides valuable networking and professional development opportunities for members and can convey a unified voice about cancer issues important to New Mexico populations, including policies that impact cancer. In addition, many Council members say that membership on the Council provides support and credibility to the work they do in their own organizations. The Council's leadership has been discussing ways to build on the framework and how to best convey the value and utility of the framework to the general Council. The two-page strategic framework and slides from the planning meeting can be found on the Council's website: [www.http://cancernm.org/cancercouncil/publications/](http://cancernm.org/cancercouncil/publications/)

New Mexico Cancer Plan to be Released November 14th

The revised version of the *New Mexico Cancer Plan* is expected to be distributed at the Cancer Council Retreat on November 14th. The Plan resulted from many hours of work and thoughtful contributions by the Cancer Plan revision ad hoc committee and the Executive Committee.

In addition to updated goals and objectives, the revised Plan has new content and features including an appendix with evidence-based interventions to assist people in identifying and implementing interventions to address goals and objectives in the Plan. There is also a new section called, "Considerations for Implementing the New Mexico Cancer Plan in Native American Communities" which was created by the Native American workgroup. The new Cancer Plan will be available on the Cancer Council website.

REMINDER!

The NM Cancer Council Annual Retreat will be
November 14th, 2012 : Roadrunner Food Bank
8:00a-12:30p

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Collaboration Corner

The July issue of the NMCC newsletter included an article about ways a coalition can encourage collaboration among its members. The article provided several ways coalitions can streamline effective partnerships which are taken from a Prevention Institute document, [*The Tension of Turf: Making it work for the Coalition.*](#) Here are some more ways coalitions can do this:

- **Seek funding for coalition coordination** - Funding beyond a 'lead agency' can provide an incentive for cooperation. Since not all members may be willing or able to contribute financial support, allowing members to participate at different levels can be helpful. Some members may contribute financial support while others make their contribution in the form of staff time or bringing informative research to the table.
- **Reward members and celebrate successes - It's important to make coalition involvement feel worthwhile to members.** Take time to acknowledge successes along the way so members see that they are achieving some of the coalition goals and help them see how their activities are fitting into the broader vision of the coalition.
- **Build bridges** - Create an atmosphere of trust, respect and amicability within a coalition. Set aside time for networking and socializing before or after meetings. Encourage small groups to form within the coalition, since people tend to work more efficiently in smaller groups.
- **Remind participants of the big picture** - If turf issues arise, certain members can be effective in re-unifying the group and reminding it of its common goals. It is sometimes helpful to reconnect to the big picture of why the coalition was established. Coalition leaders should make clear to these members the importance of their role to the coalition.
- **Make struggles overt** - Since conflict can exist within coalitions, discuss the causes of the conflict, if possible. Leadership must be alert to these struggles and must approach those issues in as non-defensive a way as possible. Meeting with members individually may be helpful to address these issues more proactively.
- **Encourage flexibility** - Creating an environment where members feel comfortable with diverse perspectives and conflict is critical. Humor is valuable, as are ground rules that ask people to describe disagreements without personal criticism.

Resource for Addressing Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities

Community organizations that would like assistance initiating or improving services for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations may benefit from the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program within the Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities Program (SESRCDD). The Program can provide capacity building assistance to organizations *at no cost* to implement evidence-based strategies to combat disparities in cancer.

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Psychological Association, the program is a national initiative to build the capacity of community cancer-serving organizations to address health disparities in cancer through the adaptation and utilization of evidence-based cancer prevention and control efforts for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

Volunteers with the Program have extensive experience translating community-level public health science into practice. Behavioral and Social Science Volunteers can provide assistance with identifying/adapting evidence-based interventions; program evaluation/monitoring; needs assessment; advocating for local policy; psychosocial support for cancer care and much more. For more information, visit

[http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/programs/index.aspx?tab=5.](http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/programs/index.aspx?tab=5)

Council Resources Can be Found on Council Website

Many Council-related resources can be found on the Council's website. Meeting minutes from both the Executive Committee and the general Council provide information about discussions, action items and decisions that impact the work of the Council. Reports related to Council initiatives, new member orientation information and materials from past Council educational trainings can also be reviewed by accessing the Council website:

[www.http://cancernm.org/cancercouncil/](http://www.cancernm.org/cancercouncil/).

Cancer Council Member Receives Fellowship

Dr. Barbara Damron, an associate professor with the College of Nursing and full scientific member with the UNM Cancer Center and a former member of the Cancer Council's Executive Committee, has been selected for a one-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Institute of Medicine Health Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. As a fellow, Dr. Damron's real world health and health care leadership experiences will pro-

vide an important perspective to health policy decisions, particularly as the country (and New Mexico) strives to address pressing health care challenges. In addition to leadership development activities and media training, Dr. Damron will gain experience in engaging health policy to improve health and health care and will learn more about the political process. For more information, visit:

<http://news.unm.edu/2012/08/damron-selected-for-national-health-policy-fellowship/>

Congratulations, Dr. Damron!

2011-2012 Cancer Trends Progress Report Released

The National Cancer Institute recently announced its 2011-2012 release of the Cancer Trends Progress Report. The revised report, published every other year, summarizes our nation's progress against cancer and is intended for policy-makers, researchers, clinicians, and public health service providers and offers updated national trends data in a user-friendly format. The report can be viewed online at:

<http://progressreport.cancer.gov/>

FALL 2012 HEALTH OBSERVANCES

November:

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

COPD Awareness Month

National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month

Great American Smokeout (Nov. 15)

UPCOMING 2012-2013 MEETINGS

Council Meetings

November 14, 2012
8:00a-12:00p

Location: Roadrunner Food Bank

March 20, 2013 (United Way)
July 17, 2013 (location TBD)
Nov. 20, 2013 (location TBD)

Executive Committee Meetings

Dec. 11, 2012: **2:00p-4:00p**

Feb. 19, 2013: 2:30-4:30p
April 16, 2013: 2:30 - 4:30p
June 11, 2013: 2:30-4:30p
August 20, 2013: 2:30-4:30p
Oct. 15, 2013: 2:30-4:30p
Dec. 10, 2013: **2:00-4:00p**

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

Research to Reality

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.

Along with many other features, Research to Reality offers informative cyber-seminars which explore issues of practice-based evidence and evidence-based practice. All seminars are archived and can be accessed at any time for viewing. Links to some recent seminars include:

- [Bridging Research and Reality: Practice-based Evidence & Evidence-based Practice](#)
- [Measuring for Improvement: The Health Disparities Calculator \(HD*Calc\)](#)
- [Bridging Local and State Cancer Control Efforts through Evidence](#)
- [Making it Last: Sustaining Public Health Programs in Your Community](#)
- [Ensuring the Delivery of Patient-Centered Cancer Care](#)

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