



**Delaware Cancer Consortium  
Data Committee Meeting Minutes**  
September 17, 2007  
Delaware Technical & Community College  
Dover, DE

**Attendees**

Did Not Attend	Paul Akana, M.D. Bayhealth Medical Center
Did Not Attend	Cynthia Barlow, Pharm.D., BCOP, Christiana Care
Attended	David Biggs, M.D., Christiana Care
Did Not Attend	Pat Carroll-Grant, Delaware Pharmacy Society
Did Not Attend	Dan Depietropaolo, Heartland Hospice
Did Not Attend	Janet Faulkner, RN BSN, Bayhealth Medical Center
Did Not Attend	Robert Frelick, M.D., Helen F. Graham Cancer Center/Christiana Care
Did Not Attend	Pat Grusenmeyer, Sc.D. FACHE, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Did Not Attend	Paul Kolm, PhD, Christiana Care
Attended	Robert McBride, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center/Christiana Care
Did Not Attend	Keith Neff, Neff & Associates
Attended	Srihari Peri, M.D., Tunnell Cancer Center
Did Not Attend	Wayne Smith, Delaware Healthcare Association
Did Not Attend	Lee Swensson, Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Did Not Attend	John Talley, University of Delaware
Attended	Judy Walrath, Ph.D., American Cancer Society
Attended	Robert Wilson, PhD, University of Delaware
Attended	Dennis Witmer, MD, Wilmington Veterans Administration
Attended	Michael Zaragoza, M.D., Bayhealth Medical Center

**Staff**

Attended	Note: Reorder below to: Olshefsky, Shannon, Shevock, Short, Rust
Attended	Alisa Olshefsky, DHSS/Delaware Division of Public Health
Attended	Laura Rust, Wheeler & Associates Management Services, Inc.
Attended	Marjorie Shannon, DHSS/Delaware Division of Public Health
Attended	Shari Short, Aloysius Butler & Clark (A B & C)
Attended	Allison Shevock, DHSS/Delaware Division of Public Health

**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Committee members approved the July 16, 2007 Data Expert Resource Committee meeting minutes without changes.

**Old & New Business**

**Call to Order**

Ms. Marjorie Shannon, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist with the Division of Public Health and Public Health Specialist (PHS) to the Data Expert Resource Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

**Welcome, New Committee Member(s) and/or Staff Introductions**

Ms. Shannon announced that Mr. William Bowser, Esq., Advisory Council Chair, would not be giving the welcome presentation as noted on the agenda and welcomed all new attendees to the second Data Committee meeting.

Ms. Shannon turned the meeting over to Ms. Alisa Olshefsky, Chronic Disease Bureau Chief of the DHSS/Division of Public Health, who gave a PowerPoint™ presentation and brief background on the Delaware Cancer Consortium (DCC). New member packets were distributed to all new members who did not attend the Committee's first meeting in July.

### **Review Data Committee 2007-2011 Cancer Plan (Purple Book) Recommendations: Marj Shannon**

Ms. Shannon gave an overview of the Purple Book recommendations set forth for the Data Committee and briefly gave an explanation of each goal and corresponding objectives.

### **Review Cross Collaboration Table: Marj Shannon**

Ms. Shannon asked members and staff to review the Committee Cross Collaboration table provided and explained how the Data Committee would work with the other DCC committees to assist with their data/surveillance-related projects. Ms. Shannon noted several committees that will be conducting surveys and studies that may require the Data Committee's contribution.

### **Review Data Committee's Year 1 Activities: Marj Shannon**

Ms. Shannon asked members and staff to review the Year 1 Activities Table provided and noted that the timeline was not set in stone but simply a place to begin.

### **Review Small States' Cancer Plans Table: Marj Shannon**

The Small States' Cancer Plans Table was reviewed by members and staff. The table was developed to research cancer plans of several states with populations closest to that of Delaware. The table includes information on each state's cancer plan, data/surveillance group (if one exists), and the group's goals and objectives. The table also includes resources the states use for gathering and keeping cancer related information. Ms. Shannon noted that in researching the plans of other states it was found that many states' cancer plans were not unlike Delaware's plan and suggested members review the information and visit the states' related websites and links and to bring the information back to the next meeting.

A member mentioned that New Jersey has an excellent portal for cancer plan information.

### **Updates/Other (related events held/to be held, related achievements, etc.)**

#### Upcoming Community-Level Survey:

Ms. Allison Shevock, PhD, Cancer Epidemiologist with the Division of Public Health, advised the Committee on a community-level survey that will be conducted under the auspices of the Environment Committee, explaining that the Indian River cancer cluster had been the impetus for the survey. The survey proposal will be presented at the next Environment Committee meeting to be held October 10. Ms. Shevock noted that the survey will cover the Indian River and surrounding Sussex County areas and will be in four parts:

- Indian River residents with lung cancer
- Indian River residents without lung cancer
- Surrounding Sussex County area residents with lung cancer
- Surrounding Sussex County area residents without lung cancer

Ms. Shevock stated that smoking history, occupational, social and individual level characteristics would be examined, with a target sample of approximately 150 people per target population noted above.

Dr. Robert Wilson asked how people would be solicited for the survey. Ms. Shevock responded that a couple of resources would be tapped including the Cancer Registry, and a multi-effort media campaign with flyers and newspaper ads, soliciting cancer patients diagnosed with lung cancer. Ms. Shevock stated that non-cancer patients would be solicited as well for comparison purposes.

In response to questions, Ms. Shannon noted that interstate data exchanges are also in place; i.e., that Delawareans diagnosed/treated out-of-state for lung cancer still were reported to the Delaware Cancer Registry..

Ms. Olshefsky advised the Committee that the preliminary survey design and methodology would be e-mailed to everyone after the meeting for member review and comment.

Requests for Cancer Data:

Ms. Shannon alerted Committee members and staff to a recent media request for Delaware Cancer Registry data, in which the Division of Public Health was asked to release all case data on file for people diagnosed with cancer between 1980 and 2005, inclusive. The request was apparently prompted by the identification of the Indian River cancer cluster. Ms. Shannon advised attendees that, in response to this request, a file of all cancer cases diagnosed during the time period of interest was compiled and analyzed using Record Uniqueness software developed by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). The software assesses the "identifiability risk" of records in a data file; i.e., how likely it is that, using the information in the file, a user could identify an individual patient. For a public use file (such as one supplied to a media requestor), NAACCR recommends that the risk fall below 5%. Based on analysis of common variables requisite to file utility, e.g., primary cancer site, age at diagnosis, diagnosis date, sex, race/ethnicity and place of residence at time of diagnosis, it did not appear that it would be possible to produce a file that was both sufficiently anonymized and useful.

Availability of Treatment Data in the Delaware Cancer Registry:

Ms. Shannon stated that the Division is exploring different ways to assure that first course of treatment data is more complete in the Delaware Central Registry. One possibility is to capture treatment information available on health care claims data; this approach would have the added advantage of providing for capture of data of treatment delivered at sites other than hospitals, e.g., in outpatient treatment centers or physician offices. .

**Delaware Cancer Consortium Retreat**

Ms. Shannon reminded the Committee that a DCC Retreat will take place on February 7, 2008. The event will include Committee presentations, educational and break-out sessions, and will be open to all members.

Ms. Marjorie Shannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

**Documentation**

Along with the meeting agenda, the following documents were provided at this meeting and are available upon request to Laura Rust at 302-335-1495 or via e-mail at: [Laura@ManageTool.com](mailto:Laura@ManageTool.com)

- ~ New Member Packets
- ~DCC Data Committee 2007-2011 Cancer Plan (Purple Book) Recommendations
- ~Small States' Cancer Plan Table
- ~Data Committee Year 1 Activities Table
- ~Data Committee Cross-Collaboration Table

**Future Meeting(s)**

The next Delaware Cancer Consortium Data Committee meeting has been scheduled for November 19, 2007, 12:30 p.m. at Delaware Technical Community College, Terry Campus, Dover, DE.