

## Care Subcommittee Minutes

April 27, 2007

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Thomas Shea, MD, Chair; Jean Sellers, RN, Associate Chair, Nancy Avis, Judy Brunger, Bob Carpenter, William Carpenter, John Feldmann, Carolyn Ferree, Sharn Jeffries, Cindy Johnston, Karen Knight, Suzan Maddox, Bobbi Marks, Marcus Plescia, Cathy Rimmer, Alice Schenall, Karen Steers, Todd Thornburg, Jane Turecky, Elizabeth Fancher Zurick

**Staff:** Amy Denham, MD, MPH

Topic	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome/Introductions	Dr. Shea called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Attendees introduced themselves.	
2. Minutes Approval	Dr. Shea called for approval of minutes from January meeting.	Jean Sellers moved to approve minutes. John Feldmann seconded motion. Minutes unanimously approved.
3. Executive Committee Report	<p>Dr. Shea reported the following items from the Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The NC Central Cancer Registry has been awarded gold certification from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), indicating that it has met NAACCR's highest standards for data reporting.</li><li>• Michael Heller, of Carolina Cancer Specialists in Clyde, NC, is involved with creating a data sharing agreement between small rural hospitals and larger tertiary care hospitals in the western part of the state, which will allow</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A proposal was made to send a formal letter of commendation to hospital cancer registrars to recognize the quality standards they have achieved. John Feldmann made a motion and Bobbie Marks seconded. Tom Shea will draft a letter.</li><li>• Dr. Heller will present on this initiative at a future Care Subcommittee meeting.</li></ul>

	<p>better continuity of care as cancer patients transition from one medical center to another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Todd Thornburg will be leaving the Care Subcommittee and the Advisory Committee due to his promotion within WFUBMC. He will now be working with Wake Forest's translational research initiative.</li> <li>• The Colon Cancer Alliance will be sponsoring an event, <i>Conversations About Colorectal Cancer</i>, for colon cancer survivors, their families and loved ones, and caregivers on June 9, 2007 at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro.</li> <li>• NCI will be sponsoring a Cancer Health Disparities Summit July 16-18, 2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Avis, Director of the Cancer Control Program, of Wake Forest's Comprehensive Cancer Center, will be replacing Todd Thornburg.</li> </ul>
4. Palliative Care Work Group update	<p>Jean Sellers reported on the work of the Palliative Care Work Group. She reported that a decision has been made to have a single Palliative Care Work Group, rather than separate pain management and end-of-life care work groups. Judy Brunger, of the Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care has joined the leadership of the Work Group. The group is seeking additional leadership with broad-based experience in the field of palliative care.</p>	<p>If Care Subcommittee members have recommendations for individuals who could serve in a leadership role for the Palliative Care Work Group, they should pass them on to Jean Sellers, Judy Brunger, or Amy Denham.</p>
5. Survivorship update	<p>Amy Denham announced a NC Cancer Survivorship Summit, occurring at Research Triangle Park on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Summit will have the goal of developing a Cancer Survivorship Action Plan for the state, covering caregiver needs, financial concerns, childhood cancer survivorship, working with healthcare teams, and support systems. Nominations are being accepted for cancer</p>	<p>Individuals who want to attend or who know of cancer survivors/family members/caregivers who they would like to nominate should contact Walter Shepherd.</p>

	survivors from across the state with a wide variety of cancer experiences.	
6. Clinical Trials update	Bill Carpenter reported on activities aimed at better characterizing clinical trial participation in North Carolina using the American College of Surgeons National Cancer Data Base (NCDB).	
7. Cancer Assistance Program proposed policy changes	Amy Denham and Marcus Plescia reported on proposed policy changes to the Cancer Assistance Program. Because funds for this program have been insufficient to cover demand, it has been proposed that the program narrow its scope, to cover only cancers which may benefit from early detection (those cancers for which the USPSTF gives an A, B or I recommendation for screening, currently including breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, oral, prostate, and skin). Members reviewed the text of the proposed policy change. Drs. Denham and Plescia also reported on proposals currently in the General Assembly to increase funding to the program.	Dr. Shea requested that the wording of the proposed policy change be changed so that it is clearer as to which cancers are covered. He pointed out that the current wording of the program policy overemphasizes cervical dysplasia. John Feldmann introduced a motion to approve the policy change, with the wording change Dr. Shea proposed. Jean Sellers seconded the motion. The revised policy change was unanimously approved.
8. Cancer Plan update	A document was circulated that contained the cancer care related goals and objectives from cancer plans in other states. Members of the Subcommittee divided into small groups to take responsibility for selecting goals and objectives for North Carolina's cancer plan in various content areas.	Each small group will work together before the July Subcommittee meeting to select goals and objectives for inclusion in NC's Cancer Plan. Small groups are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palliative Care – Judy Brunger, Jean Sellers, Cindy Johnston</li> <li>• Clinical Trials – Jane Turecky, Bill Carpenter, John Feldmann</li> <li>• Professional Education/Workforce –</li> </ul>

		Alice Schenall, Cathy Rimmer • Access – Karen Knight, Elizabeth Zurick, Carolyn Ferree, Amy Denham • Childhood Cancers – Bobbie Marks Disparities – Todd Thornburg, Nancy Avis
9. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.		