

Care Subcommittee Minutes

July 25, 2008

12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Thomas Shea, MD, Chair, Jean Sellers, RN, Associate-Chair, Ron Allison, Nancy Avis, R. Morgan Bain, Judy Brunger, Bob Carpenter, Suzanne Carroll, John Feldmann, Joanne Henley, Julie Lanford, Michelle Manning, Charlotte Peace, Tina Piccirilli, Cathy Rimmer, Heidi Scarsella, Patty Spears, Bill Wood, Deborah Poovey

Staff: Linda Rohret, Amy Denham

Topic	Discussion	Action
1. <i>Welcome/Introductions</i>	Dr. Shea called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m., and welcomed members. Attendees introduced themselves.	
2. <i>Minutes Approval</i>	Dr. Shea called for approval of minutes from the February meeting.	Bob Carpenter moved to approve minutes. Minutes unanimously approved.
3. <i>Executive Committee Items of Interest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A successful Survivorship Summit was held in June 2008, with approximately 300 participants. Another summit is planned next year in Greenville. The executive committee discussed the possibility of partnering with other groups to sponsor regional survivor reunions.• NC Comp Cancer and ACS are in the process of hiring 6 regional coordinators, to inventory resources, assess needs, and implement the cancer plan across the state. It is anticipated that 4 coordinators will be in place by the end of September.• An organization called ENACT has applied for an NCI sponsored grant to promote clinical trials awareness among the public and health care providers. NC Comp Cancer was included as a partner on the grant.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Comp Cancer is collaborating with the NC Academy of Family Physicians to disseminate cancer-related CME. 	
4. <i>Clinical Trials Work Group Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goals of the clinical trials workgroup are to improve clinical trials participation across the state, increase knowledge of available clinical trials, and address financial barriers to clinical trials participation. • The workgroup sponsored a meeting of stakeholders in April to consider whether to contract with Trial Check to create a common website for posting cancer clinical trials available in NC. • Senator Bob Carpenter updated the subcommittee on legislative issues related to insurance coverage of clinical trials. Legislation is pending at the federal level to require coverage of clinical trials by all insurers, including self-insured employers. Several state legislators are willing to introduce similar legislation at the state level if federal legislation does not move forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the clinical trials workgroup will clarify the status of pending national legislation on insurance coverage of clinical trials. • If it appears that national legislation is not moving forward, the clinical trials workgroup will draft a recommendation for legislation at the state level, to be presented at the October meeting.
5. <i>Survivorship Work Group Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Rohret, Julie Lansford, and Michelle Manning reported on activities of the Survivorship workgroup. • The workgroup would like to be more active in planning and publicizing the survivorship summit and would like to consider changing the date so that it does not conflict with other survivorship activities. They would like to put together a more clear mission statement for the conference and allow participants to attend more than one breakout session. • Deborah Mayer is taking the lead in developing survivorship-related objectives and strategies for the cancer plan. • Bill Wood reported on a meeting in San Francisco he attended that addressed survivorship issues for bone marrow transplant survivors, including inadequate provider education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group will continue to work on development of its portion of the cancer plan.
6. <i>Palliative Care Work Group Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morgan Bain reported on Palliative Care workgroup activities. • The group has quarterly meetings and monthly conference calls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group will continue to work on cancer plan goals and objectives and a white

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New physician members of the group include Tony Galanos of Duke, Sara Young of Pinehurst, and Susan Hines of Winston-Salem • The focus of the group will be advocacy, public and provider education, and collaboration • Dr. Bain reported that opiate pain medication availability has improved, but pain management during transitions out of the hospital can still be problematic. The group discussed barriers to adequate pain management. • The Pain Management Pocket Tool continues to be disseminated. • Judy Brunger reported on growth in availability inpatient hospice beds. ~200 inpatient hospice beds are available across the state, ~60 are expected to open within the next 3-6 months, and 9 counties currently have a certificate of need. Beds are about 85% occupied, on average. 	<p>paper, with a plan to complete these tasks within a year.</p>
7. <i>Cancer Patient Navigator Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Sellers reported on activities of the Patient Navigation workgroup. • The NC Oncology Navigation Association (NCONA) continues to discuss how different disciplines fit into patient navigation. It is developing guidelines for membership. • UNC is sponsoring a pilot outreach project in Dare County, which will involve working with the county health department on identifying barriers to access to care, and sponsoring specialty clinics and continuing education opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCONA will develop membership guidelines, to better define the practice of patient navigation.
8. <i>Cancer Assistance Report</i>	<p>Amy Denham distributed a report on activities of the Cancer Assistance Unit in fiscal year 2007.</p>	
9. <i>Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.</i>		