

NYS Cancer Consortium Chronicle

New York State Cancer Consortium

New Data Reports Available!

The American Cancer Society has just issued its 2009 version of the Cancer Burden Profiles and Cancer Disparities Profile. These reports are done by county and include data such as incidence and mortality rates for the "Big 4", early stage data, and demographics data that is compared to New York State excluding NYC (for upstate counties) and NYC (for downstate counties). The Disparities Report includes much of this data separated by race.

If you would like to learn more or request a copy of your county's profiles email nyscccp@cancer.org or amy.vaelkl@cancer.org.

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Meet Your New Steering Committee!

In addition to Steering Committee members mentioned in the previous edition of the NYSCC Chronicle, we would like to introduce new Steering Committee member:

Toni Cabat

Toni Cabat is the Director of Family Services and Organizational Development at Chai Lifeline since 1996. She came to Chai Lifeline from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where she was the Assistant Director of Social Work.

Chai Lifeline is a community based health support organization with a specialized residential camp, Camp Simcha, for children with cancer, as well as year-round support ser-

vices for children and their families. Toni oversees many vital psychosocial programs, such as the counseling centers throughout greater NYC region, teleconference support groups and information lines, graduate and undergraduate field training and is the Project Director for a Greater NY Komen for the Cure grant meeting the needs of Orthodox Jewish women living with breast cancer. She supervises the MSW level counseling staff in the NY region. She represents Chai Lifeline and the needs of the cancer-diagnosed population on many local and national organizations including the Childhood Cancer Alliance under ASCO.

Toni has an undergraduate

degree in sociology from Hunter College, an MSW from NYU School of Social Work and a doctorate in social welfare from CUNY, Graduate Center/ She has been an active member of several professional associations, APOSW, NASW, SSWLHC, Metropolitan Chapter. She was the recipient of the Eleanor Clark Award for innovative programs in patient care in 2003 from the National SSWLHC. She has served as a consultant to several health care organizations and has presented at numerous professional conferences throughout her career on program innovations in HIV/AIDS and pediatric and adult oncology.

NYSCC Committee Reports/Updates

Communications:

Is creating a Facebook page that will be available to members of the NYSCC. A mentor toolkit with talking points will be created to mentor all new NYSCC members to the Consortium.

Evaluation:

Creating an updated Evaluation Plan for this

year's grant cycle that will be available in October 2009. Creating a membership Profile Report that will be made available December 2009.

Health Workforce:

Is continuing work from the former Implementation Committee. Is looking for members to serve on the Committee and has cre-

ated a list of organizations that should be included on the Committee.

Tobacco Control:

Working on ways to address sales tax avoidance on tobacco products. Letter to Commissioner Daines has been sent by the Steering Committee to address the issues of

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WNYCC: “SWOT’s” Underway?

WNYCC is still at it! To help keep the momentum of the coalition and to assist in funding efforts, the WNYCC began a formal strategic planning process in June 2009. With the guidance of Marilyn Kurzawa of Learning Design Associates, a group of volunteers has been hard at work.

Four meetings later, the WNYCC has a completed mission and vision statements. A list of core values has been constructed and a thorough SWOT (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) analysis is nearly completed. Actionable planning items

and goal statements are being determined.

WNYCC has decided to “look globally to act locally” with WNYCC acting as a convener of all cancer related activity in the region.

While the goals of the group are ambitious, they can certainly be attained. WNYCC has proven itself to be comprised of a group of dedicated volunteers that are action oriented. With all of the group’s previous success, and with the aid of Western NY’s P2 Collaborative and WNYCC’s collaboration, great things are expected of

this group!

To stay informed about the goings on of the WNYCC, keep checking their webpage at : http://nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer_wnycc.aspx

The NYSCC Chronicle will now be published bi-monthly!

To honor the requests for more information made by our members in the 2009 Membership Survey, Updates on Committee actions will be posted in each Chronicle issue.

Stay tuned within the upcoming months for changes that will allow for greater transparency in NYSCC Committee activities, greater participation by members, and increased recognition for the NYSCC by other organizations.

What’s New on the Webstie?

Committee pages have been officially updated and posted. Information on current projects will be continuously posted. New membership applications have been put up so please update your information.. Stay tuned for more updates.

NYSCC Committee Reports/Updates Cont’d

state delays in tobacco program contracts. To view this letter go to our website and click on the Steering Committee page. The letter is listed under the Documents section.

Palliative Care:

Had their first meeting in August with Joan Dascher from Sage College’s School of Nursing as the chair. The group is developing a multimedia message on information sharing, funding for education and training opportunities. Measurable objectives will be identified during the next meetings in September and October.

Prevention and Early Detection:

Dr. Leslie Kohman from SUNY Upstate Medical Center will be chair-

ing the Committee. The focus will be on obesity reduction and opportunities to support healthy eating and physical activity initiatives. Will be looking at screening rates now with the cuts to CSP funding and levels of colorectal cancer screening and advocacy opportunities.

Policy/Advisory Committee:

Keeping an eye on the impact of the national healthcare reform plan. Supporting the passage of the Family Healthcare Decision Act. A plan for a “Call to Action” procedure for the NYSCC will be created to assist those lobbying of the NYSCC and to provide information to those members that cannot lobby.

Membership:

The NYSCC now has 225 members. Membership will be looking at the NYSCC membership application to determine if individual vs. organizational member is still needed.

Members of the NYSCC!!

Please make sure to update your membership application by going to our website and clicking on “Join Today!” at the bottom of the homepage. This will also allow you to express your interest in joining a committee.

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 15th Annual Support-A-Walk	5	6	7 Free Gynecologic Health Panel	8 "Who Needs CLAS?"	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Schedule of Events

- October 4– 9am—Support Connection 15th Annual Support-A-Walk at FDR State Park. For more info visit www.supportconnection.org.
- October 7— 7pm—Free Gynecological Health Panel, featuring gynecologic oncologist (and member of NYSCC Steering Committee) Maureen Killackey, MD. For more info contact Linda Young at 845-339-2071x103.
- October 8– 11am-12pm— "Who Needs CLAS?" training via video-conference and presented by the NYS Dept. of Health. Will focus on the four federally mandated Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards and how they apply to your organization. For more info, look at the calendar on our website.

Calendar events are fully posted on our website, so check it out for more information!

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: What This Means for Healthcare and NYS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is an economic stimulus package that was enacted in February 2009. Total monetary output is worth \$787 billion dollars covering areas such as federal tax cuts, unemployment benefits, education, energy, infrastructure and healthcare. So where is there money that we can use?

In the "Other Appropriations" section there is over \$3 billion dollars available for healthcare issues. Here is the breakdown:

- Prevention and Wellness: \$1 billion for funding wellness and prevention programs, including \$300 million for immunization programs, \$50 million for state health-associated infections reduction strategies, and \$650 million for evidence-based clinical and community-based pre-

vention and wellness strategies that deliver measurable health outcomes addressing chronic disease rates.

- Community Health Centers: \$1.5 billion for construction, renovation, equipment and Health IT system acquisition for community health centers and \$500 million for services.
- Training Primary Care Providers: \$500 million to address primary health care provider shortages, including training for physicians, dentists and nurses, as well as medical school expenses for students who agree to practice in underserved communities through the National Health Service Corps.
- Indian Health Service Facilities: \$415 million to modernize hospi-

tals and clinics and make healthcare technology upgrades.

- NIH Research and Facilities: \$10 billion in funding for new NIH research grants and renovations and construction at the NIH campuses.

New York State has received its own appropriation of funds. To learn more about this go to: www.recovery.ny.gov/DirectAid/aidnewyork.htm.

For Competitive Grant opportunities, go to: www.recovery.ny.gov/resources/Federal_Grant_Opportunities.htm. Or www.cancer.gov/researchandfunding/announcements/recoveryact.

How Did We Rate?

2009 Annual NYSCC Member Satisfaction Survey Results

In July 2009, all members of the New York State Cancer Consortium (NYSCC) were sent an e-mail with a link to an on-line member survey. The purpose of the survey is to understand and address the strengths and weaknesses in Consortium processes and identify steps the Consortium leadership can take to respond to those areas needing improvement. This year's survey also included several background questions which were intended to assess whether there are any gaps in the Consortium membership. This executive summary is the first step in communicating the results of this survey with Consortium members. In the next edition of the Chronicle, there will be an article of the steps we will be taking to address the weaknesses and needs which you have identified. The Evaluation Committee will also utilize the member background data from this survey and data from the Membership Committee to prepare a membership profile report to be released in December 2009.

Out of 215 members that received a link to the survey, 91 members completed the survey. This response rate of 42% represents an increase from last year's response rate of 36%.

Key Findings

- There was a slight increase in the percent of respondents rated their general satisfaction with the Consortium as either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with 74.4% of respondents indicating that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' compared to 73.3% in 2008.
- There was a significant increase in the percent of respondents that indicated that the benefits of participating in the Consortium either 'greatly exceeded drawbacks' or 'exceeded drawbacks'
 - While the majority of respondents were positive both about the Consortium and about its potential, there are definite areas for improvement. Frustration or aggravation in the Consortium processes was the drawback which received the highest percentage of responses, at 28.0%. The same drawback was also identified as the biggest drawback in 2008 but at a higher rate 37.7%
- Only 21% of respondents chose to leave additional feedback in the open ended question fields. Similar issues that were cited in 2008 were also cited repeatedly. These issues include an increased need for communication efforts, frustration at
- A perceived lack of action and impact of Consortium, and confusion about Consortium function and purpose.

Next Steps

- The results of the survey were presented to the Steering Committee at their in-person meeting in August Albany and a list of action steps were identified to address some of the major emerging issues.
- Committee specific results will be shared with the Consortium standing committees over the next month.
- The Evaluation Committee will look for methods to increase response rates to this type of survey. If anyone has feedback about this year's survey please contact Gina O'Sullivan, Evaluation Committee Chair, at gmo01@health.state.ny.us.

In order to protect the confidentiality of the survey responses, they cannot be made generally available. However, they will be utilized over the course of the coming year as part of a strategic planning process and as needed to provide possible solutions as concerns are further addressed. This is the first of a planned annual satisfaction survey; if you were unable to participate this year, we hope that you will be able to do so in the future. We would also like to express our thanks to those of you who were able to provide us with your feedback this year to help us better understand what elements of the Consortium processes work well and what can be improved to provide more benefits to our members



"Working Together, Reducing Cancer, Saving Lives"

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