

**Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2008**  
**Family Health Center, Park Hill Conference Room**

**Present:** Dr. Karamchandani, Mary Ellen Benzik, Emily Coyle, Mike Murray, Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki, Deb Pierce, Lauren Rocho, Kristin Roux, Dr. Smiley, Barb Thomas, Jean Thompson, Jill Wise, and Wayne Young.

**I. Minutes:** Minutes from the March 5, 2008 meeting were approved.

**II. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

Dr. Karamchandani reported that the presentations are going well; Sue DeRuiter has been to four offices. Each office that has been presented to has shown an interest in working with us on this project; Dr. Ploehn's office is going to begin tracking numbers of patients referred for screenings as well as flagging all patients due for screenings. Offices will receive a follow-up visit in October, when they will also have the opportunity to view a presentation on Breast Cancer Screening.

**III. Updates from SubCommittees**

**A. Lung/Tobacco**

Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki reported that she and Kristin Roux are working on updating the list of smoke-free restaurants in Calhoun County. Dr. Smiley reported that he met with Commissioner Kate Segal and Senator Mark Schauer recently and discussed the smooth implementation of the smoke-free indoor air regulation and the commission's appreciation of the support from 5C members, especially the letters to the editor and attendance at commission meetings. Senator Schauer feels that there will be movement on State legislation regarding a ban on indoor smoking, which is currently in Senator Bishop's committee. Kristin Roux reported that the top complaint regarding the regulation is that it exempts bars, bowling alleys, and restaurants. Meyer-Niedzwiecki distributed a draft workplan for the Great American Smokeout.

Jill Wise reported that the Maternal and Infant Health Commission, a group in Calhoun County that looks at the factors associated with and ways to reduce infant mortality, has expressed an interest in working with 5C to address the issue of smoking during pregnancy. There were 27 infant deaths in 2007; most of them due to prematurity and/or low birth weight. The group has looked into promoting pre and inter-conception health and developed strategies to address the most common risk factors. The subgroup addressing smoking during pregnancy will begin meeting this month.

**B. Breast Cancer**

Dr. Karamchandani reported that as follow-up to last month's meeting, he sent a letter to Pat Garrett and Gerrie Baarson requesting that BCHS remove the physician referral requirement for mammograms. Pat Garrett was supportive of the request and will take it to the board for consideration.

Wayne Young reported that there is a program in Detroit that tracks all women who are turning 40 years old; they send a birthday card that also reminds them to get their first mammogram.

Dr. Smiley reported that the Breast and Colorectal Genetics Clinic will open this month.

### **C. Colorectal Cancer**

Dr. Karamchandani reported on the end-result of the projects outlined in the subcommittee workplan in meeting packets. Dr. Karamchandani provided 20 free Colonoscopies to Calhoun Health Plan patients, one of which has polyps.

### **Updates**

- Deb Pierce reported that Glaxo-Smith-Kline is providing training at BCHS on April 3, to assist organizations in forming smoking cessation programs. Deb will speak with the other participants to develop a schedule of county-wide trainings.
- Dr. Smiley reported that the Lung Cancer Symposium will be May 10, at McCamly Plaza.
- The group congratulated Dr. Karamchandani on receiving the Michigan Medical Society's Award for Community Service.

The group meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. and Sub-Groups convened.

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Respectfully submitted by Lauren Rocho

### **Next meeting:**

Wednesday, May 6, 2008; 5:30 p.m.  
Family Health Center; Park Hill Conference Room