

Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2007
Family Health Center, Park Hill Conference Room

Present: Dr. Karamchandani (Chair), Dr. Arlow, Gerrie Baarson, Carla Chambers, Dr. Cram, Sue DeRuiter, Dr. Mayer, Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki, Mike Murray, Barbara Nawrocki, Deb Pierce, Lauren Rocho, Kate Segal, Dr. Smiley, and Jill Wise.

Special Guests: Dottie Kay Bowersox and Sue Moore.

I. Minutes: Minutes from the January 3, 2007 meeting were approved.

II. Presentation on Schuler's going smoke-free

Sue Moore, from Schuler's in Marshall, announced that the restaurant will be going smoke-free as of Monday, February 12, 2007. She reported that the original date to go smoke-free was March 1, but due to the positive responsive of guests; they decided to move it up by three weeks. Schuler's is the largest restaurant, with a bar, in Calhoun County to go smoke-free. Regular customers who are smokers were informed of the decision; while some were upset, others said they knew it was coming. All employees applauded the decision when informed at an all-staff meeting. Moore distributed a press release and the group reviewed and made suggestions. The group also offered suggestions for steps the restaurant could take to make the transition easier for customers, such as having quit kits available.

Dr. Cram moved that 5C publicly support the decision of Schuler's to go smoke-free. The decision was unanimously supported by the members present.

Action: Lauren Rocho will get a certificate showing 5C's support of the decision that Schuler's can display in their restaurant.

Dr. Mayer distributed copies of the editorial in the Battle Creek Enquirer titled 'Business should be free to welcome or ban smokers'. Discussion of the editorial was held.

III. Updates from SubCommittees

A. Lung/Tobacco

Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki reported that, in addition to the Schuler's announcement, House Bill 4163 and Senate Bills 109 and 110 had been introduced in the Michigan Legislature. She reported that she asked Dottie Kay Bowersox from the Health Department to attend the meeting to discuss future initiatives the Health Department is considering. Bowersox reported that they are looking at putting out an updated smoke-free restaurant guide as well as talking to restaurants during health inspections about the benefits of going smoke-free. She also reported that the Health Department has discussed encouraging businesses to go to smoke-free campuses rather than just smoke-free buildings.

Meyer-Niedzwiecki distributed copies of news stories and the national Report Card on Lung Cancer.

B. Breast Cancer

Barb Nawrocki distributed a report she compiled from the tumor registry describing the Breast Cancer situation in Calhoun County. Total cases from 2000-2005 were 793. 721 received initial treatment and/or diagnosis at BCHS, while 72 received initial treatment and/or diagnosis elsewhere. 83% of cases are in stages 0-2. The large majority of cases were detected in women over 40 years of age. Since 2003, the total number of cases per year has increased from 116 in 2003 to 120 in 2004 and to 122 in 2005.

However, the number of cases detected in stage 0 has risen from 9% in 2003 to 15% in 2004 and to 23%

in 2005. Also, 730 of the 793 cases are Caucasian. The report also laid out the number of cases by zip code.

C. Colorectal Cancer

Dr. Karamchandani reported that the group is busy planning many activities for March/Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The group is working on paycheck stuffers, posters in physician offices, and a display at Burnham Brook. The March issue of Body, Mind & Spirit, which is distributed as an insert in the Battle Creek Enquirer at the end of February, will feature an article on Advances in Treatment by Dr. Smiley, an article on Prevention by Dr. Mayer and an article on Surgery by Dr. Karamchandani. The Battle Creek Enquirer was asked to do a story on two patients whose lives were saved through screenings, however they said there was no news hook in the story. The group will look into ways to tie that story into a current event during March to make it more newsworthy. The group will also have a display at the Surviving Colorectal Cancer Symposium on March 3 that will be held at McCamly Plaza Hotel from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Members of 5C are welcome to attend the symposium; CME's and CEU's will be offered for a cost of \$100. The contact person for the symposium is Cile Lake at BCHS. The group will also have a display in the atrium of BCHS. Dr. Karamchandani asked if four people would be willing to write letters to the editor so the group could have one letter in the paper each week in March. Dr. Arlow and Deb Pierce offered to write letters.

Action: Please send the letters to Lauren Rocho at RochoLM@aol.com and she will coordinate the letters with Steve Smith at the Enquirer.

Action: Lauren Rocho will give paycheck stuffers to Gerrie Baarson to distribute to all BCHS departments to hand out with paychecks.

The group discussed the possibility of the Hospitals doing free colorectal screenings but the liability is too high. Dr. Karamchandani said he would be willing to do free flexible sigmoidoscopies in his office during March. The group also discussed contacting hospitals to see if there is a rise in the number of screenings during March and April.

Action: Gerrie Baarson will get the information from BCHS.

Action: Dr. Arlow will check into getting the information from Oaklawn Hospital.

The group discussed developing a list of gastrointestinal and colorectal physicians currently accepting self-referrals to give to 211 so they can be a single referral source.

Action: Lauren Rocho will work with 211 on developing this list.

The group meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and Sub-Groups convened.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Rocho

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 7, 2007; 5:30 p.m.
Family Health Center; Park Hill Conference Room