



**Burlington County Cancer Coalition
("BCCC")**

**Burlington County Health Department
January 23, 2008
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Kim Harless/BCHD, Kathleen McCabe/MVNA Hospice, Jim Perry/21st Century, Carol Ann Armenti/Ocean Legal Services, Gil Velasquez/Emanuel Cancer Foundation, Asha Campbell/BCHD, Plyshette Wiggins/ACS, Robert Gogats/BCHD, Susan Sanna/NJDHSS/OCCP, Jodi Ann Kochie/Virtua CNS/HPS, Tom Simms/Lighthouse, Roslyn Council/NJ CEED, Anne Downey/BCHD, Dorothy Collins/BCHD/CEED, Barbara Nixon/LINCS INC., Bonnie Marcus/Prevention Plus, Tina Rizzo/BCHD, Ingrid Kozmin/BCHD, Doug Marshall/Virtua, Elle Schenck/SJLS, Alminda D'Agostino/HNJH, Denise Cortland/Lourdes, Laurie Ehrlich/Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, Diane McDevitt/BCHD

Welcome and Introductions: Kim Harless, Coordinator of Health Projects III, welcomed members. Introductions were made and black folders containing October's meeting minutes, as well as other event and organizational flyers and pamphlets, were provided.

Approval of October 24, 2007 Minutes: Members took a moment to review 10/24/2007 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved without revision.

Work Group Updates:

Tri-County: Kim Harless referred to the Tri-County report provided to members in black folders. One hundred and fifteen people attended the Men's Health Conference held on 10/30/2008 at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center in Cherry Hill. Evaluations revealed that overall the attendees found it to be a great event and were content with the outcome. Future Tri-County Workgroup plans include applying for funding for the Susan G. Komen foundation as a regional effort, participation in a workshop at the state-wide Survivorship Conference scheduled for Fall 2008, and participation in a Palliation Conference in 2009.

Health Education: Asha Campbell discussed the Lung Cancer Awareness displays, developed by BCHD and displayed in four county schools; Pemberton Township High School, Rancocas Regional Valley High School, Burlington City High School and Willingboro Township High School, between October and December 2007. On November 3, 2007 the BCCC sponsored a table at the Burlington County Women's Expo held at Burlington County Institute of Technology, Westampton. The focus was Breast Cancer Awareness, with

approximately fifty women attending a workshop held by oncologist Dr. Shirnett Matthews. Approximately 3,000 women attended the Expo overall. Also, there was a Breast Cancer Educational Event at the AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey's Women's Support Group. Breast models were used and cancer awareness materials were distributed along with an educational discussion. For the Men's Health Initiative there was an event held on Monday December 3, at Faith Christian Counseling Center in Beverly, NJ. In teaching Prostate Cancer awareness and prevention, the event touched on diet, nutrition, and overall healthy living for men.

Eliminating Cancer Disparities (CEED): Jodi Ann Kochie discussed that there were eight clinics this quarter. There were fourteen cases referred to the Breast Surgeon, and one positive case of Breast Cancer. There was also one positive case of cervical cancer. There were thirty-six Colorectal Kits sent out and twenty-four sent back with one positive for blood, which was sent to Dr. Pilipshen. Dorothy Collins discussed outreach events such as the Bread of Life which was held in October, 2007 and the December 2007 Men's Health Event. Future outreach plans include a Marathon Basketball Game and Breast, Cervical and Colon Cancer Awareness Events.

Men's Health Network: Reverend Leroy Scott was unable to attend, but the next Men's Health Network Meeting will be held on February 28, 2008.

Office of Cancer Control and Prevention State Update:

Update materials were provided in the black folders distributed at the onset of the meeting. The NJ Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for the next five years (2008-2012) was received and approved by the Governor's office in December, 2007. New to the Control Plan are spotlights on Ovarian, Cervical and Thyroid Cancer issues. Also there is a new Commissioner, Heather Howard, Esquire, and a new OCCP website: www.njcancer.gov. The OCCP received additional funding from the CDC this year. Present focus is on completion of all strategies, adding funds and updating the fact sheets. The Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in N.J. is planning a second Task Force Summit on Friday May 9, 2008. It has been proposed to the CDC that their site visit be conducted in conjunction with the Summit to provide a thoroughly educational day. Lastly, Susan Sanna reported that the OCCP will be moving to a new office located at 171 Jersey Street, building five in Trenton.

Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Program State Update:

Roslyn Council reported that CEED is in the process of sending in their CDC grant, starting January 30, 2008. CEED should receive no additional funding above the level funding they have received for the past two years. A progress report was given, and acknowledged Burlington County's support especially in the area of screening and early detection. The Burlington County RFA is still under review. There is a Community Town Hall Meeting Teleconference at NJN on January 29, 2008 regarding Cervical Cancer and HPV concerns. There will be a panel of experts and health care providers to participate and answer questions. The videotape will be available for educational purposes.

Special Reports:

Emanuel Cancer Foundation: Gil Velasquez discussed the three core values of the foundation; basic case management services at no cost after a child has been diagnosed with cancer, legal issues involved with the case, and providing material support such as the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry has serviced twenty-five Burlington County Families. The foundation's website is www.emmanuelcancer.org. Statewide, the foundation is servicing 220 families statewide and would like for this number to grow. Support has come from Cooper, St. Christopher, and DuPont, but financial support is limited. The foundation's goal is to provide free care for the child and their families, caring for their basic needs, emotionally, materially, and financially. The foundation is serving the entire state of New Jersey. Referrals can be made through Anne Downey, Special Child Health Services. Laurie Ehrlich discussed how she, as a Regional Director, works with case workers and teams of volunteers to provide support. She reported that they have a Food Pantry in the office for any families who need assistance. They are currently assisting sixteen families and seeing five bags of groceries per month going out of the office. Another team of volunteer drivers deliver the food to the families monthly. Volunteers provide birthday parties for children, books, holiday parties, and gifts are given from a sewing group. On February 10 there is a large fundraiser called "For the Love of Chocolate." Also there is a Wish Lists program in which community member, families, and businesses can adopt a family during the holidays and send gifts to the homes. Ocean and Monmouth County LSNJ monthly outreach meeting can be a networking resource for the foundation. Brochures and flyers for various ECF events were distributed.

Healthcare Attorney Services: Carol Ann Armenti discussed her own diagnosis of cervical cancer in 1993 and the legal challenges faced with the diagnosis. She wrote the legislation and lobbied Congress for the establishment of Cervical Health Month leading to the declaration of January as "Cervical Cancer Health Month." Ms. Armenti currently has a seat on the FDA and helped get the HPV Vaccine approved last February 2007. She will participate in the panel discussion of the teleconference on Tuesday January 29, 2008. Elle Schenk reported on South Jersey Legal Services working toward Healthcare Access Issues for those without coverage.

Old Business:

Robert Gogats discussed the need to reduce Cancer cases through access.

New Business:

Kim Harless introduced Almindia D'Agostino , a new member to the BCCC. Tina Rizzo discussed making a resource book out of the meeting for future purposes. Kim Harless referred to the Stakeholder Assessment Form inside members' black folders. The form is to be filled out to help pinpoint gaps in BCCC membership, and invite other organizations to participate. Members took a minute to fill out Assessment Form for their own organization and also for

another organization to gain insight into these membership gaps and bring new organizations to the table.

Announcements:

Kim Harless reminded members to fill out sign-in sheet and BCCC Assessment Form, and Meeting Evaluation Form inside members' black folders, before exiting.

The next Burlington County Cancer Coalition Meeting will be on Wednesday April 23, 2008.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Meeting minutes taken by Dana Tozzi.