

CONNECTICUT CANCER PARTNERSHIP - HISTORY

Since its establishment in 2002, the Connecticut Cancer Partnership has grown from a core group of five organizations to a broad and diverse coalition more than 300 strong, representing elements of the cancer community from across Connecticut. Highlights of the Partnership's history are given below.

1998

- Model framework for Comprehensive Cancer Control created by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), aimed at delivering public health messages and services related to cancer more efficiently. Program piloted in six states through 2000.

2002 1998

- Leadership Institute for New England state leaders in cancer control held in Quincy, MA, sponsored by the CDC, American Cancer Society (ACS), and National Cancer Institute (NCI). Connecticut cancer control leaders that had collaborated in the past on cancer control—ACS, CT Department of Public Health (DPH), University of Connecticut Health Center, Yale Cancer Center, and Connecticut State Medical Society-- attended two-day Institute. Leadership group agrees to support DPH's application to the CDC for funding to begin state's comprehensive cancer planning initiative.

1998

- CDC awards DPH cooperative agreement in October to begin cancer planning.

1998

- Leadership group becomes Founding Members. Core Committee formed, responsible for directing planning process, defining and creating subcommittees and work groups, guiding assessment and evaluation processes, and expanding membership, using CDC's building blocks.

- With the approval of Core Committee, Marion Morra, former Associate Director of the Yale Cancer Center and a cancer control expert, engaged to coordinate the Program, including chairing Core Committee and producing the Plan. Hired through a contract with the American Cancer Society, she reports directly to Nancy Berger at DPH.

2003

- Potential partners invited by the Core Committee to a statewide conference on comprehensive cancer planning. More than 125 people attend, representing a racially, ethnically, and geographically diverse cross-section of stakeholders in cancer prevention and control from throughout state.

- Five subcommittees formed – Prevention, Early Detection, Treatment, Survivorship, and Palliative & Hospice Care. Committees refine goals and formulate objectives. Issues that cut across all priority areas discussed (health disparities, advocacy, communications, research, and data, surveillance, and evaluation).

- Two new committees added: Governance, and Data, Surveillance and Evaluation.

- First Partnership Annual Meeting held in Hartford in June. Members review committee plans, discuss goals and objectives, and chose those most ready for implementation.

2004

- Committees revise goals and objectives, add strategies, and finalize a five-year plan.

- Core Committee members attend Leadership Institute (Chicago) to plan implementation steps.

- Partnership submits five-year Plan to CDC for implementation funding.
- Advocacy Committee established. legislative agenda set.
- Communications Committee created to develop and implement communications plan.

2005

- Five regional meetings held to expand membership of key target audiences and areas of Connecticut not yet represented.
- CDC announces award of implementation funding to Connecticut.
- Second Partnership Annual Meeting held in New Haven. Year One and long-term outcomes discussed.
- Partnership Board of Directors elected to replace Core Committee in governance structure.
- Year One Implementation plans announced. Committees meet and reorganize to begin implementation.
- Health Disparities Committee formed.

2006

- *Connecticut Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan* published.
- *The Plan* and the Partnership formally announced at February 22 press conference. Governor Rell joins Board Chair Dr. Andy Salner to endorse *Plan*.
- Two partners, Hartford Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, receive grants from CDC to begin programs in prostate and skin cancer prevention.
- Legislature appropriates \$6.7 million to DPH for implementing priority projects of *Plan*.

- Eighty persons attend Partnership's Community Comment Meeting to offer input on recommended programs for funding. Partnership Committees make final recommendations. Board approves them and submits to DPH.

- Communications tools put in place, including Partnership logo, e-Newsletter, PowerPoint presentations and website (www.ctcancerpartnership.org).

- "You've Got the Power", guide to cancer prevention developed with and for ethnically and racially underserved groups.

- Third Annual Partnership Meeting held in September with keynote speaker Dr. Elmer Huerta, Director of the Cancer Preventorium in Washington, D.C., discussing barriers that face underserved persons when seeking medical care. Panel of Partnership members discuss Partnership programs for underserved groups.

- Partnership members attend National Leadership Institute (Quincy, Massachusetts) to plan implementation steps in specific cancer areas.

- Partnership presents 10 leadership awards to legislators and Governor for work in supporting the cancer fight and the Partnership.

- Partnership's logo wins Bronze award from Advertising Club of Connecticut. "You've Got the Power" brochure receives gold 2006 MarCom Creative Award in category of Brochure/Public Awareness.

2007

- Partnership and partners presented to the 600 registered attendees at 5th Annual New England Regional Minority Conference at Foxwoods Conference Center in April, co-hosted by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

- Funds, appropriated by the Legislature in 2006 to implement the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, awarded to expand Connecticut QuitLine Program: nine organizations receive community smoking cessation awards, through a request for proposals (RFP) process, to conduct individual or group counseling, and \$2 million allocated to expand counseling on the Connecticut QuitLine and to provide free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). Overwhelming response with 8,000 calls essentially exhaust supply of NRT.
- Also awarded from 2006 Legislative funding was \$1.645 million for Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program - - funds added to 17 existing contracts statewide for enhanced screening and diagnostic services for uninsured and under-insured women.
- In addition, \$250,000 granted to State Department of Social Services to educate Medicaid providers on cessation interventions and to market cessation to Medicaid and Medicaid-eligible participants and \$500,000 to State Department of Education to evaluate two nutrition curricula in Connecticut schools.
- Partnership's Fourth Annual Meeting *Power of Collaboration* held in September in Meriden, highlights the with keynote by Tom Kean, C-Change Director and comprehensive cancer control visionary, and panel session featuring successful collaborative initiatives being carried out in Connecticut.
- Partnership funding request for Fiscal Years 2008-2009 formulated by Partnership Committees and approved by Board presented to Legislature. However, no funding approve for Partnership programming in 2007 session.
- Connecticut State Senator Donald Williams, President Pro-Tempore of Connecticut Senate, presented with one of three C-Change Exemplary Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership

awards in Washington D.C. in October by former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, for his efforts to reduce the number of cancers in Connecticut.

2008

- Twelve contracts, totaling nearly \$2.2 million from funds appropriated by the Legislature in 2006 awarded to implement the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Included was \$775,000 to fund colorectal screening for 600 underserved adults in community health centers, \$745,000 to fund a statewide clinical trials network, \$245,000 to fund needs assessments of survivors and create a centralized clearinghouse of survivor resources and services on Partnership web site and \$250,000 to enhance undergraduate and post-graduate training for end of life issues and care.
- Partnership funding request, totaling \$15.7 million for Fiscal Years 2009-2010 formulated by Partnership Committees and approved by Board, presented to Legislature. Partnership members testify at the State Capitol in support of legislation. At the end of the Session, gloomy economic projections of a large deficit for State results in the Legislature not passing a revised Budget for 2009.
- Workgroup, composed of the co-chairs of the Partnership's five continuum and four crosscutting committees, begin work on creation of a new *Connecticut Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2009-2013*. Included in the new Plan is progress made in each area since 2005, along with new priorities, objectives and programs.
- Partnership appoints Lucinda Hogarty as its first Director, after year-long search. Among duties: oversee development of Partnership, create strategic plan, provide direction and oversight for cancer Plan, pursue funding opportunities, secure and coordinate

partners' commitments and facilitate legislative activities.

- State Department of Public Health names Shiu-Yu Kettering as its Coordinator for the Connecticut Cancer Control Program. Among duties: collaborate with Partnership to implement the *Connecticut Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan*.
- Partnership's Fifth Annual Meeting held in September in Cromwell, highlighting *Cancer Health Disparities and Improving Access to Care* with keynote by Otis Brawley, M.D. Chief Medical Officer of the American Cancer Society.

2009

- Intensive year-long planning effort results in publication of the *Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2009-2013*.
- Partnership's Sixth Annual Meeting held in Orange at the Yale West Campus, with keynote by Dr. Thomas Lynch speaking on *The War on Cancer, 2010*.
- Linda Mowad became second Chair of the Partnership Board of Directors, succeeding founding Chair, Dr. Andrew Salner.
- Partnership develops budget for using funds acquired through Attorney General's pharmaceutical court settlements.
- Partnership's electronic newsletter revamped and renamed CaCONNECTIONS. Partnership launches revised website.

2010

- Implementation plans to address objectives of the *Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2009-2013* plans developed.
- Partnership's Seventh Annual Meeting *Health Care Reform and Cancer Control*

held in Orange at Yale's West Campus, with keynotes by Dr. Vivek Murthy and David Woodmansee.

- Process of releasing settlement funds to implement Cancer Plan strategies results in development of requests for proposals□□
- Disparities Coordinator Betty Murray hired through grant to Hartford Hospital to maintain focus on disparities reduction in Cancer Plan.
- Student internship program launched with four interns from the Yale School of Public Health providing assistance with annual meeting.
- New communications tool, CaCONNECTIONS supplements website and electronic newsletter.

2011

- Evaluation process begun within committee structure through the work of Larisa Kottke, following required CDC format, paving the way for formal evaluation contract for ongoing technical assistance and monitoring of work of twelve 2-year projects.
- Grantees begin work with community-wide initiatives to promote healthier life style behaviors, survivorship education, management of late effect of cancer treatment, and education for providers on end of life care.
- Eighth Annual meeting, featuring Dr. Bradford Hesse speaking on *Patient Centered Communications in Cancer Care*, held at Yale's West Campus. Continuing education credits offered to participants.
- Connecticut Clinical Trials website launched as result of an award made to Yale in 2008 to build capacity and enrollment in clinical trials in the state.

- Treatment and Survivorship committees combined into a joint committee chaired by Susan Richter, with increased focus on development of treatment summaries and survivorship care plans.

2012

- Partnership organizes Statewide conference on patient navigation, held at Cromwell Crowne Plaza in April. Eight national experts address overflow crowd of 150.
- Special Issue of *Connecticut. Medicine*, published in June, with eight articles in the scientific section on cancer control, written by members of the Connecticut Cancer Partnership Board along with Partnership and DPH staff.
- Data, Surveillance and Evaluation committee split into two committees. Evaluation consultant Emily Rosenthal hired to evaluate the two federally funded projects: patient navigation and colorectal cancer screening community efforts and to staff newly formed Evaluation Committee.
- The Partnership addresses member organizations' needs, focusing on new Commission on Cancer accreditation requirements.
- Sun safety project held at Hammonasset Beach in support of Cancer Plan prevention and early detection objectives.
- Increasing collaboration initiated with Connecticut Department of Health Chronic Disease program in accordance with CDC focus.
- Ninth Annual Partnership Meeting held at New Haven Lawn Club featuring Dr. Phillip Roland, addressing *New Commission on Cancer Standards*.

2013

- Evaluation process of implementation projects initiated through Consultation Center contract.
- New *Connecticut Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2014-2017* developed. Included in the new Plan -- new priorities, objectives and programs especially in the area of cancer disparities. Major foci: policy, systems and environmental (PSE) changes and coordination with the Connecticut Chronic Disease and Prevention Plan.
- Six regional meetings held throughout state to obtain feedback on new Plan.
- Working with the Connecticut Cancer Partnership and funded by the Department of Public Health, Gateway Community College pilots Patient Navigation Training Program.
- Tenth Annual Partnership Meeting -- *Comprehensive Cancer Control In Connecticut: Past, Present and Future* -- held at New Haven Lawn Club. Meeting features preview of new Plan, celebrates 75th Anniversary of Connecticut Tumor Registry. Keynote speaker Marcus Plescia, MD.MPH, of CDC discusses future of comprehensive cancer control.

2014

- New electronic version of *Connecticut Cancer Plan 2014-2017* introduced. E-Plan, exact duplicate of print version, allows free navigation, online updates of accomplishments, new strategies and programs.
- Series of presentations of *Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2014-2017*, initiated with professional health and oncology groups around state in ongoing prioritization process for the plan's objectives. Groups include Central Connecticut Oncology Nurses, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Connecticut Public Health Association, UConn Health Center, Connecticut Association of

Directors of Health, New London County Community Transformation Grant meeting, and the yearend ACHIEVE community meeting

- Eleventh Annual Meeting held in November at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, *Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Survivorship Plans*. National and local experts address follow-up care models and best practices for delivering survivorship care to adults and children. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy attend and offer comments to the audience.

2015

- Inauguration of Annual Connecticut Cancer Partnership Action Planning Meeting held in January to set year's priorities. Enthusiastic attendance by Board members, committee chairs and staff. Focus on professional education to advance goals and objectives especially in areas of disparity reduction, cancer prevention and early detection. Proposals submitted for education forum topics from committees, based on results of Annual Meeting evaluations.
- First educational forum, *Psychosocial Distress and Support for Cancer Patients*, held in April, a collaboration between the Partnership and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which offered CEU credits and assisted in targeting promotion to nurses and social workers. Evaluation Committee develops criteria and measures to evaluate all the educational forums.
- Professional Education Conference *Advancing Palliative Care in Connecticut: Resources, Best Practices and Policy*, hosted by the American Cancer Society in collaboration with the Partnership, at the Legislative Office building in Hartford, attracts over 80 participants. Conference again confirmed need for professional education as an implementing mechanism for the primary goals of the Plan.

- Survivorship Committee continues work on issues relating to implementation of Commission on Cancer (CoC) standards. White paper drafted based on survey of cancer centers on pertinent issues that negatively impact implementation of CoC standards. □

- Twelfth Annual Meeting, *Tackling Disparities in Cancer Prevention*, held on November 5 at Central Connecticut State University's Conference Center. Nearly 100 cancer control professionals from across the state attend day-long conference featuring six Connecticut experts discussing trends, barriers and solutions to improve health equity disparities in three areas of cancer prevention: colorectal screening, tobacco use and HPV vaccination. Follow-up on Annual Meeting to place focus on colorectal cancer and HPV.

- Colorectal Cancer Kickoff Breakfast preceded Annual meeting, providing forum for health professional to share best and promising practices for colorectal cancer prevention and early detection to attain an 80% colorectal screening rate by 2018 and to launch a Colorectal Cancer Roundtable Group in Connecticut.

2016

- Board members, committee chairs and staff attend second Connecticut Cancer Partnership Annual Action Planning Meeting on January 20 to determine year's priorities and draft a calendar of implementation activities related to *Connecticut Cancer Plan 2014 - 2017*. Best practices, shared by counterparts in other states, include the work group approach, with standing committee members working toward specific time-limited goals which align with their own work. Priority collaborative activities: educational initiatives for primary care practitioners and patient and consumer initiatives in HPV vaccination, screening guidelines, colorectal screening,

survivorship care plans and palliative care. Interested collaborators and funding sources identified. Proposal due dates set.

- Partnership continues its focus on the policy, systems and environment approach using education as method to achieve change and tracking progress in convening, educating, mobilizing advocates, monitoring data trends and disseminating best practices.
- Partnership launches first of new series of *Emerging Issues Brief* publication: *Adopting Survivorship Care Plans and the Commission on Cancer's Implementation Standard*, highlighting survivorship care planning issues. The publication, whose target audience is Partnership members and others specific to topic, features statewide efforts of work being done in Connecticut.
- Survey of Partners launched to determine how Partnership members are using strategies in present Plan to advance goals related to prevention, early detection, treatment, palliative care, and end of life care. Analysis of results by a team from The Consultation Center at Yale, to be shared at Partnership's annual meeting in December, will also be used to inform the strategic direction of Partnership's next plan
- Over 100 Connecticut cancer control professionals attend Thirteenth Annual Meeting: *Cancer and Health Policy and Cancer: Diversity, Financing and Ethics*, held in December at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill. Speakers focus on impact on cancer patients and the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, and Medicare coverage. General assembly members describe the role of state policy and cancer advocacy. Sixty professionals attend pre-meeting breakfast: *Genomics Policies in Practice: Protection, Reimbursement and Practice Implications* and discuss genomics in breakout session.

- First Connecticut Cancer Champion Award, to be given annually to an outstanding Connecticut resident, presented to Andrea Silber, M.D. Medical Oncologist at Smilow Cancer Hospital at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Silber, who has cared for patients in New Haven for over two decades, has demonstrated a commitment to improving health equity through her work with the Connecticut Cancer Partnership since its inception, her work with Project Access-New Haven, and in her clinical work with the underserved.

- Governance changes approved for wording from 'Board' to 'Advisory Committee' and 'bylaws' to 'guiding principles' to align with terminology being used in other states with similar organizational structure.

- Second in series of *Emerging Issues Brief* publication: *Cancer Genetics in Connecticut – How Do We Fit into the Comprehensive Cancer Plan and Where Do We Go From Here?* features best practices and tools for health professionals.

2017.

- Third Annual Connecticut Cancer Partnership Action Planning Meeting held in January initiates transition from "committees" to "workgroups", a more focused and time limited structure. Palliative, Survivorship, HPV become initial workgroups with others formed as needed. Crosscutting approaches continue with disparities reduction as an overarching approach, education through programming and publications, data/surveillance trend analysis and background and advocacy through a policy system and environmental lens

- Education initiatives for primary care practitioners identified: HPV vaccination, screening guidelines, colorectal screening, survivorship care plans and palliative care.

- Patient and consumer information initiatives include HPV vaccination decision-making for parents, use of survivorship care plans,
- Implementation project subcontract with Southern Connecticut State University for HPV awareness and catchup vaccination for college students. Based on a pilot at Salem Mass College, will provide catchup vaccinations to students. School of Nursing provides student education and awareness, Yale and New Haven Health Department provides effective educational materials.
- Implementation project subcontract with the Coalition to Improve End of Life Care begins using The Conversation Project training for graduate nursing students on how to have end of life conversations. Schools of Nursing at Southern and Fairfield train graduate nursing students on how to have end of life conversations. Approximately 90 students to participate in 30 community conversations focusing on minority groups.
- Workgroup appointed to update present Plan for *Connecticut Cancer Plan 2018-2022*. Review of DPH's *Cancer in Connecticut: A Report on the Burden of Cancer in the State*, annual action planning meeting and surveys show focus areas of members and overall structure and content of present plan of continuing relevance. Three rapidly changing areas identified for revision: screening guidelines, genomics and chronic disease prevention and management. To be available in electronic version, accessible by mobile devices and ADA 504 compliant.
- Third *Emerging Issues* features reprint of article by DPH Commissioner Raul Pino, MD on HPV which appeared in *Connecticut Medicine* *If There Were a Vaccine Against Cancer*.
- Fourth *Emerging Issues* Brief addresses the topic of Refusing Cancer Medications to Avoid Delirium and Maintain Autonomy
- December 5 Annual Meeting *Screening Guidelines and Shared Decision Making—Challenges, Controversy and Disparities* Sheraton Hartford South, Rocky Hill