

URBAN CANCER SOLUTIONS

Coalition Meeting Notes

Monday, January 4, 2021

1:00 pm CT

Attendees: ML, MB, WP, Amber Ahonen, Melissa Meza, Nancy Pierce, CJ, JJ, Brad Krueger, AP, LP

1:00 Welcome & Prayer (By: Chris Johnson, AICAF)

Notes: Chris Johnson, AICAF policy and prevention manager. Can be reached at cjohnson@aicaf.org. Shares quote on Grandparents facing resiliency, a quiet everyday approach. About the Policy and Prevention Team: engage and empower community partners, develop Tribal resolutions and resources, engage community members and stakeholders, focus on traditional tobacco and commercial tobacco cessation, physical activity. To learn more you can visit the AICAF website, and view more information about the policy and prevention team here [link](#).

1:02 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Notes: (Lindsey) This month is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. AICAF has started putting out resources for partner clinics to participate. Is anybody planning anything for the month and if so, what? (Melissa Meza) CRIHB- [cervical cancer talking circle](#) 1/7 10:00 am to 11:30 am. To learn more contact at mmeza@crihb.org.

1:17 Cancer Plan: Treatment (Ashley Pohlenz, AICAF)

- What do you think of first when you hear the word treatment? Is there a stigma associated with the word, a good or bad connotation, how can we reframe it?
 - Nancy: think of the worst possible situation, think of chemo and frail/fragile state; nothing positive.
 - Chris: being away from your family and your community, “going through” = going away.
 - Amber: on a positive note, treatment can be hopeful, personal experiences w cancer; is thankful for treatment
 - Brad: gut reaction: complex & confusing when thinking about different types of cancer and treatments
 - Melissa positive/negative vibe, how do we get to places when there are options?, how do we turn the dial to early screening to get that early treatment where there are options, as opposed to just one
 - Wyatt: lots of questions and uncertainty. What does treatment mean? How am I going to get there? What kind of support do I have from my family and community and provider?
- What do you notice about barriers to treatment and care? How are patients supported in the navigation?
 - Amber: barrier is insurance and cost, knew someone who couldn't get into treatment because of cost, only option was to stay home and die, by the time they could get treatment it was too late

- *Nancy: western medicine is pushed; doctors tell you “do this, do that” do not ask what would you like to do, hard to find doctors who listen, would be very empowering to find a doctor who listens*
- *Chris: how do we align Indigenous medicine with western? Not often do you see the cooperation, family member’s treatment included Indigenous medicine but the cancer treatment specialist did not know about it, what if there was a contraindication?*
- *Lindsey: having the buy-in from the provider is very important in patient care, how can we support the collaboration?*
- *Wyatt: having insurance can be a barrier but what about family situation (kids or other people you need to support) can limit access to care, transportation can be a barrier*
- *Amber: where does the treatment take place? Long distance travel limits the availability of family who are willing and able to support*
- *Are you aware of any community support systems for patients/caregivers receiving treatment?*
 - *Nancy: A ton in the urban areas, but fewer in the rural areas; can be difficult to ask for help*
 - *Amber: difficulties with receiving respite care; hospice is also an available service in rural areas, but access is still somewhat limited*
- *Have you personally or professionally been aware of any time lag for a patient to receive care? What could have been changed?*
 - *Nancy: depends on the insurance, depends on the referral nurse and how hard they are working, there are a lot of hospice agencies in Fresno but does not mean they are always available*
 - *Brad: timely health care = persistence and know what to ask, you need to know when and how to push for answers and action sometimes, patient advocacy is huge*
 - *Lindsey: patients do have to be persistent and ask for quick care, that can be difficult for some so how do we find the right people to help advocate for them?*
 - *Nancy: I love the get screened poster, but there are a lot of doctors who do not want their patients to come in and get screened; they don’t want them in the rooms, and it’s really sad; tries to reiterate the cleaning process and let them know what they are doing to help reduce risk, sometimes the provider doesn’t want them in; they are getting COVID vaccines and have had interesting conversations about that*
 - *Amber: a smaller group of ppl who are coming into the clinic; ppl are annoyed about the digital aspect and can’t remember the username or password; ppl are happy to do it but some ppl are getting encouraged/forced by their bosses; happy to not have to do the nasal test; depends on who comes in; for cancer screenings, not sure what is going on; had a mobile unit come in, didn’t do walk-ins, screened half as many ppl bc they only had 1 site instead of 2; had new policy and protocol, including sanitizing in between and who was allowed to come*

in, had COVID screening before; not sure which screenings are happening; supposed to be getting a mobile mammo but not sure about date

1:40 **Check-Out on PSA (Lindsey Petras, AICAF)**

Notes: Has anyone used the PSA, what support can we provide them.

- *Nancy has not used the PSA*
- *We can provide a space for ppl on Zoom*
- *Melissa: trying to get participants to volunteer to do it; what they're doing for their coalition is to do their own videos and then see where that goes with their coalition members*

1:45 **Current & Upcoming Events (Justin, AICAF)**

- January: Cervical Cancer Awareness Month / Turquoise Tuesday
- February: Cancer Prevention Awareness Month?
- March: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month / Blue Beads Day

1:55 **Next Meeting (Justin, AICAF)**

- February 15, 2021: Survivorship
- March: Palliative & End-of-Life Care
- April: No meeting
- May: Review of 2020 Coalition Meetings & Steps Moving the Cancer Plan Forward