



January 12, 2012

Laura Wilborn  
Virginia General Assembly

Dear Ms. Wilborn:

On behalf of the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia, it is our pleasure to submit the attached report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care as required in House Joint Resolution No. 56.

The Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) is a coalition of oncology professionals from throughout the State who work for private and public organizations as well as patient advocates who share the important mission of eradicating the burden of cancer in our State. The coalition changed its name in 2012. What was the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition (CPAC) became the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV). The name change symbolizes the coalition's true focus on planning, developing, and carrying out actions that promote cancer prevention and control in Virginia. The coalition's Executive Committee also decided to incorporate the coalition as a 501(c)(3) entity. Becoming a non-profit 501(c)(3) will allow greater freedom to organize and carryout projects and provides the legal foundation for soliciting tax-deductible funds. Coalition objectives will continue emphasizing prevention activities, conferences, workshops, and educational programs. Because of its nature as a coalition of members with intersecting interests, collaboration has proved to be essential. Success in integrating community, region, and state resources contributes to fulfilling goals and objectives that are stated in the Virginia Cancer Plan. Our new status creates a Board of Directors for the coalition and we soon will be recruiting medical leaders from throughout the State to help us develop a new State cancer plan.

We have accomplished a great deal this past year and our accomplishments are identified in the report that is attached; however, we briefly highlight below several major successes that our collaborative work with many cancer organizations and health care professionals has made possible:

- Collaborated with the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT) and implemented a *Clinical Trials 101* workshop that we broadcast to 8 locations throughout the State.

Laura Wilborn

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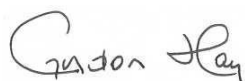
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- Developed a model survivorship conference that private, non-profit cancer organizations can implement to expose their constituents to model programs and to raise awareness for patients about what constitutes comprehensive cancer care.
- Offered a twelve-week Colon Cancer Free Zone project that Chesapeake and Galax implemented. The project provided information on colon cancer and the importance of sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy as reliable screening mechanisms.
- Conducted a survey of hospitals lacking Commission on Cancer program accreditation to ascertain their interest in becoming accredited and to offer assistance in reaching that important medical milestone.
- Began developing a comprehensive, State directory of oncology patient navigators with the assistance of the Cancer Navigation Network and the Virginia Coalition of Oncology Nurse Navigators.
- Held regular quarterly membership meetings in different parts of the State in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Lymphoma Foundation, the Virginia Hospital Center and the Komen Foundation. The meetings featured experts who presented on various cancer topics and participants learned about innovative cancer programs and available resources in our State.

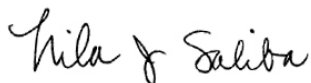
The year ahead poses many new and important challenges for our coalition. One of those challenges will be to develop a new State cancer plan by the year 2013. We plan to develop this plan in collaboration with many oncology professionals and concerned members of the cancer caucus. We will lead the effort and look forward to bringing together the best minds to create a model plan that has considerable impact on the burden of cancer in our State.

Please feel free to contact either Nila Saliba 434-243-9217 or Gordon Hay 703-698-2525 if you have any questions about our report. We thank you kindly you for distributing the report to the proper authorities.

Sincerely,



Gordon Hay, MSW, MPH  
Board Chair, Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia



Nila Saliba  
Board Vice Chair, Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia

Enclosure

**Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia**  
**Report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the**  
**Joint Commission on Health Care, 2012**

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### **Coalition collaborations with partners throughout Virginia**

- A clinical trials workshop broadcast to eight locations in Virginia with the UVA Cancer Center, the VCU Massey Cancer Center, and the Virginia Department of Health as partners.
- A Cancer Survivorship Conference in Fairfax at the INOVA Cancer Services Center with many partners: Life with Cancer, the American Cancer Society, the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Virginia Hospital Center. CACV and partners are using this experience as a model for other, statewide survivor conferences.
- Implementations of the Colon Free Zone Project in Galax and Chesapeake, with the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and the Twin County Regional Healthcare system as partners.

### **Action Team Accomplishments**

#### ***Prevention Action Team***

The goal of the Prevention Action Team is to promote access to up-to-date information on cancer prevention and opportunities to reduce their risk of developing cancer to all Virginians. Priority objectives for this team include the reduction of tobacco use, promotion of physical activity and skin protective behaviors, and the promotion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Contribution of the Team towards these objectives in 2011 included:

- Collaboration with the Statewide Tobacco Alliance and the Virginia Partnership for Tobacco Cessation to assist in carrying out program priorities.
- Participated in coordinating activities at public and private schools for the “Great American Smokeout” initiative.
- Supported legislation to increase tobacco taxes to fund tobacco use prevention and control programs by reviewing and disseminating legislative information to coalition members.
- Collaborated with the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program to develop a skin cancer prevention initiative to commence in summer 2012.

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- Collaborated on developing a program encouraging healthcare providers to promote physical activity among women and girls. The partners presented the program at the Women's Health Virginia Conference in 2011.
- Collaborated with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to engage fitness related organizations to offer access to exercise facilities to their members.
- Monitored legislation related to physical activity in public schools, updated and advised coalition members, and organized action when appropriate.
- Developed a program for healthcare providers that offers guidelines for communicating with parents and patients about the HPV vaccine.

### *Early Detection Action Team*

The goals of the Early Detection Action Team are to promote early detection of cancer through appropriate screening. Priority objectives for this team include to increase cancer screening compliance rates with an emphasis on medically underserved and low socioeconomic populations.

Contribution of the Team towards these objectives in 2011 included:

- Implemented the Colon Cancer Free Zone project in Chesapeake and Galax. It is a 12 week program that provides cancer prevention education and promotes colon cancer screening.

### *Treatment Action Team*

The goals of the Treatment Action Team are to promote access to effective, multidisciplinary cancer treatment, and access to innovative cancer treatment and clinical trials. Priority objectives of this team include to increase the number of hospitals that participate in the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Approved Program, increase access to patient navigation services, and to increase awareness of cancer clinical trials.

Contribution of the Team towards these objectives in 2011 included:

- Collaborated with the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Virginia Cancer Registry, and the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (CoC) to:

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- Determine the CoC accreditation status of all Virginia hospitals providing cancer diagnoses or care.
- Surveyed hospitals without CoC accreditation to ascertain interest in accreditation, barriers to accreditation, and desire for assistance from the coalition and its partners to acquire accreditation.
- Created a training program to educate cancer reporters at hospitals without cancer registries to improve case finding, quality, and completeness. The trainer worked with hospital staff to install and use a cancer abstracting database to initiate electronic reporting.
- Collaborated with the Cancer Navigation Network and the Virginia Coalition of Oncology Nurse Navigators and acquired a detailed list of patient navigators in Virginia. The list is a targeted communications tool.
- Began developing a Virginia Patient Navigator Directory.
- Collaborated with the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT) and developed the *Clinical Trials 101+* workshop, which was broadcast to 8 Virginia locations. Additional collaborators included the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Program, Virginia Department of Health, University of Virginia Cancer Center, University of Virginia Health Sciences Library Outreach Program, Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center, Sentara Healthcare, Appalachian Community Cancer Network, and Mountain Empire Older Citizens.
  - This five-hour workshop educated participants about cancer clinical research and methods to educate their communities about cancer research.
  - Audiences totaled 130 attendees
  - The workshop was broadcast to Abingdon, Big Stone Gap, Danville, Fairfax, Lynchburg, Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond.
  - Partners presented workshop results at the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities National Conference in July, 2011, and at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association
  - The final report is available at <http://www.cancercoalitionofvirginia.org>

***Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team***

The goal of the Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team is to enhance the quality of life of cancer survivors. Priority objectives of this team include improving the availability of information, resources, and services that allow survivors to meet the challenges of survivorship.

Contribution of the Team towards these objectives in 2011 included:

- Developed and held a Cancer Survivorship Conference in Fairfax, Virginia. Chief collaborators were the American Cancer Society, the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Inova Cancer Services, Life with Cancer, and the Virginia Hospital Center.
- The partners are preparing future Cancer Survivorship Conferences in Hampton, Big Stone Gap, and Danville for 2012.