



January 7, 2013

Ms. Laura Wilborn  
Division of Legislative Automated Systems  
201 North 9th Street  
General Assembly Building, Suite 660  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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 stated in House Joint Resolution No. 56.

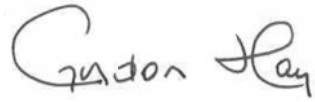
The Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) is a coalition of oncology professionals and patient advocates from throughout the Commonwealth. CACV is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) foundation. This status provides the basis for soliciting tax-deductible funds. CACV members, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, help create a blueprint for cancer activities in the Commonwealth; the document is titled the Virginia Cancer Plan. This plan lays out goals, specific objectives, methods to achieve objectives, and rules by which to measure success. Coalition members currently are developing the 2013 - 2017 plan.

Our public health mission is to lift the burden of cancer in Virginia. To this end, coalition members focus on planning, developing, and carrying out actions that promote cancer prevention and control. Coalition objectives emphasize prevention activities, conferences, workshops, and educational programs. Achieving cancer plan goals requires that member organizations and individuals collaborate.

The CACV Executive Committee worked closely this year with the coalition's four action teams as these teams planned and carried out cancer prevention and control work. The teams are Prevention, Early Detection, Treatment, and Survivorship and Palliative Care. We attach a comprehensive summary of 2012 team accomplishments.

Please contact either Nila Saliba at (434) 243-9217 or Gordon Hay at (703) 698-2525 to answer questions about the CACV report. Thank you for distributing the report to Virginia's legislators and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Hay". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nila Saliba". The letters are cursive and elegant.

Nila Saliba  
Board Vice Chair, Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia

Enclosure



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

**January 2013**

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**CACV Mission and Members**

**Mission**

Develop, promote, and assist implementing the *Virginia Cancer Plan (VCP)* to:

- Reduce cancer incidence in Virginia;
- Reduce the financial, psychological, and spiritual effects of cancer;
- Improve the quality of life for cancer survivors; and
- Facilitate collaborative partnerships in cancer prevention and control.

## **Members**

- Members constitute a cross-section of parties that have a professional or personal interest in cancer prevention and control issues.
- Members are not-for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, public health agencies, individuals, private businesses, and health care organizations.
- Members proceed with collaborative efforts providing expertise in identifying the burden of cancer in Virginia, strategies to reduce risks, promoting state-of-the art treatment, and enhancing survivorship.

## **Virginia Cancer Plan Highlights**

Cancer Action Coalition members have prepared two state-level Virginia Cancer Plans, one in 2004 and one in 2008. The coalition is at work on a replacement plan, which will be finished in 2013. The distinctive feature of these plans is they define important prevention and control goals, provide specific methods or strategies to achieve goals, and enumerate measures.

HJR 56 (Appendix) requests that CACV provide annual reports to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care regarding changes to the VCP. This report provides accomplishments, outcomes, and future goals of the VCP.

## **Action Team Accomplishments**

### **Prevention Action Team**

The Prevention Action Team promotes access to up-to-date information on cancer prevention and opportunities to reduce the risk of developing cancer. Priority objectives include reducing tobacco use, promoting physical activity, promoting behaviors that protect the skin, and promoting human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations. Ongoing efforts include

1. Creating the Virginia Cancer Caucus, and inviting interested legislators address tobacco control issues including smoke free restaurants and tobacco tax changes.
2. Working with the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, and other community and business organizations to develop youth tobacco use prevention & cessation programs.

3. Preparing a 2012 sun safety survey to identify sun safety policies and practices in schools and organizations that serve youth.
4. Working to increase the number of worksites across the Commonwealth that encourage and offer physical activity programs to employees.
5. Preparing educational programs that promote HPV vaccination for at-risk populations.

### **Early Detection Action Team**

The Early Detection Action Team promotes early detection of cancer through appropriate screening. Populations that are medically underserved and socioeconomically at a disadvantage with respect to access to care are priorities. Priority objectives include increasing screening compliance rates.

1. Staged successful implementations of the “Colon Cancer Free Zone” program for residents of Charlottesville, Galax, and Petersburg.
2. Displayed the team’s peer-reviewed poster, “A Community Approach to Increasing Utilization of Colorectal Health Services through Regional Worksite Initiatives” about the Galax project at the 2012 National Dialogue for Action conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in March 2012.

### **Treatment Action Team**

The Treatment Action Team promotes access to effective multidisciplinary cancer treatment and to innovative cancer treatment and clinical trials.

1. Implications of the Affordable Care Act for Cancer Care. CACV sponsored this panel discussion in March 2012. Highlight:
  - a. The coalition invited experts from the American Cancer Society, the University of Virginia Health System, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Consumer Voices.
  - b. Topics included national implications of the Affordable Care Act; effects on academic medical centers, hospitals, and health insurers; and implications for access to care and Medicaid in Virginia.
  - c. A state-wide audience in Abingdon, Big Stone Gap, Charlottesville, Danville, Fairfax, Hampton, Lynchburg, and Norfolk received the broadcast.
2. Directory of Cancer Patient Navigators in Virginia.
  - a. Identified navigators were surveyed about participating in the directory. From the results,
    - i. The team identified approximately 120 navigation programs.
    - ii. The team is developing a follow up to collect program information for the directory.

- iii. The navigation directory will be posted on-line and distributed to interested parties.

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

The purpose of the Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team is to create means and opportunities to enhance the quality of life that cancer survivors in Virginia experience. Improving the availability of information, resources, and services that allow survivors to meet the challenges of survivorship is primary. Ensuring that Virginians are informed and can access individually appropriate quality hospice and palliative care is an objective. The Team put on a series of survivorship conferences in various Virginia legislative districts; more than 400 individuals attended.

1. Cancer Survivorship Conference, Life With Cancer Family Center, Fairfax, VA, September 24, 2011; 105 participants.
2. Connected By Cancer and Beyond: A Program for Survivors in the Dan River Region, The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville, VA. May 5, 2012; 97 participants.
3. Eastern Virginia Regional Cancer Survivorship Conference, Mary Immaculate Hospital, Newport News, VA. June 23, 2012; 60 participants.
4. CACV Southwest Virginia Cancer Survivorship Conference, Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc., Big Stone Gap, VA. September 12, 2012; 40 participants.
5. The Survivorship Journey: A Conference for Cancer Survivors and Their Caregivers, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA. November 3, 2012; 105 participants.

**Appendix: House Joint Resolution No. 56, 2010 Session  
ENROLLED**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56**

*Requesting the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition to report annually on changes to the Virginia Cancer Plan to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care.*

*Report.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 8, 2010

Agreed to by the Senate, March 2, 2010

WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of death for people under age 65 in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, between 2001 and 2005, over 154,000 cases of cancer were diagnosed and over 67,000 people died from cancer in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health identified the need to address cancer as a public health issue and established the Cancer Control Project in January of 1998; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Cancer Control Project, the Virginia Department of Health initiated development of the Virginia Cancer Plan, a state cancer plan for the prevention and control of cancer, and established the Cancer Plan Action Coalition to create the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Cancer Plan sets forth the state's goals and strategies for all areas of comprehensive cancer control, and includes baseline data, measurable objectives, guidance for design, implementation, surveillance, and evaluation of cancer-related actions and issues for the general public, people with cancer and their families, health care providers, policy makers, and the broader health care system; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Cancer Plan is regularly updated; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring,

That the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition be requested to report annually on changes to the Virginia Cancer Plan to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care. The Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary and report of its progress in meeting the request of this resolution no later than the first day of the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary and report shall be submitted for publication as a report

document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.