



January 3, 2014

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 requested in House Joint Resolution No. 56 of 2010.

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) organization. This status allows the coalition to solicit funds, which are tax-deductible to the provider. CACV members, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, create a blueprint for community-based cancer prevention and control activities in the Commonwealth; the document is the *Virginia Cancer Plan*. Coalition members finalized the 2013 - 2017 plan this year. It contains goals, specific objectives, methods to achieve objectives, and standards used to measure success.

Our public health mission is to ease 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 Board worked closely this year with the coalition's four action teams as these teams selected objectives and worked to achieve them. The *Virginia Cancer Plan* presents these objectives. The teams are Early Detection, Prevention, Survivorship and Palliative Care, and Treatment. We attach a comprehensive summary of 2013 team accomplishments.

Please contact either Nila Saliba at 434-243-9217 or Carlin Rafie at 804-628-2680 to answer questions about the CACV report. Thank you for distributing the report to Virginia's legislators and other interested parties.

Sincerely,



Nila Saliba
Board Chair, Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia



Carlin Rafie, Ph.D., R.D.
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, 2014

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CACV Mission and Members

Mission

The CACV mission is integrated into the organization's by-laws:

"CACV is an alliance of entities and individuals that shall provide statewide guidance, support, leadership, and coordination of cancer prevention and control activities in Virginia. The purpose of CACV is to serve as a catalyst for cancer prevention and control activities throughout Virginia, as well as any and all services that the Board of Directors sees fit consistent with the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) tax exempt status."

CACV accomplishes its mission by developing, promoting, and implementing the Virginia Cancer Plan through

- Reducing cancer incidence and mortality in Virginia;
- Reducing the financial, psychological, and spiritual effects of cancer;
- Improving the quality of life for cancer survivors; and
- Facilitating 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

The Cancer Action Coalition finished developing the third *Virginia Cancer Plan*. The distinctive features of the plan are that it defines important prevention and control goals, provides specific methods or strategies to achieve the goals, and presents measures used to evaluate progress. The current plan is the third in succession and covers the years 2013 – 2017. The coalition also produced plans in 2004 and 2008. The new plan was showcased at the coalition's June meeting. Twenty-eight members committed to work on action team objectives, with a focus on regional actions that will benefit communities across Virginia. House Joint Resolution 56 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 details of CACV accomplishments and outcomes in 2013 and presents coalition goals for 2014.

Action Team Accomplishments

Prevention Action Team

Cancer prevention includes those actions that individuals and communities take to promote healthy lifestyles through changes in behaviors, policies, and environments. Prevention Action Team efforts focus on reducing the number of people each year that develop cancer and have a decreased quality of life. Prevention Action Team objectives for the 2013 – 2017 VCP are: 1) Reduce exposure to cancer causing substances such as tobacco and second-hand smoke, ultraviolet radiation, potential carcinogenic additives, and environmental carcinogens such as radon; 2) Reduce the risk of cancer for all Virginians by encouraging an active lifestyle and healthy eating; and 3) Improve public awareness and knowledge of age-appropriate preventive action as well as screenings and self-examinations.

1. Hosted an educational meeting with experts from around the country on the dangers of Radon during the quarterly CACV meeting in December, 2012.
2. Distributed and compiled results of a sun safety survey to evaluate the use of sunscreen and sun protective clothing in youth organizations, including schools.
3. Continuing work on sun safety, the team is working with park and recreation departments to educate about UV/sun dangers.
4. Presented accomplishments to the Joint Commission on Healthcare (JCHC) on October 22, 2013, including the risk of radon gases. Served as a source of information to legislators interested in a possible bill sponsorship.

Early Detection Action Team

The Early Detection Action Team promotes detecting cancer before symptoms or signs occur. Many cancers are more easily treated or cured when found early. Decreasing the incidence of late-stage cancer diagnosis is a primary goal of early detection efforts. Early Detection Action Team objectives for the 2013 – 2017 VCP are: 1) Increasing the dissemination of cancer screening guidelines that are age-appropriate and evidence-based and engaging in more educational activities in health districts that experience the highest mortality; 2) Increasing cancer screening rates by 10 percent; and 3) Supporting health care providers to promote age-appropriate, evidence-based early detection guidelines.

1. Reviewed the various screening standards recommended by different cancer prevention and control organizations and adopted the standards the American Cancer Society.
2. Developed educational materials and strategies for public education about breast, cervical, and prostate cancer using published guidelines of the Commission on Cancer.

Treatment Action Team

The Treatment Action Team promotes access to multidisciplinary cancer care, innovative treatments, and clinical trials. The goal of treatment is to cure the person with cancer or control progression of the disease while maintaining quality of life. National standards provide the basis for quality care, and include evidence-based guidelines and access to clinical trials. Treatment Action Team objectives for the 2013 – 2017 VCP are: 1) Educate providers about national care standards and guidelines; 2) Promote knowledge and awareness of patient navigation programs and services in Virginia; and 3) Connect Virginians to information and access to innovative, evidence-based cancer treatments.

1. Developed and administered a survey to collect information about public knowledge of personalized medicine and defined targeted groups for a revised survey.
2. Organized a panel discussion entitled, *Personalized Medicine: Research is Reality*, for the September 12, 2013 CACV membership meeting. The University of Virginia Cancer Center, Boehringer Ingelheim, and the VCU Massey Cancer Center sponsored the panel.
3. Collaborated with the Virginia Cancer Patient Navigator Network (VaCPNN) to survey patient navigators in Virginia. Forty-five navigators responded to the survey and a resource list was developed and now hosted on the CACV web site.

Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team

People diagnosed with cancer who are living with, through, or beyond cancer are survivors. Survivorship includes issues related to the ability to get health care and follow-up treatment, late effects of treatment, second cancers, and quality of life. Family members, friends, and caregivers are also considered part of the survivorship experience. Palliative care is given to improve the quality of life of patients who have a serious or life-threatening disease. The goal of palliative care is to prevent or treat as early as possible the symptoms of a disease, side effects caused by treatment of a disease, and psychological, social, and spiritual problems related to a disease or its treatment.

The Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team creates means and opportunities to enhance survivors' quality of life. Ensuring that Virginians are informed and can access individually appropriate quality hospice and palliative care is a Team goal. Survivorship and Palliative Care Action Team objectives for the 2013 - 2017 VCP are: 1) Increase the number of cancer patients who are provided with a comprehensive care summary and follow-up plan; 2) Increase the use of survivorship support services; and 3) Educate patients, families, and health care providers about palliative care.

1. Developed a complete survivorship and palliative care resource that includes definitions of term, resource organizations, and information on specialists across the state. The resource will be distributed to CACV partners and is available on the CACV website.
2. Action Team members partnered with community hospitals and organizations to host two Regional Cancer Survivorship Conferences in Norfolk and Richmond that provided patients in these regions with the latest information and services in nutrition, physical activity, clinical trials, and treatments.
3. This team will organize a Survivorship conference that targets physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, and other professional care providers to be held in May 2014.
4. To increase awareness and utilization of local and state palliative care resources, the Action Team is preparing a special panel discussion on palliative care to educate CACV members for the March 2014 quarterly meeting that will be video broadcast to five locations throughout the Commonwealth.

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.