



Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia

Joining together for a Virginia without cancer!

January 13, 2021

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. In 2018, CACV members, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, released the latest blueprint for community-based cancer prevention and control activities in the Commonwealth; the document is the *Virginia Cancer Plan, 2018-2022*. The Plan contains goals, specific objectives, methods to achieve objectives, and standards used to measure success. Notably, this version of Virginia's State Cancer Plan is one of the only plans in the country that has dedicated goals around Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020, CACV board members and members at large remained committed to serving cancer patients, survivors, and Virginians as a whole. Throughout our report you will find references to how our activities align with the *Virginia Cancer Plan* along with metrics showing our progress.

This year CACV pivoted quickly and continued to host quarterly meetings virtually and partnered with other organizations to host additional programming. Our quarterly meetings each focused on a section of the *Virginia Cancer Plan*, allowing for increased collaboration amongst our members. The CACV Executive Board continued to support and collaborate with the coalition's members and priority area taskforces as these taskforces selected activities and worked to achieve them.

Please contact Erin Steigleder at 804.937.0966 to answer questions about the CACV report.
Thank you for distributing the report to Virginia's legislators and citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Steigleder'.

Erin Steigleder

Board Chair
Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ericca Facetti'.

Ericca Facetti

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 13, 2021**

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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 collaborate by providing expertise in identifying the burden of cancer in Virginia, working to reduce risks, promoting state-of-the-art treatment, and enhancing survivorship.

Virginia Cancer Plan Highlights

The Cancer Action Coalition continues working on the fourth **Virginia Cancer Plan, 2018-2022 (VCP)**. This plan follows plans produced in 2004, 2008 and 2012. The distinctive feature of the plan is it defines primary prevention and control goals, provides specific methods or strategies to achieve the goals, and presents measures to evaluate progress. The report describes activities and results accomplished during 2020. The appendix reproduces the text of HJR 56, which requests that CACV provide annual reports to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care regarding changes to the Virginia Cancer Plan.

CACV as an organization plans and carries out organization-wide cancer prevention and control activities. These activities support all action teams. CACV activities in 2020 included:

Organizing quarterly meetings. The purpose is to disseminate the newest available and locally applicable cancer prevention and control information to the entire membership. These quarterly meetings aligned with our selected priority objectives from the VCP. The total attendance at quarterly meetings in 2020 was 113. The topics of the 2020 meetings included:

March:

- *Lung Cancer: Augusta Health, John Girard, Administrative Director, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (VCP Goal 7)*

June:

- *Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP), Debbie Cadet, PhD, MSW, VCU Massey Cancer Center (VCP Goal 6)*
- *Virginia Cancer Patient Navigator Network, Donna Wilson, RN, MSN, CBCN (VCP Goal 8)*

September:

- *Increasing Lung Cancer Screening, Amit "Bobby" Mahajan, MD, FCCP, DAABIP, Medical Director, Inova Interventional Pulmonology and Complex Airways Disease Program, Medical Director, IFMC Pulmonary Procedural Suite, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Inova Schar Cancer Institute, Inova Fairfax Hospital (VCP Goal 6)*
- *Addressing Cancer Health Disparities: Understanding Drivers and Looking Toward Change, Lillie D. Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, HON- ONN-CG, University Distinguished Service Professor of Breast*

Cancer, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Co-Founder of AONN-Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators (VCP Goal 6 and 7)

December:

- *Exploiting Molecular Clock Crosstalk Mechanisms for Cancer Treatment, Carla V. Finkelstein, PhD, Scientific Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech Carilion, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech (VCP Goal 7)*
- *Addressing Psychosocial Needs of Patients, Amanda L. Thompson, PhD, Chief, Pediatric Psychology, Life with Cancer, Inova Schar Cancer Institute, Inova Health System (VCP Goal 10 and 11)*
- *Providing cancer information.* CACV partnered with UVA Cancer Center to host a virtual *Understanding Cancer* educational series, focused on an audience in Southwest Virginia. Understanding Cancer is an educational curriculum focused on informing community members about cancer disease. Understanding Cancer provides an introduction to cancer by addressing topics on the disease. CACV provides information to Virginia's citizens through several avenues including online through its website. Major categories include incidence and mortality statistics, community cancer resources, patient navigation services, prevention and control information, and CACV activities. The information is available on the [CACV website](#).
- *Adapting to COVID-19.* CACV created a resource for the website with COVID-19 and cancer related information. CACV also shifted all quarterly meetings to virtual (after March). Unfortunately, we had to make the decision to postpone our biennial State Cancer Conference which was supposed to occur in September of 2020, with plans to reschedule for 2021. Many CACV members and a few board members had their work assignments shift from cancer to COVID-19 related priorities for a period of time, yet the work of the coalition continued.

Prevention Accomplishments

Cancer prevention includes those actions that individuals and communities take to promote healthy lifestyles. Changes in behaviors, policies, and environments fit into prevention activities. Prevention efforts focus on reducing the number of people who develop cancer each year and whose quality of life suffers as a consequence.

Prevention Goals

1. Reduce exposure to tobacco among Virginians.
2. Improve nutrition and physical activity among Virginians.
3. Reduce HPV infections among Virginians.
4. Reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun and indoor tanning devices among Virginians.
5. Reduce exposure to radon among Virginians.

Prevention Activities

- *HPV Taskforce (VHIT) (VCP Goal 3)* was established in 2017 with stakeholders from across the state. Its purpose is to focus on increasing HPV vaccination use across the Commonwealth to prevent HPV related cancers. In 2020, VHIT hosted a virtual Peer to Peer educational series on HPV. This included various medical and dental providers from across the state discussing specific topics related to HPV-related cancers and HPV prevention. These were one-hour sessions once per month with an opportunity to ask the expert questions and have a dialogue. VHIT also continued to host screenings of *Someone You Love* in partnership with UVA Cancer Center, with six screenings in 2020.

- *Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Programs (VCP Goal 1)*. The pandemic may have reduced the amount of people coming in for cancer screenings, but thousands of people still called the Quitline and participated in virtual tobacco cessation programs. Multiple member organizations carried out training sessions, provided advocacy & awareness programs, and developed and implemented tobacco cessation programs and resources at the community level.
- *Prevention Community Education*. Multiple CACV associated organizations provided community-based learning opportunities to promote and help individuals implement healthy lifestyle changes such as nutrition, exercise, sun safety, and cancer screenings. Some examples of organizations offering prevention based programs included:
 - American Cancer Society
 - Mountain Empire Older Citizens
 - Petersburg Healthy Living and Learning Center
 - University of Virginia Cancer Center
 - Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation
 - VCU Massey Cancer Center
 - VCU Massey Cancer Resource Centers, Lawrenceville & Danville
 - Virginia Department of Health – Every Woman’s Life Program
 - We Rock Cancer
- *Nutrition Education (VCP Goal 2)*. Petersburg Healthy Living and Learning Center and VCU Massey Cancer Center provided education through a “Spice Up Your Diet” class on nutritional benefits of using spices while cooking healthy foods.

Early Detection Accomplishments

The Early Detection goal promotes finding cancer before symptoms or signs occur. Cancers generally are more easily treated and cured when found early. Decreasing the incidence of late-stage cancer diagnosis is a primary goal of early detection efforts. In 2020, cancer screening rates faced a steep decline due to people avoiding preventive care during the pandemic. Nationally, there is a major concern among cancer experts that we will see an increase of later stage cancer diagnosis due to people putting off their screenings.

Early Detection Goals

1. Increase high-quality cancer screening and early detection rates for Virginians.

Early Detection Activities

- *Colorectal Cancer (VCP Goal 6)*. CACV became an official member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) in 2017 making it one of approximately 100 organizations across the nation committed to taking action in screening, prevention, and early detection of colorectal cancer. In 2020, CACV reformed a colorectal cancer task force which has been actively meeting virtually. The Virginia Colorectal Cancer Roundtable was reestablished to work on:
 - Developing a robust colorectal cancer roundtable to facilitate partnerships across Virginia to reduce the burden of colorectal cancer
 - Increasing colorectal cancer screening rates in Virginia
 - Advocating for increased access to colorectal screening for all Virginians

Some successes include doing a partner inventory on current colorectal (CRC) activities, collecting baseline CRC screening data, and establishing three working groups: education, clinical, and advocacy. Additionally, the CRC Roundtable was an active partner with the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and Fight Colorectal Cancer.

In August, the VA CRC Roundtable submitted a letter to CMS addressing the significant drop in colorectal cancer screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic and urged the use of at-home, non-invasive screening tests and that follow up colonoscopy be included as part of the screening process and be covered with no cost-sharing for the patient. In December, in response to the changes to the USPSTF CRC screening guidelines from 50-45, we invited Dr. Alexander Krist who led the screening panel to provide our taskforce clarity on the decision and the potential impact of this change. The group is working on developing an educational webinar for early 2021 which will highlight these recent changes to the guidelines.

- Other CACV members actively working on colorectal cancer outreach and early detection include:
 - VCU Massey Cancer Center
 - Petersburg Healthy Living and Learning Library
 - Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
- *Prostate Cancer Awareness (VCP Goal 6)*. CACV partnered with Hampton Roads Prostate Health Forum to host a prostate cancer awareness and screening event, which has been postponed until February 2021 and will feature virtual components. This event was created to address the need for increased awareness and early detection to prevent deaths related to prostate cancer. VCU Massey Cancer Center also partnered with Petersburg Healthy Living and Learning Library to conduct prostate cancer outreach activities in Petersburg.

Diagnosis and Cancer Directed Therapy Accomplishments

The treatment goal promotes access to effective multidisciplinary cancer treatment, to innovative treatments, and to clinical trials while maintaining the quality of life.

Diagnosis and Cancer Directed Therapy Goals

1. Improve quality diagnosis and treatment using evidence-based patient-centered care.

Diagnosis and Cancer Directed Therapy Activities

There were no reported activities under this goal for 2020.

Survivorship and Palliative Care Accomplishments

People living with, through, or beyond cancer are survivors. Family members, friends, and caregivers also are survivors. Palliative care is a systematic application of methods that assist people in daily life, including employment, and in managing practical, legal, and financial needs. The survivorship and palliative goals create means and opportunities to enhance survivors' quality of life.

Survivorship and Palliative Care Goals

1. Optimize the quality of life for patients and caregivers across the cancer continuum.

Survivorship and Palliative Care Activities

- *OUT Cancer Survey partner*. CACV and CACV member organizations became social media partners for the National LGBT Cancer Center's OUT Cancer Survey of LGBTQ+ cancer survivors. Data on LGBTQ+ cancer survivors and patients is essentially nonexistent, so CACV and the other orgs are happy to help promote this survey to try and collect this vital information
- *VBCF Webinars*. The Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation collaborated with other CACV members and various other experts to host webinars for breast cancer survivors informing them on breast

cancer health disparities and clinical trials, accessing cannabidiol in Virginia and potential benefits to breast cancer patients and survivors dealing with long-term effects from treatment, nutrition, mindfulness practices, and financial/legal resources available for cancer patients.

Addressing Health Equity

One goal that permeates all the other goals in the VCP is ensuring that we are addressing health equity throughout our activities. Some highlights from this year's health equity focused activities are:

- *VCU Massey Cancer Center and UVA Cancer Center's participation in the Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP).* This program is "designed to enhance capacity in the areas of disparities research; recruitment and career/professional development of underrepresented investigators, trainees, and students; communication and dissemination; and evaluation, as part of building region-based "hubs" for the support and efficient management of cancer health disparities (CHD) research, training, and outreach." [NCI GMAP Page](#)
- *American Cancer Society Breast Health Equity Summit.* The American Cancer Society hosted a virtual breast health equity summit featuring speakers from cancer centers across Virginia and highlighting different issues that African-American and rural patients face when dealing with breast cancer.
- *OUT Cancer Survey and research partnerships.* In addition to participation in the marketing for the OUT Cancer Survey, CACV member organizations are working together to establish research in cancer centers in Virginia focused on the LGTBQ+ community.

Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Accomplishments

Pediatric cancers are often different from the types of cancers that develop in adults and in many cases they are not treated in the same manner. Therefore, it is important to treat children at a center that is a member of the Children's Oncology Group where the treatment team understands the unique needs of children and teens with cancer and their families. The pediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers goals take a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for all pediatric, adolescent and young adult survivors from the time they are diagnosed into adulthood.

Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Goals

1. Improve access to quality treatment and timely medical information for patients and their families.
2. Improve long-term follow up care for childhood cancer survivors.
3. Improve support services for pediatric patients, survivors and their families.
4. Increase awareness of palliative care strategies for children with cancer among healthcare providers, patients and families.

Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Activities

- *Childhood Cancer Awareness Day (VCP Goal 9).* ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation along with other partner organizations held the third annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly
- *Transition Back to School(VCP Goal 11).* The pediatric task force focused their efforts on education policies that impact patients and survivors receiving additional support during their transition back to school. They are now receiving fewer services than they were twenty years ago, in terms of educational support from the state through the hospitals.
- *Pediatric Cancer Conference Planning (VCP Goal 11).* ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation is currently working with the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia to add a pediatric track to the now 2021 state cancer conference that will focus on the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Pediatric Oncology.

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.

