

**Vermont Cancer Coalition
Quarterly Meeting**

**July 29, 2005
9 am - 1 pm**

Meeting Notes

**Rutland Holiday Inn
Rutland, VT**

Attending:

John Olson, Peter Cobb, John Campbell, Abby Reese, Penrose Jackson, Debbie Dameron, Dorothy Lovering, Tom Ketcham, Sherry Lynn, Sue Cleary, Russell Leshne, Kerri Frenya, Tanya Beudoin, Liz Peterson, Carol Miklos, Holli MacFadden, Vernon Nelson, Eva Zivitz, Erica Tamblini, Linda McKenna, Rebecca Denofer, Tracy Adams, Katrina Pelkey, Tracy Phillips.

Call in:

Sorry!! I published the wrong call-in numbers, so no one could get through. Thank you for trying though. Following are the notes from our meeting. John O.

Agenda:

We started 30 minutes late due to road construction south of Burlington and south of Middlebury.

1) Welcome & Introductions

Eight new members / attendees were present:

Linda McKenna, PA, Administrative Leader at Rutland Community Cancer Center
Erica Tamblini, Rutland Regional Medical Center
Eva Zivitz, Palliative Care coordinator, Rutland Regional Medical Center
Rebecca Denofer, Clinical Research Coordinator, Rutland Regional Medical Center
Abigail Reese, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Office of Vermont Health Access
Tracy Phillips, Chief of Women's Health Office, Vermont Department of Health
Holli McFadden, Clinical Research Supervisor, Vermont Cancer Center, UVM
Robyn Heyden, Adult Nurse Practitioner, Surgical Onc/Breast Care Center, Fletcher Allen

2) Announcements

Coalition Membership report:

Continued member recruiting is paying off. Coalition mailing list now includes 148 members, from 11 of Vermont's 14 counties. (Active membership is obviously a sub-set of this.) Geographic distribution has also improved due to outreach in southern Vermont. 51% of members live or work outside of Chittenden County, up from about 25% of 110 members in February, 2005.

Evaluation of Coalition & Planning process:

All members should expect to receive a survey in early August from our contractor, JSI. Please complete this and fax or mail it back ASAP. A high response rate will ensure the most useful information to Coalition Steering Committee and Coordinator.

Upcoming events:

Sept 7: Training on using Advanced Directives, sponsored by the VT Medical Society and Attorney General's office. Info: John Campbell at vtethicsnetwork@silicondairy.net.
Sept 22: Tobacco Coalition meeting, contact Sherry Lynn for more info (slynn@vdh.state.vt.us).
Oct 21: Women's Cancer Conference, Sheraton Hotel, So. Burlington. Formerly focused solely on breast cancer, now includes all women's cancers, and will have a track for male partners.
Oct 31: State Obesity Conference, Burlington area, contact Susan at scoburn@vdh.state.vt.us.
Debbie reported that ACS was very happy with their Relays for Life events this summer around the state.

3) Web-based resources for Cancer Control Planning:

Russell Leshne, Partnership Program Manager with NCI's Cancer Information Services of New England distributed information and presented on NCI's Cancer Control PLANET

<http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/>, Clinical Trials Education Series (CTES) www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learning/clinical-trials-education-series and Consumer Health Profiling Project, using a geodemographic marketing database for audience segmentation and program planning. (Contact Russell.Leshne@yale.edu for more information.)

4) Cancer Screening and Survivorship Data: What We Know in Vermont

Liz Peterson, VDH Senior Epidemiologist, gave presented screening and survivorship data gathered from recent BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) surveys of Vermonters. The BRFSS is a national survey conducted each year by CDC and all 50 states to track various risk behaviors of adults. (Handouts of her presentation were distributed in an earlier mailing. Data is provisional, so please contact Liz at epeters@vdh.state.vt.us if you'd like to share any of this data with others.)

5) Draft Plan discussion

We had a short time to discuss some overall issues related to the State Cancer Plan. We did not break out into work groups, nor give presentations by workgroup. La

Comments:

a) There are currently no objectives listed for skin cancer, and 'environmental risks' section needs to be clarified to focus appropriate concern and behavior changes. Vernon Nelson, from VDH – Division of Health Protection will get some suggested text to John soon.

b) Text should be added to clarify differing screening needs for different sub-groups of readers. While this is a Planning document, not a guideline document, text can be added in the problem statement of each section or at the end in a Guidelines section to address these issues.

Format:

The Plan will be about 32 pages long, and will have a similar design as the VT Cancer Registry's Cancer in Vermont – 2005 publication. A longer, more detailed Cancer Working Plan will be published on the web as a pdf document, and will include detailed strategies, partners and resources and milestones to accomplish our objectives. This document can be updated as needed, and downloaded by anyone who is interested in participating in cancer control.

Timeline:

John will be forwarding this draft Plan to a copywriter, technical readers and Department leadership during August, for publication this Fall. Thank you to those members who have forwarded your suggestions to me already. **If any of you have any additional suggestions or comments, get them to me by Thursday, August 11.**

6) Next Steps

Publication of state cancer plan:

(see Timeline above)

Roll-out event:

Steering committee discussed dates in late October to early December; Carol Miklos, Debbie Dameron, John Olson & David Cranmer will set up a meeting with Linda Dorey from the VDH Communications office. Perhaps a press conference at the Statehouse.

Implementation phase preparations:

Workgroups should continue to develop and refine Strategies, partners and resources to achieve objectives listed in the Plan summary.

Resource development:

This item not addressed during the meeting.

Evaluation:

Expect member surveys in early August.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Lunch was provided.