



Cancer Coalition Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023
9:00 AM
Virtual/Google Meet

In Attendance:

Autumn Friend, Venessa Stacy, Jamie Spano, Fred Gregg, William Pope, Kaitlin Lucas

Welcome & Introductions:

Introductions were conducted.

CPEST Grant Updates:

Fiscal year 2024 total purchase of care dollar amount to be spent on screening is \$26,424.
Total spent to date is \$1,598.

Spending is down due to enrollment being low and due to the slow billing process with insurance companies.

Patients who have Medicare coverage often have most of the bills associated with their screening paid for.

Successes and Challenges of the Program:

- *Successes:*
 - Program obtained a contract with Allegany County's Comfort Keepers to assist clients with transportation to and from surgery.
Contract obtained for new general surgeon at GRMC, Dr. Milagros Lopez-Gerena which has increased scheduling availability for screening.
- *Challenges:*
 - Community members are not qualifying for the program due to being fully insured with Maryland Medicaid or being over the income guidelines
 - Tobacco cessation counseling and referrals are down due to vacancy in the health, education, and outreach department. Referrals are supposed to pick back up in January.
 - Few patient referrals are coming in from provider offices and other sources at this time.
 - Convincing people to go for their colonoscopies due to inconvenience. Jamie mentioned Dr. Dougherty's lighthearted approach to CRC screening and suggested ways to break the stigma around the prep and procedure.

Strategies of Outreach to Community:



GARRETT COUNTY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Garrett County Health Department

Heather Cooper, MSN CRNP - Director of Personal Health

1025 Drive, Oakland, Maryland 21550

301-334-7700 or 301-895-3111 | Fax 301-334-7701

Autumn has posted flyers in public restrooms for colorectal cancer screening and posted flyers about the CPEST program in some community businesses.

Autumn posted a newspaper article about the CPEST program at the end of November.

Fred Gregg agreed to post information in his pharmacy, Gregg's Pharmacy. Autumn will provide that. Fred also suggested educating local providers and pharmacists about the program, so that when patients are seen, they are able to refer them.

Kaitlin Lucas suggested reaching out to John Corbin, GCHD's social media manager, to post information in the morning and afternoon edition as well as outreaching to urgent care's in the community and our local hospital.

Venessa Stacy and Jamie Spano discussed setting up a table or providing information at the health fairs in the spring to increase referrals.

Agency Updates:

No other agencies in attendance this meeting.

Other Business:

Fred discussed the cancer warrior workout class in which cancer patients or those undergoing active treatment were able to attend a class at Wildwood Athletic Club specifically focusing on increasing strength, immunity, and energy levels. This class may have been paid for by Cindy's Fund. Autumn will inquire about this to potentially continue the class again.

There was a discussion about increasing membership in the coalition. Fred suggested a representative from Cindy's Fund and the GRMC Cancer Center would be the highest priority at this time.

There were ideas of recruiting community members during the cancer warrior workout class if possible.

Action Items:

Fred will provide marketing media for Wildwood Athletic Club related to cancer warrior class at next meeting.

Autumn will provide a mission, vision, and goals statement to the coalition for discussion, improvements, and agreement. Once agreed upon, the group will publish information of cancer coalition membership, participation, and purpose.

Autumn will provide the CPEST program eligibility requirements and services available from the program.



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At next meeting, identify cancer coalition chair, secretary, and upcoming meeting schedule for 2024.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM via Google Meet