



Essex County Cancer Coalition Meeting Minutes



Approved
NEW JERSEY
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 4:00-6:00 pm

Essex County Hospital Center, Multipurpose Conference Room
204 Grove Ave., Cedar Grove NJ

Co-sponsored by Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
and the New Jersey Public Health Training Center

Attendees: Maude Bertrand, Christopher Brady, Hussam Eltoukhy, Michael Festa, Doreen Gialdo, Lucia Guarini, David Landry, Dennis Lee, Catherine Marcial, Jean Maurice, Jean Michel Pierre, Daniel M. Rosenblum, Arnold Rosenheck, Stanley H. Weiss, Abellard Wells

Excused: June Reece, Angela McCabe

Introductions: Stanley H. Weiss, MD (PI & Director)

As usual, this meeting was held jointly with the Essex CEED Community Coalition. In addition to brief introductions, Dr. Weiss thanked Ms. Lucia Guarini and Dr. Michael Festa for the use of this beautiful facility and for arranging for the dinner that was provided.

Review and Approval of March 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Festa seconded by Mr. Lee.

Agency Updates / ECCC Committees / Announcements

Essex County Cancer Coalition: Mr. Landry

- **Leadership Council: Stanley H. Weiss, MD**

Dr. Weiss announced that the NJDHSS has opened the process of applying for FY 2012 renewal funding for the ECCC, and that we have applied for such funding. He also announced that Ms. Peg Knight is retiring at the end of May 2011, and he thanked her for the speed with which she facilitated the process of the cancer coalition grant renewal applications for next year.

- **Advocacy: Arnold H. Rosenheck, DMD (in Ms. Reece's absence)**

Dr. Rosenheck reported that advocacy for all cancer sites for funding, regulations and laws is more important than ever because of the diversion of funds to other matters. Dr. Rosenheck read aloud the three principles of our ECCC Advocacy Committee, as approved by both the ECCC Leadership Council and the membership in March 2011 (available on the ECCC web site at www.umdj.edu/esscaweb/advocacy.shtml) and reviewed the leadership and membership of the committee. Ms. June Reece, of the American Cancer Society, is chair, and she works closely with members Dr. Rosenheck, Dr. Michael Festa, and Sr. Maggie Lopez, who is statewide head of the ACS's advocacy efforts. Dr. Rosenheck invited other members of the ECCC to join, as several additional members would help the committee be more effective.

Dr. Rosenheck also discussed the most recent meeting of the statewide *Ad Hoc* Advocacy Committee, at which he represented the ECCC. Sr. Lopez announced there that Ms. Knight is retiring from her position as Executive Director of the OCCP and that she will be replaced. Furthermore, Celeste Andriot-Wood is retiring and will be replaced by Gloria Rodriguez, joining the leadership at NJDHSS that includes Commissioner Mary E. O'Dowd and State Epidemiologist and Assistant Commissioner Dr. Christina Tan.

Impending funding changes at the Federal level that were announced include: a decrease of \$807 million in the CDC's proposed budget, a small amount of which will probably be restored; a decrease of \$260 million in the NIH's budget; an increase of \$90 million in the FDA's budget; and decreases in the Bureau of Health Professions and Title VII. Thus, advocacy is particularly important at this time.

On the county level, our Advocacy Committee will create a piece on all the representatives from the county. The committee will meet with the representatives in each legislative district, strictly to educate them (not to lobby), so they will be acquainted with all of our programs.

Dr. Weiss pointed out that the statewide *Ad Hoc* Advocacy Committee has been very impressed with the advocacy work in Essex County and has asked to use Essex as a model, and Dr. Weiss congratulated Dr. Rosenheck and the committee members on their excellent progress.

- **Northern NJ Prostate Cancer Initiative in Essex County: Daniel M. Rosenblum**

The Prostate Cancer Initiative is now in its fourth year. Due to many complications, we received the actual funding (in the form of a Notice of Grant Award) for the present fiscal year (FY 2011) only a few weeks ago (after 80% of the fiscal year had past). The state has not yet received written notification from the CDC of funding for any cancer activities in FY 2012 (which begins in a mere six weeks).

Our outreach worker, who had been on extended leave for nearly all of the third quarter of FY 2011, is now back and working in the field.

As part of the transition process for next year, we have been discussing with lead agencies what they can do. We have been pointing to the "In the Pink" program at St. Michael's Medical Center, which has expressed interest in using our barbershop database with some of their own modifications to coordinate outreach, as a model.

Introductions II: Stanley H. Weiss, MD (Principal Investigator & Director)

[See *sign-in sheet*.]

A second round of introductions, for the benefit of several attendees who had been unable to be at the beginning of the meeting, was held.

Attendees were invited to partake of the dinner provided *gratis* by the Essex County government.

Presentation:

"Colorectal Cancer: An Update"

by Stanley H. Weiss, MD, FACP, FACE, Professor, and

Daniel M. Rosenblum, PhD, Assistant Professor,

Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, New Jersey Medical School, and Department of Quantitative Methods, School of Public Health, UMDNJ

This presentation qualified for 1.0 public health continuing education credit for local public health officers in New Jersey. The topics covered by Drs. Weiss and Rosenblum included

- Colonoscopy as the primary screening method for colorectal cancer
- Presenting the basics of colorectal cancer screening to a lay audience
- Recent findings on colonic lesions in diverse populations

The full video of the presentation will be posted shortly on the New Jersey Public Health Training Center (NPHTC) web site, www.njphtc.org, in the Training Archives section. Furthermore, as usual, the PowerPoint contents will be posted on the ECCC website.

Action items: Contents of this presentation will be posted on the ECCC web site and NJPHTC web sites. See details there.

Agency Updates / ECCC Committees / Announcements (continued)

UMDNJ/UH-S.A.V.E. Community Coalition, CEED Program Coordinator—

Catherine Marcial

Ms. Marcial had no updates.

METS Community Center : Dr. Festa invited Pastor Jean Maurice and Director Maude Bertrand to meet with Dr. Weiss, Dr. Rosenblum, and himself to discuss initiatives to undertake, such as having conversations with groups in church. Dr. Weiss pointed out that the mandates for both all NJCEED agencies and all county cancer coalitions include education in the community, and that we were enthusiastic to further expand our educational outreach.

Thanks: Dr. Weiss thanked Mr. Landry, Dr. Festa and Ms. Guarini for their efforts in helping to arrange this meeting.

Next Coalition Meeting: Dr. Weiss announced that the next coalition meeting was being planned for a Thursday in September, probably on the 15th, and asked if that date was acceptable to those present, and it was. (In subsequent discussions, the Leadership Council decided that it would be better to have the meeting on September 22, 2011, and that is in fact the date of the next quarterly meeting.)

Meeting Evaluation Form

The usual Grins & Gripes evaluation form was included in the packets of material distributed to all attendees. Attendees were reminded to complete it, and these were collected.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Summary of Major Handouts Given Out at the Meeting:

1. Meeting agenda.
2. (Draft) minutes of the March 10th, 2011 Coalition meeting.
3. ECCC brochure with mission statement
4. ECCC Transportation Resources Brochure (in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Creole).
5. ECCC Burden of Cancer Brochure
6. Grins & Gripes
7. New Jersey Public Health Training Center Evaluation Form