



**Essex County Cancer Coalition
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2006 4:00-6:00 pm
The Priory Restaurant, Newark, NJ**

Attendees: Bill Bullock, Edith Eze, Lois Greene, Kathy Garrett, Michele Grippaldi, Michael Hodges, Issac Hopkins, Susan Irby, Rose Leandre, Susan Levin, Punam Parikh, Bindi Patel, Terri Pietsch, Susan Sanna, Robert Schermer, Diane Siegel, Virgil Simons, Azadeh Tasslimi, and Stan Weiss.

Introductions

Participants introduced themselves to the Coalition and stated which organization(s) they represent.

Approval of June 15th Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Coalition's June 15, 2006 meeting were distributed, reviewed, and unanimously approved with minor changes suggested by Susan Levin.

Presentation: "Latest Developments in HPV Related Diseases and Cervical Cancer", Kathy Garrett, Health Science Advisor, Merck Vaccine Division

Ms. Kathy Garrett, a Science Advisor, from Merck Pharmaceuticals' Vaccine Division presented the results from Merck's clinical efficacy studies of women ages 9-26 years for the new HPV vaccine, Gardasil, and specifically addressed the vaccine's impact on the populations studied, indications for usage of the vaccine including dosage and administration, and precautions. Gardasil protects against 4 common HPV types—6, 11, 16, and 18. Two of these types (16 and 18) are responsible for 70% of cervical cancer cases and high grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) worldwide, and the other two (6 and 11) cause 90% of anogenital. Gardasil is a prophylactic vaccine—the efficacy studies provided no clear evidence of protection among individuals already exposed to HPV types 6/11/16/18. According to the studies, the vaccine only protects an individual against virus types that she has not yet been exposed to. Thus, ideally the vaccine should be administered to young female adolescents who have not yet initiated sexual activity.

Currently, Gardasil is indicated for non-pregnant girls and women 9-26 years of age for the prevention of diseases caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18. The vaccine is nearly 100% efficacious in protecting against diseases caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18. Full vaccination requires 3 booster shots which total approximately \$360.

Ms. Garrett stressed that the vaccination with Gardasil DOES NOT substitute for regular Pap tests.

For updated information on the HPV vaccine including the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) recommendation please visit:

www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm

Coalition Stakeholder Assessment

The annual stakeholder assessment was tabled. The coordinators will solicit input from the Leadership Council at the next meeting on November 1st regarding recruitment of additional stakeholders. Results will be presented at the Coalition's December meeting, at which point input from other Coalition members will be solicited, and the full stakeholder assessment will be completed.

Annual Review of ECCC's Mission Statement

The Coalition conducted its annual review of the mission statement. The ECCC's current mission statement was reviewed by all members present at the meeting and was approved with no changes.

Agency Updates/Announcements

Haitian American Cultural and Social Organization—Rose Leandre

Rose is the Executive Director of the Haitian American Cultural and Social Organization (HACSO). She introduced HACSO to the Coalition and stated that the organization, although based in Rockland County, NY, wants to extend its services to the Haitian community in Essex County. Within Essex County, large Haitian communities reside in East Orange, Elizabeth, and Millwood; HACSO has been receiving requests for assistance from Essex County.

HACSO provides the following services: education and literacy, housing advocacy, fire prevention education, employment program, case management, immigration assistance, translation, assistance with applying for public benefits, and health education (especially on disease prevention). Specifically, HACSO provides education and outreach for HIV/AIDS, diabetes, hypertension, prenatal care, and cancer. HACSO has funding from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to conduct breast cancer education and outreach. It also educates the community about lung cancer and the dangers of second-hand smoke. In fact, it has developed education materials in Haitian-Creole for breast and lung cancers.

Hudson, Union, Morris, & Passaic County Cancer Coalitions—Bill Bullock & Bob Schermer

Bill and Bob discussed opportunities for multi-county collaborations. They are exploring opportunities with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to address oral and prostate cancers. Specifically, they are looking for funding for public service announcements. Bill announced that Comcast may broadcast some public service announcements for free. Another opportunity for multi-county collaboration is for oral cancer screening; so far, 6 northern counties are interested. Bill and Bob are drafting a concept paper for this endeavor, with assistance from UMDNJ.

Community Partnership Coalition, Michele Grippaldi

Essex Prevention Resources was awarded the Community Partnership Grant. The Communities Against Tobacco Coalition is now the Community Partnership Coalition. New partners include Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies and the American Lung Association. The Community Partnership Coalition plans to collaborate with the faith-based community this year.

Montclair State University (MSU), Department of Anthropology, Susan Irby

Susan is a doctorate student at MSU and is conducting a study on noncompliance with cervical cancer screening guidelines among Black women for her doctoral project. The study involves one-on-one interviews with African American women 18 years and older. She is currently awaiting IRB approval, but hopes to start recruitment soon and hopes the Coalition can assist her in recruiting subjects.

St. Michael's "In the Pink" Program—Lois Greene

Lois announced that NJCEED is promoting Lung Cancer Awareness. St. Michael's has produced a public service announcement that will start airing in early November, which is Lung Cancer Awareness Month in New Jersey. St. Michael's is also hosting a program on clinical trials on October 7th. Individuals interested in attending need to RSVP.

UMDNJ-IRB, Isaac Hopkins

Isaac continues to conduct presentations in the community about research and clinical trials. He has been promoting the free prostate cancer screenings that University Hospital is offering.

Newark Community Health Center, Edith Eze

The Newark Community Health Center is looking to increase awareness of prostate cancer.

Susan G. Komen Foundation, North Jersey Affiliate, Diane Siegel

The Susan G. Komen Foundation is hosting its annual Pink Tie Ball on November 4th. It is also hosting "Style for the Cure" at the Short Hills Mall. Diane announced that this year, Newark is participating in the Tie Ribbon campaign, during which pink ribbons are tied throughout the city in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Bloomfield Department of Health, Michael Hodges

The Township of Bloomfield conducted a needs assessment in 2005 and prostate and colorectal cancers were deemed priorities. Therefore, the Bloomfield Health Department is distributing FOBT kits to residents for \$5. The Health Department provides the results. Contact Michael for more information.

UMDNJ, Stan Weiss

Coalition member and Essex County Health Officer, Michael Festa has been selected to receive an award from the New Jersey Public Health Association. The awards ceremony will be held on October 19th from 4-7pm in New Brunswick. Commissioner Fred Jacobs as well as a representative from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be attending.

The Prostate Net, Virgil Simons

Virgil announced that 4,000 barbers are now receiving information about prostate cancer from The Prostate Net. Virgil will be attending the Barbers International Convention on 10/14-10/16 in Las Vegas, at which The Prostate Net will train barbers as "lay health motivators" during an education session, led by urologists.

The Prostate Net is partnering with Gilda's Club (in Hackensack) to expand prostate cancer awareness. A Knowledge Net kiosk has been placed there to allow clients to learn about prostate cancer.

The Prostate Net is working with Susan G. Komen International to initiate prostate cancer education in beauty salons early next year.

In Chicago, The Prostate Net is launching the Crowns Project (focused on HIV testing) which engages the African American faith-based community. The project will start with 3 churches and then expand to other geographic areas.

The Prostate Net has developed pod casts focusing on health issues, to be used as health education tools by public health workers for the lay community. The pod casts are available for downloading from The Knowledge Net website.

Susan Levin, Lung Cancer Circle of Hope

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month in NJ and other states; Governor Corzine will be issuing a proclamation stating this. Susan is also reaching out to Newark Mayor Cory Booker to issue a proclamation. The Lung Cancer Circle of Hope will be hosting a lunch & learn titled "Dispelling Myths, Dispensing Facts" on November 3rd from 11:30am to 2pm at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark. The event is free and open to the public. Arrangements are being made for a presentation in Hoboken for Spring 2007.

Next Coalition Meeting: December 14, 2006 @ 4-6pm, Location: The Priory Restaurant