



# ***THE COALITION VOICE***

**A newsletter of the  
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition  
July 2004**

In this issue:  
Conferences and Trainings  
Cancer Data Collection Data Training Update  
Survivorship materials from National Cancer Institute  
New Stat to consider: 82 Million Lacking Health Insurance

*Summer is half over!!! Think ahead to fall activities, conferences, program outcomes and interesting new information you want to share with the Coalition. The newsletter is published in the second week of the month. So let me hear from you.*

*Susan*

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## **CONFERENCES**

### **September 9-11, Houston, Omni Houston Hotel Westside 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Fully With Cancer Patient and Caregiver Conference: “Keep On Dancing”**

This lively conference for cancer patients and caregivers is a presentation of the Anderson Network at University of Texas Cancer Center. Cost \$60 per person, thanks to the generosity of MD Anderson, corporations and individuals. Conference is open to all cancer patients, regardless of where treatment was received, as well as their family and friends.

Keynote speakers include Kevin Sharp, survivor Ewing’s sarcoma and country singer; and Billy Davis Jr, and Marilyn McCoo, prostate cancer survivor and caregiver, singers with the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension. Features 26 breakout sessions on issues important to cancer patients and caregivers. round-table discussion, medical panel survivor panel, banquet, comedienne, mixer, wellness workshops.

For more information or to register go to [www.mdanderson.org/patientconference](http://www.mdanderson.org/patientconference) or call [800/345-6324](tel:8003456324).

### **August 24-26, 2004, Edom, TX Circle of Ten Retreat Center Part1: The Process of Collaboration. a 3-Day Workshop**

A Circle of Ten, Inc.-Network for Collaboration will present a workshop on linking leadership, community organizing, program development and grant writing. The cost of the workshop is \$800; limited scholarships are available. For more information go to <http://www.circleof10.org>.

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**LOOKING AHEAD  
Cancer-Related Health Observances Calendar**

**SEPTEMBER will be.....**

- Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month
- National 5 A Day Month
- Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Source: <http://www.healthfinder.gov>

By the way, let us know what you are thinking or doing around these issues for inclusion in the August or September newsletter. Susan  
[snenney@tcc.state.tx.us](mailto:snenney@tcc.state.tx.us)

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**Cancer Data Training Boosts Skills Critical to Texas Health Outcomes**

Twenty-four facilities in Regions 8 and 11 sent participants to a two-day Texas Cancer Registry training in May. Although 100 facilities were invited, participation fell short of a goal of 30 in part because of facility reluctance to release interested staff members for the two-day training.

Topics covered were ICD-O Errata, complex morphologies, grade of tumor, indicators, scores, collaborative staging, abstracting, staging and coding bizarre, rare and unusual cases, understanding multiple primary cancers and case consolidation, death clearance overview and differences between hospital-based registries and central registries.

Pre- and post-testing were conducted. Feedback has been excellent. Some attendees noted that this was the first time they actually understood and learned what was being taught, in spite of past training participation. Many expressed an interest in the Cancer Registry offering other similar trainings, including a week-long training.

We look forward to hearing more from Nancy Weiss at the Texas Cancer Registry about the full outcomes of this training series which was also conducted June 28-29 in Houston.

The Texas Cancer Registry is working to improve Texas cancer data collection region by region. Accurate cancer data is vital to assessing the cancer impact in Texas and in planning for cancer control and prevention measures. Texas misses out on millions of dollars in research funding because the state's data collection success falls below standards set by major national research funding entities.

For more information about training, contact Nancy Weiss, Texas Cancer Registry, 512/458-7523, [nancy.weiss@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:nancy.weiss@tdh.state.tx.us)

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## **82 MILLION LACK HEALTH INSURANCE**

Nearly 82 million people – one third of the U.S. population younger than 65 - lacked health insurance at some point in the past two years. Most of those were uninsured for more than nine months, says a study released June 16 by the private group Families USA. The implications of this data for patients facing a cancer diagnosis and their caregivers are frightening and frustrating.

The numbers were especially high for minorities, “disproportionately represented in low-wage jobs and jobs in sectors that are less likely to have health insurance benefits,” according to the report. Nearly 60% of Hispanics and 43% of Blacks were uninsured. Among whites, the rate of those uninsured was 23.5%.

Texas is part of the problem. The same study found that 8.5 million Texas residents, or 43.3 % of the non-elderly population here, did not have health insurance – the highest in the country.

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### **“FACING FORWARD” SERIES: SURVIVORSHIP SUPPORT MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Survivorship has been added as a goal area to the updated *Texas Cancer Plan* in response to increasing cancer survivorship and the needs of individuals and families facing many decisions and life options. Two booklets from the National Cancer Institute address personal survivorship issues.

Facing Forward: Life After Cancer Treatment [www.cancer.gov/CancerInformation/life-after-cancer](http://www.cancer.gov/CancerInformation/life-after-cancer) . The Spanish-language edition is at [www.cancer.gov/espanol/vida-despues-del-tratamiento](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol/vida-despues-del-tratamiento) .

Facing Forward: Ways You Can Make A Difference  
[www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/make-a-difference](http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/make-a-difference)

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Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your comments about the newsletter to Susan Nenny, [snenney@tcc.state.tx.us](mailto:snenney@tcc.state.tx.us) or call 512/463-3190 ext. 103.