

THE COALITION VOICE

A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
AUGUST 2004



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CONFERENCES

August 28 – Annual Oncology Symposium, Lubbock. Sponsored by Nurse Oncology Education Program Conference. For more information or to register go to www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770

September 9-11, Houston, Omni Houston Hotel Westside

16th 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 5th 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 or call 800.345.6324.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Increase your chances of securing money for your programs!!

Wednesday/Thursday, August 25-26 – Texas Medical Association, Austin

Grant writing/application training at a rate you can afford!!!

The Physician Oncology Education Program (POEP) hosts the State Grants Team August 25-26, 2004. Just \$75 for a 2-day training session. Seating is limited to 20, so please call Karen Baskin at 512.370.1672 to reserve your space.

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NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

New Executive Director Sandra Balderrama Joins TCC Staff

Sandra Balderrama brings a healthy knowledge of Texas systems and Texas culture to the job of Executive Director at the Texas Cancer Council. During her twenty-five years at the Texas Department of Human Services, her social work degree and master’s degree in public administration carried her through a wide range of service areas from Food Stamp Eligibility and Management Information Services to Job Placement and Special Nutrition programs. Her eclectic experience has helped her prepare for a position requiring a wide range of skills. She also has an equally important interest in cancer control.

“I have a very personal interest in cancer,” she says. “My desire is that not one person in Texas dies from cancer out of ignorance. Education should be first and foremost in all we do.” Her mother died in her early fifties of

cancer related to second-hand smoke. "We didn't know about it then. I lost a friend to breast cancer out of her ignorance. With every part of my being I understand the importance of prevention and education."

She joined the staff July 22 and will be confirmed by the Texas Cancer Council Board at their August meeting.

Recently retired from TDHR, Sandra clearly likes to be busy. She is a grandmother and enjoys assisting her husband with his record label, recording studio and publishing company dedicated to the preservation, promotion and support of old time *puro conjunto* music and the often unrecognized musicians of that genre.

Sandra says her door is open, and she looks forward to meeting Coalition members at the August 24 gathering. Sandra may be reached at 512.463.3190 ext. 105. Her e-mail address is sbalderrama@tcc.state.tx.us.

ACS Cancer Survivors Network Users Growing

The Cancer Survivors' Network (CSN) is accessible via the American Cancer Society web site www.cancer.org. It has logged over 18,300 registered Texas users in this ACS nationwide service. The site is available in Spanish and Chinese. Take a look and please share this resource with other health professionals, cancer survivors and their caregivers and loved ones. Thanks!

<http://www.myimpactengine.com/go.asp?a=1&t=245282>

Coalition Continues Contributions to Texas Cancer Plan Update

Many Coalition members continue to participate in the update of the *Texas Cancer Plan*. The *Plan Update Steering Committee* will meet again in late August to finalize action steps for the goals and objectives. Coalition members should check the *Texas Cancer Plan* web site www.texasblueprint.org to stay in touch with developing text and to keep the input flowing!

LOOKING AHEAD

Cancer-Related Health Observances Calendar

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

SEPTEMBER will be.....

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

Looking Ahead Focus: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Over the past 20 years, the survival rate for prostate cancer diagnosed in its earliest stages has increased from 67 % to 97 %, but it remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men in Texas. African-American men have the highest prostate cancer death rate of any racial or ethnic group.

Even though the benefits of screening for prostate cancer are still being studied, the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, in conjunction with a digital rectal exam, is most commonly used to help detect prostate cancer in men age 50 and older. Contact the Cancer Information Service (1-800-4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov) for answers to your questions about prostate cancer screening and informational materials. If your organization is interested in working with the Cancer Information Service to educate people about prostate cancer, contact Linda Civallero, Partnership Program Manager, at 713.792.3363 or lcivallero@mdanderson.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your comments about the newsletter or questions about the Coalition to Susan Nenny, snenney@tcc.state.tx.us or call 512.463.3190 ext. 103.