

THE COALITION VOICE

*A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition*

April 2006

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NEWS MAKERS



Cancer Care Services Honored

Cancer Care Services in Fort Worth was recently named the Tarrant County United Way Agency of the Year for the fourth time in the last five years. The agency has added an additional social worker to its staff for the fourth consecutive year, bringing the social work staff to ten. In addition, a full-time chaplain was also added. Both the amount of services provided to cancer patients and the number of patients assisted have doubled since 1999.

Cancer Care Services provides post-diagnosis financial, social, spiritual, and emotional support to cancer patients and their families. Financial assistance is available to help patients with cancer

prescriptions, food supplements, medical equipment, COBRA insurance payments, transportation, and emergency situations. Emotional and social support is available at no cost as well as individual counseling, support groups, art therapy, massage, educational seminars, children's play therapy, and seasonal social activities.

Cancer Care Services has been providing help and hope to area cancer patients for 60 years. Over 3,500 people received assistance in 2005. The agency has less than 14% overhead and fundraising expenses, and receives no federal funding.



NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

2006 Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition Meeting Dates

May 11, Austin
August 24, Austin
November 9, Austin

Dr. Foxhall Receives Award

Health Access Texas has honored Lewis E. Foxhall, M.D., with its Public Health Award for his contributions to improved health care access for underserved populations. Dr. Foxhall is one of three honorees receiving recognition at a Health Access Texas luncheon. Others include Kenneth Mattox, M.D., chief of staff at Baylor College of Medicine, receiving the Medical Statesman Award, and Mary Jo May, founding director of El Centro De Corazon, receiving the Primary Care Award.

The mission of Health Access Texas is to promote better access to health and medical care through research, public education, conferences, and professional consultations -- particularly for small businesses and others unable to afford health insurance.



LAF Conducts LIVESTRONG Survey for Post-Treatment Cancer Survivors

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) is conducting an anonymous survey of cancer survivors over the age of 18 who have finished treatment. The survey will provide the LAF with valuable information about the physical, emotional, and practical challenges of cancer, enabling the LAF to provide better tools and information to help people with cancer live life on their own terms. The survey can be taken on line or downloaded by going to www.livestrong.org/survivorsurvey. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Texas Cancer Toolkit Receives Warm Welcome

As of March 20, 2006, Texas Cancer Control Toolkit workshops have been conducted in six different communities. Thus far, these seminars have provided a forum for the introduction of the Toolkit to 63 individuals involved in cancer control efforts in Abilene, McAllen, Fort Worth, Midland, San Antonio, and Houston. (Only Laredo and Nacogdoches remain to be done.) In addition, workshop participants were provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on perceptions of the Toolkit and ways in which they plan to use it in the future. Ninety-eight percent of participants reported that the workshop equipped them with information and skills they could use immediately. In addition, 96% of workshop participants agree that the Toolkit covers helpful information and gave new ideas, while 87% believe that the Toolkit addresses local issues. Ninety-eight percent of participants agreed that the Toolkit provides guidance to help implementation of the *Texas Cancer Plan*. Furthermore, 64% of workshop participants agreed that the Toolkit training has changed the way they think about cancer control, while 91% believe that the Toolkit will help them to successfully move forward with cancer control.



Individuals attending the trainings indicated that they intend to utilize the Toolkit to improve the planning, marketing, and evaluation of the Breast Health Summit, Breast Cancer Coalition, *Mobile Mammography Program*, cancer survivorship grant projects, and tobacco-free community initiatives, as well as local health fairs. One participant mentioned his/her plan to present the Toolkit to School Health Advisory Councils in order to aid efforts to procure funding for Consolidated School Health Programs. Several participants noted strategies to use the Toolkit to improve local community resource bulletins, communication/educational outreach plans, evaluation activities (including using cancer data), and using logic models in strategic planning. Participants also commented that the Toolkit would allow them to better address diversity in cancer control through improved targeting of at-risk and minority populations.

For more information about the Toolkit, visit www.texascancertoolkit.org.

News from ACS

March was National Colon Cancer Awareness Month. By mid-March 2006, the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Cancer Information Center responded to and fulfilled 29,802 requests for colon cancer information kits. People want information about colon cancer! According to the *American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2005*, approximately 9,270 new cases of cancers of the colorectal cancer are diagnosed in Texas each year; another 3,590 deaths are caused by the disease. Colorectal cancer accounts for approximately 11 percent of all cancer mortality in Texas, males and females combined. Survival from colorectal cancer is more than 90 percent when the cancer is diagnosed before it has spread, and screening is the key. Please encourage your family members, friends and co-workers to visit their doctor to discuss screening options.

Cancer Prevention Study 3

The American Cancer Society's Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance Research is continuing its long history of partnership with ACS volunteers to enroll individuals into a new long-term prospective follow-up study to learn how behaviors, lifestyle, and genetics combine to affect the likelihood of developing or dying from cancer. The new study, Cancer Prevention Study 3 (CPS-3), will involve participants from ACS's signature volunteer event, Relay for Life. ACS will enroll 500,000 cancer-free adults in CPS-3 over the next 5 years at Relay sites across the country. Enrollees will be between the ages of 30 and 65 years old with racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity. Spring 2006 will mark the first phase of CPS-3 enrollment; implementation pilots will be conducted at six Relay for Life events: Victoria, Texas; Fayette County, Georgia; Cobb County, Georgia; Bastrop, Texas; San Fernando Valley, California; and Alameda, California. Piloting will allow for the assessment of the enrollment protocol (including survey tools). Full-scale enrollment at various Relay for Life events will not begin until 2007, with enrollment continuing until the goal of 500,000 participants is reached (estimated to be in 2010). For more information on CPS-3, including background and process, visit www.cancer.org/cps3.

NOEP News

NOEP Developing Statewide Nursing Needs Assessment

The *Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP)* warmly welcomes Carolyn Morales, a University of Texas nursing administration graduate student



(pictured at left). Carolyn also works as a medical-surgical nurse with Seton Hospital in Austin. As a project for her "Practicum in Administrative Decision Making" course, Carolyn will gather contact information on all identified community cancer coalitions throughout the state. She will work with the nurse leaders on these coalitions and with the *NOEP* area work groups to develop a nursing needs assessment, which will help to identify region-specific oncology morbidity and mortality knowledge, oncology education needs, and barriers

to evidence-based practice. Carolyn's work will be integral to the coordination of future *NOEP* programs and ensure that maximum impact is made in educating nurses statewide about cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship.

Houston-Area Nursing Conferences

The *NOEP* presented "The Ins and Outs of Cancer Care" to 113 nurses from all fields of practice at the Alvin Community College in March. Marilynn Abbey, RN, MMS, LP, CPhT, EMSI, CCHP, director of Pharmacy Technology for Alvin Community College, facilitated the program and exhibitors were from Texas Woman's University School of Nursing and the Coastal Area Health Education Center. The program was repeated for 65 nurses at Montgomery College in The



Woodlands also in March. Carol Girocco, MSN, RN, OCN, nursing faculty at Montgomery College, coordinated the program with *NOEP* and exhibitors were from the American Cancer Society and the Greater Houston Area Health Education Center. Program topics included "Managing GI Side Effects," "Radiation Therapy," "Cancer Genetics," and "Respecting Cultural Diversity." (Pictured above are some of the Alvin attendees.)

OriGENal voice: Love Your Body -- Don't Smoke

In March, the *oriGENal voice* crew visited Webb and Pearce Middle Schools in Austin to spread the word about the dangers of tobacco as part of the peer-to-peer "Civic Leadership and Tobacco-Free Living Workshop." The *oriGENal voice* high school girls led middle school girls through age-appropriate activities, which gave the girls an opportunity to have fun while learning the details about how tobacco smoke damages our bodies. One



activity, "Love Your Body. Don't Smoke," had the girls reflect on the many things they appreciate about their bodies before exploring the ways that tobacco smoke can negatively impact those specific attributes. (At left: *oriGENal voice* girl, Estelle Garza, leads two Pearce Middle schoolers through an activity about how tobacco damages the body.)

In another activity, the girls created *oriGENal voice* friendship bracelets. Each of the colored beads used to string the bracelets represented the various smoking-related diseases that kill thousands of women every year. For example, a purple bead signified the women that die from lung diseases, such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and emphysema. The girls were asked to wear their bracelets to remind themselves of the dangers of smoking and to educate their friends about the dangers of tobacco use.

These visits also gave the *oriGENal voice* participants an opportunity to expand their pledge card contest. In January, the *oriGENal voice* girls started a contest to see who could acquire the most signed pledges from their friends and peers to not smoke. The middle schools girls from Webb and Pearce added significantly to their numbers of pledged non-smokers!

MD Anderson Events

M. D. Anderson Marks Ninth Anniversary of Sprint for Life In Support of Ovarian Cancer Research

Those dedicated to fighting ovarian cancer will take a running start on Saturday, May 6, at the ninth annual Sprint for Life 5K Run & Walk at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. The 5K run/walk starts at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6 in the Texas Medical Center followed by the Sprint for Sprouts kids' run at 8:30 a.m. Early registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 12 and under. Race day prices are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. For more information, log onto www.mdanderson.org/sprintforlife or call (713) 792-2765.

Free Skin Cancer Screenings

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is offering free skin cancer screening exams for the public on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Cancer Prevention Center at 1155 Pressler Street between Bertner and Fannin on the south side of Holcombe Blvd. Parking is free in the Pressler Street Garage directly across the street from the Cancer Prevention Building. Screening is offered on a first-come, first-served basis; appointments are not available. The screening will include a full-body exam, but participants are not required to undergo the complete exam if it is not

desired. People who may need treatment will be referred to a list of area dermatologists. A copy of the screening diagnosis will be given to each participant. For more information about skin cancer, visit M. D. Anderson's website at www.mdanderson.org/diseases/skincancer.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NOEP Continuing Education 2006 Conference Schedule

For Nurses in All Fields of Practice

April 22: Leading the Fight Against Colorectal Cancer: The Nurse's Important Role, Lubbock.

May 11: Leading the Fight Against Colorectal Cancer: The Nurse's Important Role, Tyler.

May 19: Pain Management in Special Populations & Palliative Care, Temple.

May 22-26: Faculty Training Program at MD Anderson, Houston.

June 9: Pain Management, Nutrition and Oral Care in the Cancer Patient, El Paso.

June 15: School Nurse Institute, Waco.

For more information or to register, go to www.noeptexas.org or call (800) 515-6770. NEW! NOEP now accepts credit card registrations at www.acteva.com/go/noeptexas.

Other Conferences

April 19-23, 2006

10th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved, and Cancer. Presented by the Intercultural Cancer Council. Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. www.iccnetwork.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter feedback to Stephanie Uecker, suecker@tcc.state.tx.us or call (512) 438-3096. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Stephanie.