

THE COALITION VOICE

**A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
August 2006**

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*Panhandle Students Learn Tobacco Truths
Komen Fights for Breast Cancer Research Funding
Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory Now Available*



NEWS MAKERS

Texas Cancer Control Toolkit Travels to the UICC

The International Union Against Cancer Conference was held July 8-12 in Washington DC. The conference offered a unique opportunity to connect one of the most diverse international groups ever assembled. By combining its quadrennial International Cancer Congress with its triennial Conference for Global Cancer Control Organizations -- in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2006 Cancer Partners Summit -- UICC brought together cancer scientists and researchers, governmental agencies, the medical community, and public health organizations in an unparalleled opportunity to enhance the global fight against cancer.



Carla Strom presents the Texas Cancer Control Toolkit at the UICC in Washington, DC.



L-R: Glenna Stewart, Carla Strom, and Juanita Salinas at the Toolkit presentation in Washington, DC.

Juanita Salinas, Program Coordinator of DSHS Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Carla Strom of U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Glenna Stewart, Program Specialist with DSHS Comprehensive Cancer Control Program had the opportunity to present on the Texas Cancer Control Toolkit. The workshop emphasized that the Texas Cancer Control Toolkit helps communities organize themselves to heighten awareness of cancer issues, save lives, and ultimately decrease the burden of cancer.

**NEWS from
coalition
Partners**

Looking Ahead

**September is
Leukemia & Lymphoma
Awareness Month**
www.ils.org

**September is
Childhood Cancer
Awareness Month**
www.candlelighters.org

Tobacco Truths in the Panhandle

Thirty-eight youth from six Panhandle area counties met at the West Texas A&M University campus in Amarillo on July 6. They participated in the Students Winning Against Tobacco (SWAT) workshop conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension with funding from the Texas Cancer Council. One part of the project's comprehensive approach to reducing youth tobacco use is providing awareness raising activities by peer education teams. Middle and high school youth from Armstrong, Dallam, Hartley, Moore, Deaf Smith, and Swisher counties participated in the one-day training.

Students active in the project since 2005 helped train the new youth peer education teams started this spring. In addition, resource people from Harrington Cancer Center, Amarillo College, Texas

Department of State Health Services and Texas Cooperative Extension spent the day teaching the participants facts about tobacco and its use, the Texas tobacco laws as they relate to youth, and the health consequences of tobacco. Workshop participants learned skills needed to communicate this information to their peers using strategies such as skits, school assembly presentations, and articles for school and community newspapers.

Each team developed a plan for communicating messages about tobacco to their peers in an effort to reduce tobacco use. The teams will implement their plans during the next school year with support from their county extension agent.



Sharri Miller (in pink) of the Harrington Cancer Center discusses the truth about tobacco with students at the SWAT workshop in Amarillo.

Fight Continues for Breast Cancer Funds

In late July, the outlook was grim for federally funded cutting-edge breast cancer research. A bill in the Senate proposed funding cuts of almost \$13 million to the innovative *Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (DoD BCRP)*.

However, Iowa Senator, Tom Harkin, made a move to prevent two consecutive years of funding cuts for this critical program. Senator Harkin proposed an amendment to restore funding for the program to \$150 million, and his efforts sent a message to Congress that saving lives from breast cancer must be a national priority.

Komen Champions for the Cure™ worked the phones, calling members of the Appropriations Committee in support of the increased funding. And their efforts paid off. The

amendment was added to the bill without debate, and

will go to the full Senate for a vote as early as July 31. This is certainly an encouraging step forward in the war on breast cancer.

**2006 Texas Comprehensive
Cancer Control Coalition
Meeting Dates**

**August 24-Austin
November 9-Austin**
www.texascancercoalition.org



We're up against the House version of the bill, which includes funding cuts of \$12.5 million from last year (and \$35 million from 2005 funding). When the Conference Committee meets to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill, Komen will be calling on eChampions who have Congressional representatives on the committee to help us secure funding the critical \$150 million.

We have made significant progress toward our goal of eradicating breast cancer, but we have a long way to go. The *DoD Breast Cancer Research Program* is addressing needs that are not met by any other federal programs. We hope you will help us save this program by advocating for the funding it needs to sustain this cutting-edge research.

NCI Announces New Smoke-free Meeting Policy to Address Major Public Health Hazard

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, today announced a new policy requiring that all meetings and conferences organized or primarily sponsored by NCI be held in a state, county, city, or town that has adopted a comprehensive smoke-free policy, unless specific circumstances justify an exemption. NCI's policy is based on extensive scientific data, summarized recently in the U.S. Surgeon General's report, "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke", indicating that secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.

Surgeon General Richard Carmona, M.D., declared that exposure to secondhand smoke remains "a serious public health hazard," and that there is no safe level of exposure. Research shows that many thousands of adult nonsmokers have died from lung cancer caused by exposure to secondhand smoke. In addition, each year, exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 30,000 to 60,000 cardiovascular deaths in nonsmoking adults as well as serious illness in infants and young children.

With its new meeting policy, NCI seeks to raise the public's awareness of the importance of protecting adults and children from secondhand smoke exposure. Effective January 1, 2007, the policy will impact the many NCI-sponsored or organized meetings of 20 or more attendees that occur each year.

Looking Ahead

**September is
Ovarian Cancer
Awareness Month**
www.ovarian.org

NCI has developed a Web site to support meeting planning in smoke-free jurisdictions at <http://dccps.cancer.gov/tcrb/smokefreemeetingpolicy.html>.

The site will feature an interactive tool (available in fall 2006) to

help NCI employees locate smoke-free venues based on the latest smoking

policy information for states, counties, and cities; monitor the implementation of the policy; respond to staff inquiries; and document exceptions to the policy.



"NCI seeks to recognize the contribution of states, counties, cities and towns that have chosen to protect the public, including employees, from secondhand smoke exposure," said Robert Croyle, Ph.D., director of NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. "We hope this policy will encourage other states and cities to do likewise."

The new smoke-free policy does not apply to meetings or conferences for which NCI is not the sole or primary organizer or sponsor and where location arrangements have already been made. There will be certain circumstances under which a meeting is exempt from this policy. These circumstances include the need to hold a meeting in coordination with one that is not sponsored by NCI yet takes place in a location that is not yet smoke free, and the need to conduct site visits to institutions located in places that are not yet smoke free, among other reasons.

**September is
Prostate Cancer
Awareness Month**
www.pcacoalition.org

News from Hendrick Cancer Center and the Healthier Kids Initiative

In June, Abilene area teachers attended an in-service workshop including the three curriculum areas covered in the *Healthier Kids* initiative: skin cancer prevention, tobacco education, and "healthier choices" (nutrition/exercise).

Another unexpected opportunity for the program was the chance to educate 80 visiting students (grades 7 - 12) from Shreveport, LA, who were attending a three-day trip to Hardin Simmons University (HSU). While visiting Abilene, the students were guests of HSU and participated in several different educational sessions including *Healthier Kids*.

Healthier Kids has also started airing its educational PSAs featuring a local, professional clown, Sassy, and a ventriloquist and her partner, Owen. The PSAs focus on sun safety, healthy choice tips/reminders about nutrition and exercise, and the danger of tobacco use.

Resources

Houston Foundation Grant Opportunity

The Houston Foundation is a public trust that serves the humanitarian and charitable needs of the people of Houston. It primarily, but not exclusively, supports fledgling or small organizations with grants of \$5000 to \$10,000. Past grants have helped low-income youth, the homeless, low-income seniors, victims of domestic abuse and the medically underserved. Potential applicants may contact the foundation consultant, Carol Safran, at csafran@hotmail.com.

Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory Available

Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory, which can be found on the Coalition website at <http://www.texascancercoalition.org/inventory.html>, provides a look at the programs Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition members and the organizations they represent are providing for Texans. The Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory began as a way to obtain an overview of the activities of Coalition members and their organizations. The inventory has expanded to provide a picture of cancer prevention and control activities across Texas. Currently, the inventory contains information regarding 32 Coalition member programs and 24 programs provided by non-members. The inventory will enable those working in cancer prevention and control to share program ideas and strategies and to network with each other across the large geographic area that is Texas. It will also help determine the scope and depth of the collective efforts to implement the *Texas Cancer Plan* and to reduce the burden of cancer on all Texans. The information listed is based on each program's responses to questions on the annual Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory update survey.

Included in the inventory are program contact information, cancer program description, program activities, population served, Texas counties served, program evaluation information, and which Goal(s) of the *Texas Cancer Plan* are addressed by the program. The Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory is administered by the Texas Cancer Data Center (TCDC) at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center with funding from the Texas Cancer Council. The Inventory is also available on the TCDC website at <http://www.txcancer.org>.

Professional Development



NOEP 2006 Training Dates: CNE for Nurses in all Fields of Practice

August 15-17	Texas Rural Health Association Conference, Austin
August 26	Healthcare Alternatives for Culturally Competent Providers, McAllen
August 30	Interventions for Tobacco Users, Austin
September 15	Survivorship, Pain and Palliative Care, Paris
September 15-16	Oncology Nurse Review Course, San Antonio
September 15-16	Texas Nurses Assoc. Leadership Conference, Austin
September 22	Breast and Gynecological Cancers, Laredo
October 6	Hospice & Palliative Nurses Certification Review Course, Houston
October 7	Pain in Special Populations and Palliative Care, Austin
October 26-29	Texas Nurse Practitioner's Conference, San Antonio
October 27	Pain, Nutrition, and Oral Care, College Station

For information or to register for NOEP training, visit www.noeptexas.org or call (800) 515-6770.

CNNT Presents: Cancer Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity

The Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans (CNNT) will present Cancer Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity to Texas survivors and caregivers in the following locations:

- **August 10** American Cancer Society, Tyler
- **August 10** Longview Wellness Center, Longview
- **August 21** Cancer Care Services, Ft. Worth
- **August 28** American Cancer Society, Lubbock
- **August 29** Health Plex, Victoria
- **August 30** UTMB McAllen

This presentation addresses the role of nutrition for survivors, obesity trends in the United States and the links between some cancers and obesity. For more information or to schedule a workshop in your community, please contact Libby Smith at (409) 747-2239 or easmith@utmb.edu.

Texas Cancer Registry Training

The Texas Cancer Registry is hosting technical trainings for its state cancer reporters. John Young Jr., DrPH, CTR, of Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University will be conducting the training. The objective of the training is to provide hands-on technical assistance to state reporters at all levels for improving the completeness, timeliness, and quality of cancer data reported in Texas. Cancer reporters may register for the technical training online at www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr.

- **August 10-11** Irving
 - **August 14-15** Houston
 - **August 17-18** McAllen
 - **August 29-30** San Antonio
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Cancer Survivorship: Embracing the Future

Third Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference, **October 4-6**, Bethesda North Marriott Hotel, Bethesda, MD. www.blsmmeetings.net/survivorship06.

10th Annual Interdisciplinary Approach to Symptom Control, Palliative, and Hospice Care Conference

October 7-8, 2006 at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.

The following board reviews will be offered:

- Palliative Care Board Review – **October 5-6** (ABHPM Board Review)
- Hospice and Palliative Generalist Nurse Certification Review **October 6**

Contact Veronica Kathukya at (713) 745-4125 or vmkathuky@mdanderson.org to register.

Surgical Management of Breast Disease for the General Surgeon

November 17-18 at the El Paso Marriott. Contact (410) 992-5470 or mboyer@breastsurgeons.org. Presented by the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

For program brochure and registration information visit: www.breastsurgeons.org/PDF/regionalcourses_2006.pdf.

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. News items are collected from a variety of sources including the media and our cancer-control partners throughout the state.