



**North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC)**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 19, 2022 | 12:00 p.m. CT**  
**Held Virtually via Zoom**

**Officers Present**

Julie Garden-Robinson, Chair, [NDSU Extension](#)  
Brian Halvorson, Vice Chair, [GF Public Schools](#)  
Christina Cook, Secretary, [Sanford Health](#)  
Maria Schmidt, Treasurer, [Roger Maris Cancer Ctr.](#)

**Steering Committee Members Present**

Judy Beck, [Quality Health Associates of ND](#)  
Jodie Fetsch, [Custer Health](#)  
Jolene Keplin, [Turtle Mtn. Tribal Health Education](#)  
Susan Mormann, [NDDoH, Director Community and Health Systems](#)  
Cristina Oancea, [ND Statewide Cancer Registry](#)  
Janna Pastir, [NDDoH, Health Promotion](#)  
Jesse Tran, [NDDoH Comprehensive Cancer Control](#)  
Kaylee Vandjelovic, [American Cancer Society](#)  
Yun (Lucy) Zheng, [ND Statewide Cancer Registry](#)

**Steering Committee Members Absent**

Shannon Bacon, [Comm HealthCare Assn. of the Dakotas](#)  
Tinka Duran, [Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board](#)  
Brad Hawk, [Commission on Indian Affairs](#)  
Shane Jordan, [Trinity Health Cancer Center](#)  
Katie Richardson, [Altru Health System](#)  
Mary Sahl, [Fargo VA](#)  
Tara Schilke, [Bismarck Cancer Center](#)  
Lisa Tocchio, [BCBSND](#)

**Others Present**

Geneal Roth, [Coalition Manager](#)  
Justin Otto, [ND Dept. of Environmental Quality](#)  
Stephanie Welsh, [Cavalier Co. Health District](#)

Julie Garden-Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting of the North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC) Steering Committee to order on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. CT. Julie welcomed new Committee Member and Coalition Secretary, Christina Nelson Cook, Sanford Health, who will be taking over the position previously held by Laura Scott.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the November 17, 2021, Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Motion by Janna Pastir to approve the minutes as presented; second by Maria Schmidt. Motion carried.

**Guest Presentations**

Julie introduced Justin Otto, Radon Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality, who shared information on radon in North Dakota. Justin discussed educating the public about the aspects of good indoor air quality focusing mainly on the risks of radon. Radon travels easily through soil and is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas. Average indoor level is 1.3 pCi/L, and one out of 15 homes in the U.S. test elevated. EPA lists a radon level of 4.0 pCi/L as the recommended level to take action. In North Dakota all counties are in Zone 1 meaning we have the highest potential to test elevated for radon. Two out of three homes test above the EPA action level four, and there are no state or federal regulations in North Dakota, therefore, it is necessary to educate the public about the harmful effects of radon gas. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. North Dakota has a large source of radon because there is a lot of uranium in the soil. Anywhere a home touches soil there is a potential for radon that can enter a home through the smallest cracks in a foundation. EPA-approved home tests are inexpensive and easy to use. If tests show elevated levels of radon, there are mitigation strategies to remove radon from homes. More information about radon and mitigation strategies can be found at: <https://deq.nd.gov/WM/radon/>.

Julie introduced Stephanie Welsh, Cavalier County Health District, who was a recipient of a Comprehensive Cancer Control grant to focus on radon awareness. Stephanie stated the goals of the current grant were to assess the baseline levels of awareness of radon risks in their county but also the level of testing in their county which will be remeasured at the end of the campaign. Another goal was to increase testing by providing low or no cost testing options. An educational booth has been displayed outside their office in the courthouse and has been seen by a lot of visitors. The booth includes free radon test kits and print material on general radon education as well as mitigation. They also hosted a booth at the North Dakota Canola Growers Expo in December and participated in a county employee wellness day. They are utilizing a media campaign to raise awareness with the audio portion of an EPA ad for radio. They partnered with the Department of Health and UND on a news article. They are planning to implement a check out system for radon detectors developed by the University of Kentucky College of Nursing to create a more sustainable program.

### **ND Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Updates**

Jesse Tran indicated the current North Dakota Cancer Control Plan runs through June 2022. The Plan for the next five-year cycle will be updated soon, and he will be calling for volunteers from the Coalition to help with revisions. He stated the plan is a product of the Coalition and needs to be reflective of the coalition and our members' needs. Department of Health staff have been working on their five-year competitive grant application, which has three components—Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program (Women's Way); Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the Cancer registry. The grant application is due January 26, 2022, with the hopes for an award by March, however, it most likely will take longer. The new work will begin in July 2022. One of the positions required by the grant is that of the Coalition Coordinator, who will be the liaison between Comp Cancer and the Coalition. This position will provide technical assistance to Coalition work groups, especially around selecting and implementing EBIs and policy systems and changes as well as working with subcontract grantees.

### **Communications Updates**

Geneal Roth stated that Colorectal Cancer Awareness month is in March, and the Coalition will be invited to participate in the annual Turn ND Blue photo contest. Dress Blue Friday is March 4. A social media toolkit will be provided and ready for access by mid-February. The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has allocated funding to move and redesign the Coalition's website and that funding became available on January 1. All financial systems are in place for the Coalition to receive funding for this project. A kick-off meeting with KAT & Company will be held on Friday, January 21, where we'll learn more about the timeline for the transition.

### **Steering Committee Update**

Julie shared that NDSU Extension is in the process of finishing a breast cancer awareness tool, a new activity kit for the Healthwise Programs, which should be available in March. Julie thanked Susan Mormann and her team for the information and tools provided by Women's Way for the kits. Some activity stations were also developed to help people learn more about lifestyle factors related to all types of cancer.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The Steering Committee will meet from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CT on the following dates: April 20, July 20 and October 19. The Annual Coalition meeting will be held on June 15 at 12:00 p.m. CT. Plans are to hold all meetings virtually at this time. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Cook  
Secretary