



**North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC)**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 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

**Steering Committee Members Present**

Sara Anderson, Essentia Health  
Judy Beck, Quality Health Associates of ND  
Stacy Chadwick, BCBSND  
Jodie Fetsch, Custer Health  
Amy Keller, NDDHHS Women's Way  
Jolene Keplin, Turtle Mtn. Tribal Health Education  
Mikaila McLaughlin, NDDHHS  
Nikki Medalen, Quality Health Associates of ND  
Susan Mormann, NDDHHS  
Cristina Oancea, ND Statewide Cancer Registry  
Jennifer Saueressig, Community Healthcare Assn.  
of the Dakotas  
Tara Schilke, Bismarck Cancer Center  
Jesse Tran, NDDHHS  
Kaylee Vandjelovic, American Cancer Society  
Yun (Lucy) Zheng, ND Statewide Cancer Registry

**Steering Committee Members Absent**

Brad Hawk, Commission on Indian Affairs  
Richard Mousseau, Great Plains Tribal Leaders  
Health Board  
Maria Schmidt, Treasurer, Roger Maris Cancer Ctr.

**Others Present**

Emily Groebner, Professional Data Analysts  
Kate LaVelle, Professional Data Analysts  
Geneal Roth, Coalition Manager  
Clair Freydunlund, NDSU Extension Intern  
Anna Seefeldt, NDSU Extension Intern

Julie Garden-Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting of the North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC) Steering Committee to order on Wednesday, January 18, at 12:00 p.m. CT.

Julie welcomed new Steering Committee member Jennifer Saueressig, Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the October 19, 2022, Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Motion by Nikki Medalen to approve the minutes as presented; second by Jodie Fetsch. Motion carried.

**Evaluation Plan | Professional Data Analysts**

Julie introduced Kate Lavelle, PhD, and Emily Groebner, MPH, of Professional Data Analysts (PDA). Kate provided an overview of their company indicating PDA was established in 1981. PDA has done work in chronic disease, tobacco prevention and comp cancer work. Kate will serve as evaluation principal investigator and will oversee the evaluation contract and help guide the work. Emily will serve as the primary supporting evaluator and will keep efforts on track and regularly communicate with the comp cancer team. With a staff of over 40, PDA's evaluations are team-based with a very collaborative approach to benefit from incorporating many different skills and perspectives. PDA is the evaluator for comp cancer control programs in Ohio and Vermont. Their mission is to create positive social impact by providing tailored data centric solutions

that move public health initiatives forward. Their process focuses on using evaluation results in a collaborative manner with program and Coalition staff to determine how the information collected can be useful as well as how it will be used. They focus on identifying the evaluation audiences and building collaborations with those individuals and partners. PDA's overall goal is to work in partnership with the program, Coalition leadership and partners to develop and carry out an evaluation of the North Dakota comp cancer program across three areas—partnership, plan and program. They will examine aspects such as the composition of the Coalition to identify gaps in representation. They will also assess aspects of engagement in the Coalition which could be how well members engage in the Coalition, where there are opportunities for greater engagement in terms of the cancer plan, and whether the cancer plan addresses the priorities of key cancer partners across North Dakota. PDA will also assess evidence-based interventions; policy, systems and environmental strategies; and other activities that Coalition members and action groups are doing to advance the work of the plan across primary prevention, early detection, and survivorship.

Emily shared they are conducting an environmental scan of cancer efforts across North Dakota to assess current cancer efforts by organization, sector and geography. The scan aims to measure the capacity and resources of partners that are not currently involved in the Coalition as well as identify cancer priorities for state plan development. The scan will include information about Coalition members and nonmembers including their geographical location areas, cancer-related efforts, and priority populations they serve. The scan will help prioritize Coalition member recruitment and outreach. Potential partners will be surveyed to gather more details about their current cancer-related efforts. A membership survey will be conducted to answer evaluation questions about their partnership with the Coalition and to gauge how much they are currently engaged and want to be engaged in the Coalition. Plans are to develop the survey around February, collect data during March and April, and have results for reporting by May/June. Regular evaluation meetings are held with program leadership and Coalition leadership. PDA will provide an Annual Evaluation Report in June that will describe evaluation-related data collected from July 2022-June 2023.

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

Jesse Tran stated the Department is preparing its progress report for year 1 and a new work plan and budget for year 2 that will be submitted to CDC in February. CDC has directed efforts be focused on Coalition work rather than with individual partners as in past funding cycles. Comp Cancer will be working closely with the Coalition and supporting partners through Coalition work. The work plan will highlight the activities of the Action Teams (colorectal cancer, sun safety/skin cancer, survivorship). The notice of award for year 2 should be received sometime in May. Jesse shared he has changed positions and is now Assistant Unit Director of Health, Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention. He will be managing the Alzheimers program and providing community clinical support for diabetes, heart disease, and oral health programs. He will continue to manage the colorectal cancer screening initiative and provide direct supervision for the cancer team. Interviews for the position of Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Director will be conducted in February with hopes of having the position filled by March.

### **NDCC Annual Meeting**

Julie shared the results of a survey that was sent out to Steering Committee members after the last meeting to get feedback and guidance about NDCC's annual meeting. She stated a very similar survey was sent to the North Dakota Colorectal Roundtable Planning Committee regarding their annual meeting. Responses were as follows: Are you in favor of holding the 2023 annual meeting face to face? 15 yes; 2 no. Are you in favor of exploring the possibility of a joint meeting arrangement with the North Dakota Cancer Coalition and the Colorectal Cancer Roundtable? 14 yes; 3 no. Meeting preference: Option 1—One organization meets the afternoon of day one and the other organization meets the morning of day 2; and Option 2—A one-day meeting with one organization meeting in the morning and one meeting in the afternoon. Option 1, 10 votes;

Option 2, 7 votes. Preferred month: April, 8; May, 5; June, 4. Dates: April 3-4, 3; April 10-11, 5; May 16-17, 5; June 6-7, 1; June 13-14, 1; June 20-21, 2. Preferred location: Bismarck, 12; Fargo, 2; Minot, 1; Jamestown, 1; Carrington, 1. Nikki Medalen made a motion to hold the meeting over a two-day period of time in Bismarck in May. Second by Jodie Fetsch. Voting via chat 14 aye; 1 nay. Motion carried.

### **CRC Awareness Month Activities**

General Roth reported the CRC Action Team has been working on activities related to CRC Awareness Month. The NDCC will once again host the Turn ND Blue Photo Contest. They developed a list of organizations they want to invite beyond what has been done in the past hoping to increase the number of participants. The Team is also pursuing a proclamation from the Governor's office to declare March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The final touches are being completed with hopes of submission to the Governor's office before the end of January. There is also potential for working with Tribal officials to make similar proclamations in their individual communities. Materials will be prepared and shared for Dress Blue Friday, which is March 3, as a kickoff for awareness month and will be tied together with the Turn ND Blue Photo Contest.

### **NDCC Action Team Updates**

General Roth, Coalition Manager, provided an Action Team update. She indicated the Teams began meeting in November. The **CRC Action Team** has 10 members and has met 3 times. Besides CRC Awareness Month activities, they have been working on distributing information regarding changes in cost-share for CRC screenings. This information will be shared in the North Dakota Medical Association Winter 2023 publication as well as distributed to the North Dakota Health Information Management Association and the American Association of Professional Coders. It has also been posted on the NDCC website and shared with the Coalition mailing list. The **Survivorship Action Team** has 12 members and has also met 3 times. The Team will be adding one or two survivors as well as a chaplain. Mikaila McLaughlin has been working on compiling a list of infusion centers across the state that will help recruit additional tobacco treatment specialists in those centers. Team members continue to identify cancer survivors for use in awareness month materials and other opportunities as they arise. Several Team members are researching survivorship materials to add to the website. The **Sun Safety/Skin Cancer Action Team** is the newest Team and has 7 members. They met for the first time in January. Activities for this Team will include distribution of sun safety education to a wide range of age groups from school age children to adults to reach them where they are working and playing throughout the state. Plans are in place to initiate the **Breast Cancer Action Team** in March.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held virtually on April 12, 2023, with additional meetings on July 19 and October 18. All meetings will be held virtually from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Cook  
Secretary