



**North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC)  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, July 19, 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  
Mary Sahl, Secretary, Sanford Health  
Melissa Lizakowski, Treasurer, Sanford Health

**Steering Committee Members Present**

Judy Beck, Quality Health Associates of ND  
Annette Clark, NDDHHS  
Jill Ireland, American Cancer Society  
Misty Kanta, Sanford Health Plan  
Amy Keller, NDDHHS Women's Way  
Jolene Keplin, Turtle Mtn. Tribal Health Education  
Jody Malone, BCBSND  
Mikaila McLaughlin, NDDHHS  
Susan Mormann, NDDHHS  
Richard Mousseau, Great Plains Tribal Leaders  
Health Board  
Jennifer Saueressig, Community Healthcare Assn.  
of the Dakotas  
Jesse Tran, NDDHHS

Kaylee Vandjelovic, American Cancer Society  
Yun (Lucy) Zheng, ND Statewide Cancer Registry

**Steering Committee Members Absent**

Sara Anderson, Essentia Health  
Jodie Fetsch, Custer Health  
Brad Hawk, Commission on Indian Affairs  
Nikki Medalen, Quality Health Associates of ND  
Cristina Oancea, ND Statewide Cancer Registry  
Tara Schilke, Bismarck Cancer Center

**Others Present**

Emily Groebner, Professional Data Analysts  
Kate LaVelle, Professional Data Analysts  
Maria Schmidt, Coalition Manager

Julie Garden-Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting of the North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC) Steering Committee to order on Wednesday, July 19, at 12:02 p.m. CT.

Julie welcomed new Steering Committee members Melissa Lizakowski, Treasurer, Sanford Health Oncology Education; Misty Kanta, Utilization Management and Quality Director, Sanford Health Plan; Jody Malone, Quality Management Coordinator RN, BCBSND.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the April 19, 2023, Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Motion by Jesse Tran to approve the minutes as presented; second by Annette Clark. Motion carried.

**American Cancer Society Update**

Jill Ireland presented an update of activities of the American Cancer Society. They have formed a partnership with Extended Stay America in Minot so that cancer patients can receive free nights of lodging when they have to travel for their treatments. They partnered with NDSU Men's Basketball and Sanford Health for a Suits and Sneakers Set the Screen campaign raising awareness of the importance of cancer screenings.

They are working to get enough volunteers to re-start the Road To Recovery program in Fargo. Road To Recovery provides volunteer drivers to take patients to and from their appointments for follow up and treatment so that transportation is not a barrier to treatment and ongoing follow up. They are still in need of 1

or 2 drivers to restart the Road To Recovery Program. To volunteer as a driver for Road To Recovery or other programs offered by the American Cancer Society, go to [www.cancer.org/volunteer](http://www.cancer.org/volunteer).

Another program available for people with cancer is Reach To Recovery which matches people with breast cancer with trained volunteers who are breast cancer survivors. Survivors and volunteers are matched on a variety of different criteria based on importance to the patients and the program is available online and through a mobile app. People interested in volunteering or being matched with a volunteer can go to [www.reach.cancer.org](http://www.reach.cancer.org).

The American Cancer Society also offers education to healthcare professionals on best practices and cancer screening recommendations. The trainings can be accessed at [www.cancersd.com](http://www.cancersd.com).

### **Evaluation Activities**

Kate LaVelle and Emily Groebner provided an overview of the Member Survey Results from the survey that was sent out to members earlier this year. The majority of the people responding work directly with people who have cancer in some way. Most people who responded reported that they are engaged with the NDCC at a level they would like to be.

The survey showed that people feel that the NDCC is giving people across the state the opportunity to connect and that the work the Coalition is doing has a great impact on the burden of cancer in North Dakota. The survey showed that members would like more opportunities for all members to meet, either in person or virtually. Some members understand what are the goals are of the NDCC, but are uncertain what steps are being taken, and what some of the barriers being faced are. There was discussion held about different ways to offer more opportunities for the entire coalition to interact. Suggestions were monthly or quarterly meetings that people could attend with information about activities that are taking place, inviting participating organizations to present updates at Steering Committee meetings to include activities that each organization is doing that support the priorities of the NDCC.

PDA has started the process of developing the next cancer plan for the state of North Dakota. They have a rough timeline in place to develop the next cancer plan over the next several months and would like to schedule meetings, starting with the Steering Committee, and then with the Coalition membership as a whole, to have input into what the plan will be; taking into account the national priority areas of primary prevention; early detection and treatment; survivorship; policy, systems, and environmental approaches; health equity; and evaluation. They plan to start with an email to the Coalition membership to introduce the cancer plan development process and then hold a meeting for all Coalition members to meet to discuss the process. They would like to hold at least 3 virtual workshops to actually start developing the plan content and have surveys to send out to all members so those who are unable to attend the meetings are able to have input into the plan.

### **NDCC Membership Questionnaire**

There was discussion about providing opportunities for the Action Teams to work together on activities that support each priority area. It was decided that a survey will go out to all the membership with information about each Action Team and give people the opportunity to join 1 or more Action Teams based on their interests, or even participating in the Coalition in other ways like helping to create content for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and the NDCC website, whether as a general Coalition member or as a member of an Action Team. Maria will explore whether there is a way to create a member only section on the website so that members can access discussion boards, presentations, minutes, etc. that apply only to Coalition

members. Discussion was held about sharing information about the Coalition and encouraging people to join and participate in the Coalition at member's workplaces or in other organizations that people are members of.

There was discussion about creating a toolkit that members can share with others to make them aware of the coalition, the NDCC mission, benefits of memberships, and how they can become involved.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held virtually on October 18, 2023. The meeting will be held virtually from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Schmidt  
Manager