

## Minutes of NM Cancer Council Policy/Advocacy Workgroup: *Monday, April 9, 2007*

<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>  <b>Minutes taken by: Eileen Goode</b>	<b>X</b>	Blaire Larson, Cancer Services of NM	<b>X</b>	Susie Trujillo, Gila Regional – via telephone
	<b>X</b>	Jerry Harrison, PhD, NM Health Resources	<b>X</b>	Kathy Ganz, MD, First Choice Community Health Care
	<b>X</b>	Nathan Bush, ACS	<b>X</b>	Suzan Martinez de Gonzales, NMPCA
	<b>X</b>	Eileen Goode, NMPCA		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	DECISION/ACTION
<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	<p>Eileen welcomed everyone to the NMPCA office. Those present introduced themselves and the agency they represented</p> <p>There was discussion about the formation of this workgroup – the mission of the group and the particular focus for the NMPCA on this group because of the Cancer Plan Implementation Grant from HRSA. Blaire voiced concern that the group while meeting the need for the grant for the PCA must also look broadly at policy/advocacy issues. The workgroup had been discussed at several NM Cancer Council (NMCC) meetings prior to its formation and the need for this group is widespread. Blaire also voiced concern about the need for additional representation in this group – several people were invited to attend today’s meeting that either were unable to attend or did not respond to the invitation. Susie asked how this workgroup and the communication workgroup of the NMCC would be integrated. There is some overlap in membership and some integration is anticipated though it has not been defined at this time.</p>	<p>Members of the workgroup are encouraged to invite others to join the workgroup</p>
<b>REVIEW ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES IN NM CANCER PLAN 2007-2011</b>	<p>Gena Love had prepared a document that contained a summary of all advocacy activities in the NM Cancer Plan. Copies of the document were provided to all present at the meeting. There was a discussion about the best way to prioritize these activities. Blaire suggested that this group define the process and then have the Executive Committee of the NMCC prioritize the activities. It was suggested that we create one document with the activities so that we could see overlap – a “cross walk” or matrix was discussed. It was suggested that the matrix might include a column to identify the persons/organization responsible for completion of the activity. The group discussed criterion to be used for prioritizing the activities – are the activities achievable; is there a logically accountable group; is someone doing the activity already – will it get done anyway; what is planned for next year – what would benefit from the support and assistance of the cancer council; what successes can we build on; will the activity fill a gap; is the issue a matter of urgency. These are some of the criterion the group would like for the Executive Committee to use. Susie Trujillo stated she had a list of criterion she could share with the group.</p>	<p>Blaire will report to the Executive Committee regarding need to prioritize advocacy activities.</p>

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<b>POSITION PAPER – DEFINE STEPS</b>	<p>There was discussion regarding the position paper called for in the NMPCA HRSA grant. The paper is not to present the position of the NMPCA but of the Cancer Council</p> <p>It was suggested that we write a briefing paper rather than a position paper – the briefing would include: the issue; history; strategy; impact; and funding needs. Nathan mentioned that the paper will need to present a solution – not just a problem. There was discussion about requesting funding for colorectal cancer (screening, diagnosis, treatment) - similar to BCC funding - will want to look at CDC CRC program. Potentially state funding for CRC might position NM to receive federal funding for CRC. It was suggested that we look at the Con Alma report – extensive research was done on disparities – will need to look for the information on their web site. There was a question as to whether pilot CRC states have state funding for CRC program – not sure if we can discover? It was suggested we invite Chuck Wiggins to attend the next meeting of this workgroup It was also suggested that we invite Kevin McMullan from the Health Policy Commission. There was discussion about the NMPCA contracting with someone to write the briefing – several members of the workgroup believed the money would be better spent on a lobbyist. There was discussion about the size of the funding request and other considerations. It was suggested that there is a need to include Michelle Welby in the early discussions – buy-in from the Governor would be necessary. Also need buy-in from key legislators, legislator leadership and multiple law makers. There was discussion as to whether or not this was a reality – can we request funding in '08? Will we want to mirror BCC? It is necessary to have a plan in place in the event funding is secured – would it be best to pilot in one region? These questions need to be addressed – discussion will continue at next meeting.</p>	<p>There was consensus that we will address the need for colorectal cancer early detection, diagnosis and treatment funding.</p> <p>Eileen will check with Chuck Wiggins as to impact of CRC &amp; invite him to May 7 meeting</p> <p>Eileen will invite Kevin McMullan to the next meeting</p> <p>Nathan will check with ACS on national CRC program</p>
<b>POLICY/PROCEDURE FOR NM CANCER COUNCIL SUPPORT OF POLICY/ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES</b>	<p>The group asked if a policy is in place regarding organizations/individuals/activities that the NM Cancer Council will support. If an entity wants to request funds and intends to use the Cancer Council as support for their position – does a policy exist to direct the Cancer Council? At the present time no such policy exists. There was a question about the need for this workgroup to develop such a policy. This will need to be addressed at future meetings.</p>	
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<p>No action was taken – a chairperson will be chosen when there are more members present.</p>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<p>At the previous meeting the workgroup agreed to meet quarterly. Because the briefing needs to be crafted soon if it is to be presented at Legislative Committee meetings it was decided that the group needs to meet again next month. The next meeting will be Monday, May 7, 3:00 – 4:30 pm at the NMPCA office.</p>	