

**Delaware Cancer Consortium 2022 Annual Retreat**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022, 8:30-11:45 AM**  
*Guided by Our Legacy. Prioritizing Healthy Living.*

**Overview**

The Delaware Cancer Consortium (DCC) was originally formed as the Delaware Advisory Council on Cancer Incidence and Mortality in March 2001, to advise the Governor and Legislature on the causes of cancer incidence and mortality and potential methods for reducing both. During the 20 years since its formation, the DCC has worked tirelessly to lower cancer incidence and mortality in Delaware and has received widespread support from stakeholders across all health care disciplines, organizations, systems, and businesses. Partnerships and collaboration have made change possible.

During the DCC retreat on Monday, April 11th, 2022, the presenters and panelists celebrated the 20th anniversary of the DCC. The theme of the retreat, “Guided by Our Legacy. Prioritizing Healthy Living,” emphasizes the state’s accomplishments during the consortium’s 20-year history, as well as the importance of supporting healthy lifestyles to continue to reduce cancer incidence and mortality and address existing inequities across the continuum of care. Presentations focused on the progress the state has made in reducing cancer incidence, ongoing challenges to reducing racial/ethnic disparities in prevention and treatment outcomes, and overcoming barriers that have been brought to the forefront by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Recordings of and slides from all presentations from the retreat can be found [here](#).*

**Summary of Sessions**

| <b>Welcome and Introduction</b>   |  |
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| Katy Connolly, Chair,<br>Delaware Cancer Consortium   | Chair Connolly welcomed participants to the retreat, discussed the work of the DCC, and provided an overview of the sessions during the morning’s activities.  |
| <b>Opening Remarks</b>  |  |
| Molly Magarik, Secretary,<br>Department of Health and<br>Social Services                    | Secretary Magarik provided a brief overview of the DCC’s history and key legislative accomplishments over the years related to screening and prevention.   |
| Cassandra Codes-Johnson,<br>MPA, Associate Deputy<br>Director, Division of Public<br>Health | Associate Deputy Director Codes-Johnson presented data on racial/ethnic disparities in prostate, lung, and breast cancer and strategies to address these disparities by reaching priority populations effectively, establishing partnerships with community organizations, using community data to monitor statewide trends, and addressing predatory marketing of tobacco products. |
| Bethany Hall-Long,<br>Lieutenant Governor, State of<br>Delaware                             | Lieutenant Governor Hall-Long expressed gratitude to DCC participants who have made a difference in Delaware’s cancer prevention efforts through legislation, public health initiatives, and other efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and address inequities.   |

| <b>Keynote Address:<br/>Closing Gaps Along the Cancer Control Continuum to Advance Health Equity Among the Nation’s Vulnerable Low-Income Populations</b> |  |
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| Dwana “Dee” Calhoun,<br>National Network Director of<br>SelfMade Health Network   | <p>Ms. Calhoun’s presentation addressed the presence and causes of cancer disparities among vulnerable populations the intersection of the social determinants of health and COVID-19 with cancer disparities; Emphasizing the importance of reducing cancer disparities across the continuum of care, Ms. Calhoun described potential policy interventions.</p> <p>Cancer disparities are significant differences in cancer measures such as incidence, mortality, morbidity, and screening rates. Certain populations (such as those with low income, that are under- or uninsured, or that have lower levels of educational attainment) bear disproportionate burdens of cancer and experience reduced access to care and delayed or modified treatment. Some promising methods of reducing cancer disparities include the use of community health workers and patient navigators, policy and environmental interventions addressing social determinants of health, and multi-disciplinary care models.</p> |
| <b>Panel Discussion:<br/>COVID-19 Cancer Screening/Prevention and Health Equity</b>   |  |
| Representative Kendra<br>Johnson, Delaware House of<br>Representatives  | Representative Johnson addressed health equity at the legislative level and highlighted the African American Task Force’s work to make recommendations to the Delaware General Assembly. She presented a recommendation to outreach with key constituencies and partners within the state for advancing health equity in cancer-related outcomes among African American.   |
| Scott D. Siegel, PhD,<br>MHCDS, Director of<br>Population Health<br>Research/Christiana Care  | Dr. Siegel discussed racial/ethnic disparities in breast and lung cancer and strategies for advancing equitable access to screening and prevention services. His presentation explored geographic variation and the presence of “hot spots” in the incidence of breast and lung cancer. For breast cancer, he discussed the need for outreach to increase screening, addressing risk factors for breast cancer in primary care, and policy changes in alcohol retailer practices. For lung cancer, he discussed priorities related to outreach, supporting smoking cessation, and policy changes in tobacco retailer practices.  |
| Nicole Pickles, Cancer<br>Support Community<br>Delaware   | Ms. Pickles provided an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of health care and other support services for cancer patients, survivors, and their caregivers in virtual settings. Describing barriers to screening and the mental health burden on cancer patients, caregivers, and family members, she explored the use of a hybrid model in the future delivery of support and care to patients.  |

| <b>Governor Carney's Remarks and Tribute to Former Governor Ruth Ann Minner</b>                |   |
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| Governor John Carney   | <p>Governor Carney expressed his thanks to those who have been involved with the DCC since its inception in 2001, many of whom continue to contribute to the DCC's work. Governor Carney commended the DCC for its unwavering focus and commitment to cancer prevention and its success related to eliminating disparities in colorectal cancer screening and decreases in cancer incidence and mortality rates for all Delawareans and Delawareans of color in particular.</p> <p>In his recognition of the commitment of Governor Ruth Ann Minner, the first female Governor of the State of Delaware, Governor Carney noted that she will be remembered for her efforts to address cancer incidence and mortality, including the formation of the Delaware Advisory Council on Cancer Incidence and Mortality and her Clean Indoor Air Act, a hallmark of cancer prevention efforts in Delaware. Governor Minner's personal and professional commitment to improving the lives of Delawareans will have long-lasting effects on generations to come.</p> |
| <b>Delaware Cancer Consortium Five-Year Action Plan Overview</b>                               |   |
| Helen Arthur, Section Chief Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Division of Public Health | <p>Ms. Arthur presented the fifth five-year action plan for the DCC, which includes cultural inclusivity and health disparity initiatives to address inequities in cancer in the state. Focusing on healthy lifestyles is a key driver in reducing inequities in cancer; investing in healthy eating, physical activity, smoke-free environments, routine health checkups, and management of chronic diseases are priorities of the DCC. Ms. Arthur also discussed the respective goals of the DCC Advisory Council, Early Detection and Prevention Committee, Cancer Risk Reduction Committee, and Cancer Registry Committee.</p>  |
| <b>Closing Remarks</b>   |   |
| Katy Connolly, Chair, Delaware Cancer Consortium   | Chair Connolly closed the meeting.  |