Healthy Hoi Cancer Team Meeting Chaired by Andrea Ingwersen, Woodford County Health Department

November 18, 2021

Minutes taken by Diane Hahn

Meeting minutes for September and October meetings, as well as this meeting will be brought forward for review and approval, at the December 9th meeting.

**Marketing Meeting:**

Hilary Aggertt will chair a partnership marketing committee meeting this month to formalize a marketing plan for all groups to use when sharing information with the public and other entities. Their plan will be presented to the partnership board for approval at the December 2021 meeting. This will be a helpful step to clarify the message of the various groups including cancer. There is a logo and a statement attached to our meeting minutes for today that includes some current general screening information for sharing. Please be sure to use the logo with the healthyhoi.org at the bottom section. Diana Scott will help with editing of the marketing recommendations prior to the review at the December partnership board meeting.

**Breast Cancer report:**

Tom Cox reported that there were many educational and testing opportunities during October Breast Cancer Awareness month sponsored by OSF. There was a “No Excuses” theme event held on OSF Campus, and it was an opportunity to share about all types of cancer screening with the public. The Care-a-van and their staff interacted with over 100 people to educate them and offer testing. Numerous cancer tests such as mammograms, pap smears, skin cancer tests and FOB kits were utilized by attendees. Two low dose CT scans were scheduled, and one attendee was referred for further testing.

Jenny Rose from Unity Point shared their health system focus for Breast Cancer month and their National Mammogram Day program success. They were able to do 43 mammograms throughout the Tri County area on that day. She also shared that they did 45 low dose lung CT scans on November 4, for a November Lung Cancer screening event.

Both facilities felt that the turnout to these community screening events were slightly lower than past years, but the need remains great, and they were glad for the turnout despite continuing Covid concerns.

Tom stated that they still see people at OSF with cancer testing being done later than optimal and we need to continue with efforts to encourage the public to get caught up with screenings and other health checkups.

Julie Maddox from Unity Point reported that GI Lab screenings are going well but are not scheduled at the pre-Covid rate for those screenings. Again, the need to normalize screenings for all cancers can’t be overstated.

Andrea stated that if anyone has a screening event flyer they would like to share on the HOI Facebook page to please send them to her for sharing and posting. All committee members are asked to continue in efforts to promote all cancer screenings through social media and other methods they have available.

**New Members:**

Nicole Robertson of American Cancer Society joined the group this meeting as the new partnership board representative for the cancer team. She is also the new contact for our group for the American Cancer Society and replaces Courtney Heiser in this position. She also asked that Courtney and Emmanual be removed from the HOI cancer committee mailing list as well.

Julie Maddox introduced Jessica Davis as a representative of the Cordoba Clinic and a new member of our group. The clinic has operated for the past five years and was founded by the late Dr. Wasim Ellahi. There were Spanish and English brochures for the Cordoba Clinic attached to the meeting agenda email. People are encouraged to share information about the free medical specialty clinic that operates every Sunday afternoon 1-4pm with any person or group that this may help. The clinic sees an average right now of about 23 patients a week and they noticed less traffic since they reopened after closing for three months due to Covid. The clinic operates with all volunteer staff across many medical specialties. Physicians and nurses work to manage patients’ health concerns and chronic conditions and work with getting referrals for other diagnostic testing, cancer screening and follow-up as needed. UI Comp medical students and Methodist nursing students from the master’s program volunteer regularly at the clinic. Students from Notre Dame high school also volunteer. The clinic can do on-site lab testing, and there is also an onsite pharmacy. Jessica shared patients they see at the clinic are usually very open to whatever testing and therapy is needed since they are usually reporting with symptoms. She stated that both colonoscopy and FIT kits are available for clients. The CI Endoscopy lab offers free colonoscopy screenings to Cordoba clients. Jessica estimated that they send about 10-12 people per year for colonoscopy screening. Michelle Scharping from Tazewell County Health Departments offered their services to help Cordoba with the Breast and Cervical cancer screening that they provide that is free of charge. The staff at the clinic are fluent in several languages; Urdu, Arabic, Farsi and Spanish and other translators are available on site or as needed by phone. The clinic is listed on the 211 phone network. If any of the committee members or someone they know, clinical or non-clinical, would like to volunteer they can reach out to Jessica at 309-863-0257 or email her at Jessicaxorenee@icloud.com. The website is [www.CordobaHC.org](http://www.CordobaHC.org).

**Data Team update:**
Amanda Smith reported that she is working on an additional data sharing impact database with information broken down to the zip code level, with county and regional information for the next cycle. The Community Health Needs assessment surveys have been completed and Dr. Weinzimmer is working with the data and the goal is to present the data findings at January 2022 Partnership board meeting. Andrea noted that it was more difficult to complete the survey process this year since doing the in-person surveys were impacted due to Covid.

**Lung Cancer Radon report:**

Melissa Goetze of TCHD reported that there is a new poster contest winner from Washington. This boy will be honored at the Tazewell County Board meeting with his Radon poster award. It was suggested that his poster could be used in January 2022 for Radon Action month to promote home testing. Melissa and Katie from TCHD were able to attend the National Radon conference for the first-time using grant money to attend the WebX meeting. They also attended a four-hour new construction class about passive radon mitigation systems. It was noted that in 2013 there was a state act that requires all new Illinois residential construction to have a passive Radon mitigation system installed. It was noted by Jim Emmanuels a radon specialist, that many builders and city and county inspectors are not only unaware of this requirement, but also, are not aware of what a properly installed passive mitigation system is. This is an area that the Radon committee members will work to address with city and county building inspectors as well as local builders possibly through lumber yards that deal with the local housing contractors. Jim stated a proper passive system does a basement floor to roof line skeleton system to allow for Radon to passively air out of the home, versus a system with a fan that pushes out the Radon at ground level. Jim has seen many contractors that stub in a basement pipe for later fan hookup, but this doesn’t meet the passive system guidelines. Many inspectors will see this stub piping at ground level and check that there is a passive system in place. Much more education is needed with the builders and inspectors working with new residential construction. Questions can be directed to Jim at 309-303-4362. Jim will provide a schematic to TCHD showing what a correct skeleton system looks like. It was discussed that a packet with a letter of explanation about the requirement, a copy of the 2013 Radon act, and a schematic showing a correctly installed skeleton Radon system example be sent to all building inspectors for cities and counties in our Tri-county area.

Mellissa has Radon testing “swag” to share for Radon month that she will provide free of charge to other health departments as requested. “Pop it” Frisbees have been very popular with students and teachers. Magnets and hand sanitizers are also available for sharing. All of these items have the Radon logo and contact information. Andrea asked for items and shared that Diana Scott would likely also utilize these items for sharing.

**Radon Edwards Grant update:**

Kim Litwiller reported that as of 9-1-2021 there were 24 eligible applicants for Radon mitigation under the Edwards grant criteria in Tazewell County. Hopefully 10-15 of these homes will be mitigated in 2022. Two of the properties have been tested to see if mitigation is needed. In 2020 there were 10 applicants, and three homes were mitigated.

There is social media campaign and promotion taking place in schools in the areas of concern under the grant to increase mitigation applications. There is also a video that is well done to encourage mitigation. There are five Casey’s and one La Gondola that are putting Radon stickers on their pizza boxes with a QR code that will take the person to the application site. The goal is 10 homes per year, and they have done about 40 homes since the grant started. Melissa Bucklin stated that Diana Scott has the numbers for Peoria county and those can be updated another time.

Committee members Tenille, Melissa, and Anne have worked on a video for social media sharing with the health departments and other entities. There is also a 30 second radio spot airing on GLO, and 97.3 on November 8. There is a flyer by OSF about low dose CT scans that is being shared with local food pantries in Peoria and Tazewell counties. There are also presentations about low dose lung CT scheduled at the Miller Center in Pekin and several other locations to be added. Julie is working on an article about Low Dose CT lung screening for publication in Healthy Cells.

Jessica Johnson of the Hult Center is doing asthma education as part of the Edwards grant as is Kim at the Tazewell County Health Department. The American Lung Association is training eight facilitators in asthma management that will do outreach to schools in the communities of concern per the Edwards grant criteria. The areas are the cities of Pekin, East Peoria, Creve Coeur, Peoria public schools, and the Limestone School District.

Andrea reported on the Illinois Tobacco free community initiative. There are new Quitline Posters and Teen Quitline posters available. There is also a new Teen Quitline. Julie Angle reviewed how compliance checks are handled. When a health department is notified by any mechanism; phone, website, or email law enforcement goes to the facility to review the complaint. The Health Department may be involved if further education is needed at a business regarding the tobacco and vaping policies. The first visit is usually handled as a warning, if there is a second visit needed after education has occurred a ticket may be issued by law enforcement. This method is typically what is prescribed for working with offenders of the Tobacco Free Illinois Act. Education is the preferred method of outreach instead of ticketing in Tazewell County. No Smoking Cling signs are provided free to businesses that need to post the policy by the Health Departments. The education materials and posters include all tobacco use- no smoking, no vaping, no chew.

The Great American Smoke out campaign day is November 18, 2021, and Jessica from Hult Center shared that Hult is doing promotion of it through Facebook, the partnership page, and other media available to them.

**Healthy Cells update:**

The four articles were approved by the board and were emailed to the Publisher of Healthy Cells to use for content. There were suggestions to use the Radon article in January 2022, Colorectal article in February or March 2022, the healthy lifestyle and Survivor story can be used any month. It was also discussed if small print ads with the partnership information could be made in various sizes that would be print ready, we can submit these for use if they don’t have all paid ad space filled. There is not a graphic design person that works with the partnership and this might be something that needs to be reviewed.

**Colorectal Cancer:**

It was discussed that March 2022 is colorectal cancer month and that Diane would like a group to work together to get initiatives organized prior to March for community outreach. Julie Maddox shared that Illinois Gastroenterology is planning a screening day in March to work on site to get people registered for colonoscopies or share Cologuard kits for home use. It was discussed that Hult Center could share information about colorectal health and screening at their March cooking classes. Also, Springfield Clinic has a Blue Party in March planned by Rachel and contact would be made for information on that event.

Tenille Oderwald OSF, Julie Maddox U.P. and Nicole Roberston A.C.S. agreed to meet with Diane Hahn to work on strategies for March Colorectal initiatives. The group wants to include Cordoba Clinic clients, and Illinois endoscopy center in the initiatives for March. This group will schedule a meeting in the next month.

The next meeting will be online on December 9, 2021, 8:00am to 9:30am.