

**Patient and Family Advisory Council – Cancer Care Program**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre, Room #2044, Administration**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: 21 members in attendance**

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

**2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Minutes of December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were approved as circulated. Minutes will be posted on the Cancer Care Program's internet as well as Quality boards at Regional Cancer Centres. They will also be forwarded to the Regional Medicine Program for posting.

**3.0 Safety Moment**

Safety Moment is to keep an Emergency Car Kit in your car especially during the winter months when travelling.

**4.0 New Business**

**4.1 Membership Update**

The representative from Labrador-Grenfell was unable to commit to the meeting times, therefore, has submitted her resignation. Members welcomed the new representative from Labrador Grenfell to the Committee.

**4.2 CPAC Update**

One of the members will be attending a CPAC Patient Consultation Workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. The focus of this workshop is on people who have recently gone through a pre-diagnosis cancer experience. Members discussed personal experiences they had with waiting to be diagnosed – multiple tests, wait times from 1<sup>st</sup> diagnosis to treatment, accessing screening programs, triage of patients, etc. It was felt that there should be linkages put in place with Family Physicians for continuing education. The representative will report back on the CPAC workshop at our next meeting.

**ACTION: Ms. Templeton will speak with Medical Services regarding linkages with Family Medicine Team.**

**4.3 Promotion of Cancer Patient Navigator Role**

The Cancer Patient Navigator Positions were launched in 2011 throughout the Province. The Patient Navigators travelled to Physicians' offices in their respective

areas and provided them with brochures and posters. There was also a media launch to inform the public of this new role within Eastern Health.

Members questioned whether if the physicians, patients or both lack knowledge of the Cancer Patient Navigator Role. It was suggested that orientation for Physicians should include the role of the Cancer Patient Navigator. It is not mandatory for interns in Medical School to go through Medical Oncology or Hematology. We can ask the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) to inform Physicians so they are more aware of Cancer Patient Navigators.

Communications suggested Social Media, Mini Web Updates, Facebook, Radio, Focus Groups are some areas they use to inform the public. It was noted that April is Cancer Awareness Month so we should do a media focus around Cancer Patient Navigators.

Communications suggested that we include information regarding the Cancer Patient Navigators in Patient Appointment Letters which would include all patients' i.e. screening, follow-up patients, etc.

**ACTION: Develop an Action Plan to ensure Awareness of the Cancer Patient Navigation Role throughout the Province.**

#### **4.4 Cancer Care Program Website**

Communications and Healthcare Technology and Data Management (HTDM), provided an overview of the Cancer Care Program's Website.

Members suggested that the picture on the Home Page should be reduced in size and have the ICONS/Images more descriptive of the service. These can be an overlay on the picture. Members suggested an image of a Compass for the Cancer Patient Navigator Section instead of arrows.

Areas that they would like highlighted are:

- Common Concerns or Helpful Hints
- Journey of the Patient
- Financial Services

Some members have volunteered to participate in Website testing.

#### **4.5 Committee Direction**

A discussion was held regarding the direction of this Committee. It was felt that there was more of an administrative focus and not on patient specific issues of concern.

Previously the issue of central venous access in Central Region was brought forward. The Chair inquired about this with Central health leadership and one of

the only physicians in the area who inserted ports is leaving and this is leaving a void. Co-chair will speak with the Director of Diagnostic Imaging, to discuss the possibility of opportunities to service this area.

Priorities of the Committee will be discussed to see where we would like the focus of the Committee. One of the focus that we are presently reviewing is the Cancer Patient Navigator and Aboriginal Patient Navigator Role. Members felt it is important to discuss the care for patients after they had cancer such as posttraumatic stress, and survivorship.

Other services available at the Cancer Care Program that was discussed include:

- Home Infusion availability
- Sites chemotherapy is administered across the Province.
- Tele-Oncology – follow-up clinics are completed by telephone, video or in person.

The Terms of Reference will be revisited every 3-6 months.

**ACTION: Chair to speak with Director of Diagnostic Imaging.**

**5.0 Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**6.0 Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

  
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Janet Templeton  
Co-Chair

February 27, 2018  
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Date