

**Breast Cancer Control Advisory Board
Regular Quarterly Meeting**

**January 26, 2016
Minutes**

Attending Board Members:

Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman (via teleconference), Sarah Faitak (via teleconference), Dr. Hope Keiser, Dr. John Lynch (via teleconference), Sharon Parrett, Alicia Storey and Debra Walden.

Absent Board Members:

Dr. Jerri Fant

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH):

Dr. Appathurai Balamurugan, Rachel Johnson, David Kern, Marisa Nelson, Geray Pickle, Reggie Rogers, Cheryl Roland, Dr. Patricia Scott and Brandy Sutphin.

Other Organizations:

Jessie Smith (Hewlett Packard (HP)

Michael Keck (Arkansas Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network)

I. Call to order:

Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

A. Welcome and Introductions:

There were none.

B. Comments from members of the public:

No comments from the public.

II. Board Business:

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2015, quarterly meeting:

Debra Walden made a motion, seconded by Alicia Storey, that the minutes from the October 27, 2015, meeting be approved. The minutes were approved by a voice vote without discussion.

B. FY2016 BreastCare Non-Federal Revenues and Expenditures:

Cheryl Roland, BreastCare Program Data Manager, said the BreastCare (BC) Program has spent 37 percent of its state budget throughout the first half of the fiscal year which started July 1, 2015. She noted the program has spent 68 percent of its clinical services budget, which includes diagnostic procedures, screening mammograms, and office visits.

C. FY2016 BreastCare Second Quarter Enrollment Report:

Ms. Roland gave the enrollment report. During the first two quarters of the fiscal year, the program enrolled 2,790 women, which is up a little from the same time the previous fiscal year. Dr. Henry-Tillman asked if new American Cancer Society (ACS) guidelines had any effect on these screening rates. Dr. Appathurai Balamurugan, Medical Director, ADH Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch, said it is hard to say that the new guidelines had any impact. He said the new ACS guidelines are not that much different from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) or the previous ACS guidelines about informed decision making for the 40-49 age group. Ms. Roland said over the past couple of years, the program has been tracking more clients in the 40-49 age group than the 50 and older group. Ms. Roland and Dr. Balamurugan said it was too early to tell if the new ACS guidelines were having any impact. Dr. Henry-Tillman said she would soon be attending a breast cancer screening consortium committee meeting and expected to see a report on the new guidelines.

D. BreastCare Special Language Report January 2016:

Ms. Roland presented the Special Language Report, which is a progress report of the Breast Cancer Control Fund prepared for Arkansas legislators. It was drafted late in 2015 and early 2016 with figures on expenditures, outreach and a summary of treatment funding. She said it was just disseminated, so there has not been a response to it so far. Sharon Parrett asked if there had been any changes in expenditures and enrollment by regions of the state for treatment funding. Ms. Roland said she could share more specifics at the next meeting, but the distribution of women being assessed for treatment assistance was still primarily in the northern half of the state and that had not changed much from previous reports.

Dr. Henry-Tillman noted on page 21 of the meeting packet that there was no money budgeted for the Esperanza Y Vida program focused on Spanish-speaking women. Marisa Nelson, BC Program Administrator, noted that the UAMS program has been discontinued, but that BreastCare is working on better reaching Hispanic women and plans to include that priority into next year's federal grant application. Dr. Henry-Tillman said she recommends that the BC Program work on that goal.

Dr. Henry-Tillman also asked what the BC Program was doing to make mobile mammogram facilities more accessible to women across the state. Ms. Nelson said the program is working with UAMS to provide after-hours mammogram services in all parts of the state. Since July, UAMS has held 11 after-hours events, screening 167 women and finding one woman diagnosed with cancer. UAMS has scheduled several events for the upcoming quarter. Ms. Roland said UAMS has had events in Pulaski County and other parts of the state. The BreastCare program also works with the other mobile mammography units and would welcome the opportunity to partner more on similar events.

Ms. Parrett said she asked at the last meeting if it were legal for ADH to contract with privately owned mammography operators across the state to provide after-hours and weekend service across the state. Reginald Rogers, ADH Legal Counsel, said he would have to check with the department procurement office about whether ADH would have to go with bids. He stated it would likely have to be opened up to bid so all mobile mammography units had the opportunity to participate because state money would be used to pay the operators.

Alicia Storey, who works at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro, discussed new regulations affecting mammography equipment after January 1, 2017. She said any mammography operator using film, rather than digital images, will take a 20 percent reduction in reimbursement. She said the cost of upgrading to digital equipment will force the Clay County hospital to close its mammography unit and request that St. Bernards Mobile Mammography Unit help cover its patients using that service. Ms. Storey said this is the second facility asking St. Bernards to help in this type of situation. She said she expects this pattern to continue across the state. It is imperative that we use our funding wisely and utilize all these mobile mammography units, she said, and it makes more economical sense than sending a unit across the state, especially if there is a mobile unit in that area. She said that St. Bernards is studying the issues to see if it can help hospitals in its area, such as in Piggott (Clay County) and Pocahontas (Randolph County).

Dr. Patricia Scott, ADH Director of the Center for Health Advancement, asked if Ms. Storey knew how many other hospitals would be forced to close because they could not afford the greater expense of shifting to digital mammography. Ms. Storey said she did not have any idea. Ms. Roland and Dr. Scott said the Department would look into the trend and see what could be done if more hospitals close their mammography units, which are not large revenue-producing operations.

Ms. Parrett asked if there could be a way that the BC Program could pay St. Bernards' mammography staff or hire mammography technicians who might be losing their jobs from the closings to expand mammography services across the state. Mr. Rogers said that question raised issues about state employee classification and compensation, budgets and procurement, which makes the matter very complex. Ms. Storey said perhaps the BreastCare Program and mammography operators should look into pursuing grants for equipment. Dr. Balamurugan suggested that the ADH epidemiology section work with the ADH radiation control section to get an idea about how many mammography operations would be affected by the new

reimbursement regulation requiring digital equipment. Dr. Henry-Tillman said if money is not earmarked or is unrestricted the BC Program should consider using it to cover equipment costs.

Dr. Henry-Tillman thanked the BC staff for the update on BC Gap Treatment funding. The BC Program reported in this quarter's meeting packet on the use of one-time funding for treatment of women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. Since State FY 2014, the BC Program has assessed more than 208 women for this assistance; 32 women are receiving treatment assistance and 128 women have been navigated to some form of insurance coverage. As of December 11, 2015, \$939,686 has been spent of the \$2 million approved by the Arkansas General Assembly.

III. Other Board Business:

A. Reimbursement for Board Members' Travel to Meetings

Mr. Rogers presented a motion that the Board authorize travel and expense reimbursement for the performance of official board duties to the allowable amount authorized by law for Calendar Year 2016. Debra Walden made a motion to approve it, Ms. Parrett seconded it and the board unanimously approved without further discussion.

B. January 2016 HP Contractor Report

Mrs. Jessie Smith of Hewlett Packard said the company reimbursed BreastCare providers \$90,101 in claims for December 2015. The HP billing and processing summary showed that 19,492 claims totaling \$820,627 were processed and paid in Calendar Year 2015. In Fiscal Year 2016, from July through December, 2015, HP has received 1,116 calls for billing assistance, processed 10,319 claims and held 11 provider training sessions and nine provider outreach events.

C. Witness Project Report

Marisa Nelson presented The Witness Project report for activity which began in the second quarter of FY2016 (October-December, 2015). There were 13 programs held in Pulaski, Monroe and Jefferson counties, attended by 227 women, 197 of whom were insured and 30 were uninsured. There were eight events scheduled for January. Sarah Faitak suggested that the BC Program compare statistics for how many insured and uninsured women participated in programs in previous years. Ms. Roland said the program would check on that comparison, but wasn't sure the information was collected as the previous years' focus was on the uninsured.

D. UAMS Mobile Mammography Contractor Report

Ms. Nelson said, as already discussed at the meeting, there were 11 after-hours events attended by 167 women during this past quarter.

E. Clinton School of Public Service

Ms. Nelson said the Clinton School of Public Service has conducted interviews with 25 providers and held focus groups in the northeast and northwest parts of Arkansas for a BC

Program needs assessment. The School will conduct telephone interviews of women across the state in March or April and has sent BC staff a draft of the questions.

F. Program Updates: Marisa Nelson

- The BC Program is in the middle of its year-five grant application;
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention staff have had numerous telephone calls with BC Program staff concerning how to reach hard-to-reach women in need;
- CDC is seeing lower numbers of services being provided in other states and is preparing a report which will be available to ADH staff;
- BC Program policy changes for expanding the age of Pap test coverage and serving under-insured women are in final review; and
- The governor has not yet announced his appointments for expired terms on the Breast Cancer Control Advisory Board.

G. Other Business from Board Members

• Dr. Henry-Tillman asked whether the BC Program was working on education programs for HPV, the Human Papillomavirus vaccine. Ms. Nelson said the BC Program is interested in that issue and will be applying to attend a workshop in May to help cancer coalitions develop plans for HPV. The event will involve the Comprehensive Cancer Control program, the American Cancer Society, an immunization group, stakeholders and organizations in other states to fashion a plan to improve HPV vaccination. Ms. Nelson said Arkansas has pretty low rates of vaccination, and the BC Program is looking into ways to improve the rates.

• Ms. Parrett inquired about an issue she raised at the previous board meeting – getting more Board involvement in the RFP (Request for Proposal) process of obtaining and awarding bids for contract work, such as communications consulting. Mr. Rogers said he recalled there was a consensus in favor of that idea and that the board would have to appoint someone. Though no such RFP process is currently underway, Dr. Scott said there was nothing to prevent the board from naming a member to represent the board in the RFP process. Dr. Hope Keiser volunteered to be the board representative. Ms. Parrett made a motion that the board approve Dr. Keiser, and Dr. Henry-Tillman seconded the motion. The board approved the motion on a voice vote with no objections.

• Dr. Henry-Tillman asked if there was anything to report on the board suggestion for a big project to improve screening rates across the state. Ms. Nelson said BC Program staff is discussing that matter with the CDC and considering what can be written into the year five grant application. Ms. Storey urged the BC Program staff to consider a plan involving all hospitals across the state which have mobile mammography units so that all resources across the state would be utilized to reach more women.

- Debra Walden asked if there was a way to follow up with the Governor's Office on appointments for the Board. Mr. Rogers said the Governor has a person in charge of board and commission appointments. He suggested that calls to the board and commission coordinator would be helpful in getting movement on the appointment and reappointments.

IV. Closing

Ms. Parrett made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Henry-Tillman seconded and adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

After adjournment, Michael Keck introduced himself to board members as the government relations director for the American Cancer Society/ Cancer Action Network.

The next regular quarterly meeting of the board is April 26, 2016.