

## **Breast Cancer Control Advisory Board Meeting**

**August 27, 2013**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attending Board Members:**

Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman, Sarah Faitak, Dr. Jerri Fant, Dr. John Lynch (via teleconference), Sharon Parrett, and Debra Walden (via teleconference).

#### **Absent Board Members:**

Tammy Gavin and Dr. Hope Keiser.

#### **Arkansas Department of Health:**

Shiela Couch, Alysia Cover, Verna Ferry, Renee House, Meghan Hunt, Joanne Jones, David Kern, Geray Pickle, Cheryl Roland, Reginald Rogers, Michelle Snortland, and Brandy Sutphin.

#### **Other Organizations:**

Royce Pinkard and Jeremy Fleckenstein (Hewlett Packard Enterprise), Deborah Beard, Lisa Bondurant, and Holly Frein (The Communications Group), and Latresha Bennett (The Witness Project).

#### **I. Call to order:**

Dr. Rhonda Henry-Tillman called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Michelle Snortland introduced Kay Creighton-Hays as the new BreastCare Program Administrator. Ms. Snortland also introduced Verna Ferry, the new BreastCare Southeast Regional Care Coordinator. Sharon Parrett introduced herself as a new Breast Cancer Advisory Board member. Ms. Parrett is a registered nurse, a care giver, a cancer survivor and represents the American Cancer Society.

#### **No comments from members of the public**

#### **II. Board Business**

##### **A. Review and Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2013**

Dr. Lynch motioned to approve the January 22, 2013 minutes. Dr. Fant seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried and minutes were approved.

## **B. Review of State Program Income and Expenditure for the month ending June 30, 2013**

Michelle Snortland reviewed the expenditure report July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, noting the revenue for the month of June was **\$287,130**. Total Revenue for Fiscal Year 2013 was **\$4,078,852**. Total expenditures for the month of June were **\$467,695** and expenditures for the Fiscal Year were **\$3,516,718**. Ms. Snortland noted that **(\$180,565)** more was spent than revenues received for June and said that reflected well on the effort to spend down carry-over funds which now stand at **\$562,134**.

Ms. Snortland listed the contracts for the program:

- UAMS for services at the past year's provider conference;
- HP for system and policy support;
- The Witness Project for education materials and translation of materials;
- Esperanza for education materials and translation of materials, and
- The Communications Group for marketing, television and radio outreach.

Dr. Fant asked for the definition of "fringe", which amounted to **\$200,765** for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2013. Dr. Henry-Tillman and Ms. Snortland explained that spending category covered benefits which employees receive, FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) amounts paid and health insurance costs under the BreastCare contracts.

## **C. BreastCare Quarterly and Enrollment Reports**

Michelle Snortland noted there were 226 diagnoses of cancer during FY 2013, compared with 230 the previous year. Dr. Henry-Tillman noted that a report published by the Cochrane Collaboration on June 17, 2013, *Screening for Breast Cancer with Mammography*, found that it took the screening of 2,000 women to save one life. She said, however, the focus should be on providing quality of life for cancer patients rather than on reviewing mortality figures.

Ms. Snortland pointed out statistics on page five of the BreastCare Quarterly Report that the numbers of women served increased from FY 2011 through preliminary numbers for FY2013 and that the average cost of each woman served has continued to decline over the years, while the overall cost of screening is increasing.

Ms. Snortland, presented the enrollment report citing that the lowest percent of eligible women enrolled this past year was 13.1 percent in Greene County, compared with the lowest county figure among Arkansas counties for the previous year which was 10 percent. She said that increased outreach, especially in underserved counties, helped increase the number of eligible women enrolled. Ashley County had the highest percentage of women enrolled at 57.1 percent.

#### **D. Authorized Procedures Review**

Joanne Jones, Nursing Program Coordinator, discussed the reimbursable procedures covered by the BreastCare Program. She stated that colposcopy procedure providers had requested to do pregnancy tests on women prior to the colposcopy procedure. Ms. Jones said Arkansas Department of Health staff contacted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which stated that the program could elect to cover pregnancy tests. The pregnancy test costs approximately \$9 per test; therefore no significant budget impact is foreseen.

Ms. Jones stated that the Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) procedure with imaging guidance (CPT Code 121) or without imaging guidance (CPT Code 122) was covered by the BreastCare Program as a diagnostic treatment at one time, but it is not currently covered. Ms. Jones asked if board members agreed with that policy. Dr. Henry-Tillman said it depends on where patients live because some places do not have these advanced diagnostic techniques Dr. Henry-Tillman questioned why it was not covered. Dr. Fant said most doctors will not use FNA unless cancer is suspected in the lymph nodes or that is the only diagnostic device available. Ms. Jones responded to Dr. Henry-Tillman's comment, by stating that we no longer covered FNA due to the level of expertise required for the procedure. Shiela Couch stated there have only been two or three requests for FNA over the past two years. Dr. Fant said she believed she was on the board when the procedure was discontinued and it was because of funding issues. She said if BreastCare gets more requests for it, then the board might need to revisit the issue.

Board members discussed continued exclusion of chest X-rays, which were not allowable according to CDC reimbursable codes and the addition of interoperative ultrasound (CPT Code 76998).

Dr. Fant made a motion and Ms. Faitak seconded the motion to:

- Add a pregnancy test to reimbursable procedures;
- Continue to not cover fine needle aspiration with or without imaging guidance;
- Remove diagnostic preoperative chest x-rays as a reimbursable, and to
- Add intraoperative ultrasound (76998) as a reimbursable procedure.

The motion carried.

### **III. Other Board Business**

#### **A. WISEWOMAN Grant**

Ms. Snortland stated that after several unsuccessful applications over the years, Arkansas received its first WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation) grant this year. Arkansas will receive about \$500,000 to serve an additional 1,000 women with additional chronic disease screening, health coaching, lifestyle change programs,

such as, Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME), Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME) and some patient navigation. The program will address lifestyle changes including quitting smoking. The ADH Local Health Units cannot provide these services at this time; therefore private providers will be the focus to provide these services. ADH will pilot the program in Little Rock and North Little Rock for this grant. Ms. Snortland said BreastCare is working on a provider recruitment plan and will present it when it is complete. Dr. Henry-Tillman stated that the WISEWOMAN program can identify and address other health issues, such as cardiovascular disease, obesity or diabetes. Ms. Snortland said after women are screened in the program, they can be directed to programs which can help them. The grant will cover DSME classes or a health coach. Ms. Snortland appealed to board members to encourage new primary care providers to participate in the program. Dr. Henry-Tillman and Dr. Fant both agreed to assist. Ms. Snortland stated she would notify board members about what they can do to help.

## **B. Surveys**

Michelle Snortland presented the Provider Survey that was conducted by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This survey was funded by the BreastCare stakeholders group through the REACH US grant. Surveys were conducted on former and current providers. For the former provider survey, there were 11 respondents (37.9 percent) out of 29 providers who left the program. Major weaknesses included data entry burden and low reimbursement rates for services. Ms. Snortland stated that BreastCare continues to streamline the data entry process. However, reimbursement rates are based on Medicare rate and cannot be negotiated.

For the current provider survey, 41 surveys were returned out of 129 surveys presented to current providers. Areas in which respondents said the program could be improved included:

- Provide more training and support to better understand the program systems;
- Communicate better with clinic staff and patients;
- Expand coverage to include additional services, and
- Reduce paperwork and the administrative burden, especially in view of the low reimbursement rate.

Ms. Snortland presented action plan drafted by BreastCare staff to address survey findings. One of the issues was the BreastCare Website and online system was not user friendly, and Ms. Snortland stated BreastCare is now constantly updating the website and online system as well as making changes to make it more accessible.

To further address data entry, BreastCare produced a form to assist providers with data entry in the online system. A training site was also established to coordinate and expand training. Brochures are being revised. Provider newsletters will now become quarterly. New provider manuals are being published. Production of

instructional videos will also assist in education and outreach.

Dr. Henry-Tillman complimented BreastCare staff on the job they were doing.

**C. Other Business – Board members**

Dr. Henry-Tillman renewed her inquiry about the status of a procedure for patients to enroll in BreastCare online. Ms. Snortland stated that this item remains on her list of items to accomplish. However, there are higher priorities, including the WISEWOMAN Grant, which ADH staff needs to pursue.

**IV. Review of Action Items**

**A. Komen Grants**

Ms. Snortland presented a summary of the three Komen grants which the BreastCare Program receives, including Komen Arkansas, Komen Ozark and Komen Texarkana, and the number of women and counties served.

**B. Provider Conference Evaluation**

Ms. Snortland presented a brief evaluation of the April 5, 2013, provider conference, which was attended by 160 participants. An annual evaluation on the BreastCare Program including the Provider Conference will be presented at the next Board meeting

**C. BreastCare Contractors**

Ms. Snortland suggested that contractors not be required to attend all four board meetings each year and that they could just attend two of the four quarterly meetings. Dr. Henry-Tillman and Dr. Fant suggested that they attend the first and third board meetings of the year.

**V. Closing**

Dr. Fant motioned to adjourn and Ms. Parrett seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.