

# Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council

May 16, 2024

# Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
1:15pm	Welcome and Program update of attendees	Susan Nelson MD
1:30pm	Louisiana Cancer Plan	Dr. Trey Gibson
2:00pm	Legislative updates and other things	Susan Nelson MD
2:15pm	New Business	Council members

# Louisiana Cancer Plan

Group discussion lead by Dr. Trey Gipson

The Louisiana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan can be found [here](#).

# Louisianans continue to get sick from and die from cancer more than most states

While we have improved relative to other states, there is much work to do—LA has the 6th worst rate of new cancers (NCI/CDC State Cancer Profiles, 2014-2018) and the 7th highest cancer death rate (NCI/CDC State Cancer Profiles, 2015-2019). As in the past, this plan covers cancers for which expert recommendations for prevention are available—breast, cervical, and other HPV-related cancers, colorectal, lung and tobacco-related cancers, and skin (melanoma)—in order to make the greatest impact.

The 2022 -2027 plan also takes aim at cancer outcome inequities. It is based on an understanding of the social determinants of health, as well as the need to reach groups at greatest need for appropriate prevention, and clinical services. For example, plan objectives and strategies address that Black men are twice as likely as White women to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year—61.9 vs 36.4 per 100,000 (LTR, 2014-2018).

For the first time, the state cancer plan is online only, which allows us to continue updating the plan as new information becomes available. This flexibility is especially important during uncertain times like the current COVID pandemic. This format also allows people to view the plan from anywhere, send it to others, know they have the most up-to-date version, and easily locate the content they need.

In order to make the plan more user-friendly, we also have pulled the strategies together into one place (Table 1 on page 8). Many of them are cross-cutting—they address more than one part of the cancer control continuum, or more than one cancer site. The strategies reflect current and planned cancer control efforts; we do not include strategies for which there is no person or organization to lead.

# Legislative update - Senate Bill 325

- ▶ Provides for an informational document to be made available to pregnant mothers following the diagnosis of a fetal abnormality with respect to their unborn child. (8/1/24)
- ▶ §1061.31. Compatible with Love Empowerment Act
- ▶ No more than seventy-two hours after a pregnant woman is informed that her unborn child has a fetal abnormality diagnosis, the healthcare provider who gave the diagnosis shall provide to the woman an informational document that includes resources, programs, and services for pregnant women and resources, programs, and services for infants and children born with disabilities.
- ▶ The Louisiana Department of Health shall develop an informational document to comply with the mandate established in this Section to include resources, programs, and services for a pregnant woman whose unborn child has been diagnosed with a fetal abnormality and resources, programs, and services for infants and children born with disabilities and shall make such information available to any requesting provider of women's health care services and shall maintain the information on a link on the department's website. The information shall include the availability of perinatal hospice and palliative care and pediatric hospice and palliative care services located in Louisiana, non-profit organizations that provide support to women who carry a child to term in these situations, and mental health services in Louisiana to support the mother and father of the child. The informational document provided for in this Section may be merged with the informational document mandated by R.S. 40:1061.1.4

# Other concerns

- ▶ Updating Children's code
  - Is there support for this?
  - On hold for now
- ▶ Ketamine changes to meet with LSBN
  - October 2024
- ▶ Payment for DME in nursing homes
  - This needs more research.
- ▶ Medicaid palliative care benefit design
  - C-TAC / AHA/ Ochsner/ Humana to develop recommendations for palliative care for patients with heart failure and to work on benefit design for Medicaid through managed care benefit.
- ▶ Uniform Advance Directive Commission results complete with recommendations.
  - Put on hold
  - Politics will be in play here
  - Scope of practice issues

# Pediatric Concerns

- ▶ Pediatric issues
  - ▶ Dr. Morvant has left the state to take a position at STANFORD!
  - ▶ Currently in Louisiana there are only 3:
    - ▶ Dr. Autrey at Childrens
    - ▶ Dr. Michele Jones at Ochsner
    - ▶ Dr. Malhotra at LCMC/Tulane
- ▶ PEDIATRIC HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE RESOURCE GUIDE
  - ▶ Link [here](#)
  - ▶ Will need updating as much as possible.



# Definition of Palliative CARE

- ▶ "Palliative care" means an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life threatening illnesses, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual.
  
- ▶ "Palliative care" services:
  - (a) Provide relief from pain and other distressing symptoms.
  - (b) Affirm life and regards dying as a normal process.
  - (c) Intend neither to hasten or postpone death.
  - (d) Integrate the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of patient care.
  - (e) Offer a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death.
  - (f) Offer a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement.
  - (g) Use a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counseling, if indicated.
  - (h) Will enhance quality of life and may also positively influence the course of illness.
  - (i) Are applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

# Definition of Palliative Care

- ▶ Include "palliative care for children", which means the care appropriate for children and their families that begins at diagnosis and continues regardless of whether or not the treatment is directed at the disease.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" requires health providers to evaluate and alleviate a child's physical, psychological, and social distress through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the family and makes use of available community resources which can be successfully implemented even if resources are limited.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" includes active total care of the child's body, mind, and spirit and the support given to the family. "Palliative care for children" can be provided in tertiary care facilities, in community health centers, and in children's homes.