

# 2023 NPCR OKLAHOMA SUCCESS STORY

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## Building and Maintaining a Strong Advisory Committee

### National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

#### SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry (OCCR) has spent the last decade building up their Advisory Committee. The mission of the Advisory Committee is to serve as a multidisciplinary guide and support for the OCCR in improving cancer data collection and quality and promoting data use for cancer prevention and treatment. The Committee’s vision is to contribute to the reduction of cancer mortality, increase early diagnosis, and the improvement of health among cancer patients and survivors in Oklahoma.

#### CHALLENGE

- After having an advisory committee meeting intermittently since 2010, OCCR’s Advisory Committee became more organized around 2013.
- Over the years, the Advisory Committee ebbed and flowed with membership and participation at meetings.
- There was also inconsistent meeting space available in the early years prior to Oklahoma University’s Stephenson Cancer Center opening and joining the committee.
- Issues arising from the pandemic paired with multiple staff vacancies presented an additional challenge to the long-term success of the OCCR Advisory Committee.

#### SOLUTION

- Personal invitations were sent out with information on the Advisory Committee and the opportunity to join in 2021.
- In 2022, the OCCR Program Director asked all OCCR staff to submit the names of three personal contacts to be sent invitations to join the committee in hopes of adding members with diverse backgrounds.
- Initially due to the pandemic, but continuing afterward, virtual meetings helped increase committee participation and allowed members based out of state, like American Cancer Society representatives, to be a part of the Advisory Committee.

#### RESULTS

- Within the last five years, the Advisory Committee has focused on increasing membership with focused invitations to known contacts across the cancer field.
- Over the last two years, OCCR leadership provided increased prioritization with consistent outreach, virtual meetings, and input from members on best meeting times and dates.
- A diverse committee consisting of members from Oklahoma hospitals and pathology labs, researchers, health care providers, nonprofit health organizations, tribes, higher education programs, and public health officials meet quarterly via Microsoft Teams.
- At each meeting, the OCCR provides updates on registry activities and the surveillance system while providing members the opportunity to share their projects and resources with those in attendance. Meeting minutes along with partner resources are shared with all members after each meeting, along with the calendar invitation for the next meeting.

#### SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- OCCR will continue to prioritize the engagement of the Advisory Committee members with regular communications and will seek input from members to ensure that meeting times work for everyone’s schedules. Regular attendance and participation at meetings will ensure that committee members continue to see value in their participation, which may help sustain active engagement and membership in this important cancer registry advisory group.
- OCCR is committed to having interdisciplinary representation from across the cancer field on the committee and will continue to be proactive in identifying and inviting new members.

#### STORY QUOTE

***“As the former OCCR epidemiologist and manager who initiated the Advisory Committee many years ago, and now as a member of the committee, it is particularly gratifying to see the continuity of the committee membership and their commitment to seeing the success of the OCCR. There is a wide range of interested parties on the committee, which has only expanded over time, who bring all levels and types of expertise to the table. This diversity and continuity of the membership speaks to the dedication of the collaborators and their vested interest in the success of the program.”***

– Anne Pate, PhD, MPH, Director/Associate Professor, University of Oklahoma Public and Community Health Programs

#### REGISTRY CONTACT

<https://oklahoma.gov/health/health-education/chronic-disease-prevention/oklahoma-central-cancer-registry-occr.html>



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