

2023 NPCR WASHINGTON SUCCESS STORY

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The Redevelopment of the Washington State Cancer Registry Advisory Committee

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The Washington State Cancer Registry (WSCR) established their Advisory Committee per NPCR program standard IX in 2007 to guide WSCR in strengthening its policies, procedures, data quality, partnerships, public visibility, and bring awareness to the importance and usage of cancer registry data. The Advisory Committee lacked engagement from primary users, registrars, and the general health care professional community. This stalled momentum in the work toward creating sustainable usage of WSCR data and achieving WSCR program goals. When the COVID-19 pandemic took place along with the shortage of WSCR staffing, the Advisory Committee had to be put on hold. In 2023, WSCR collaborated with Washington's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCCP) to re-launch a Washington Statewide Cancer Coalition that will host the WSCR Advisory Committee as one of its dedicated focus groups to concentrate on the usage and quality of the state's cancer data.

CHALLENGE

- Build engagement with WSCR and the WSCR Advisory Committee among primary users, registrars, and health care professional communities.
- Create a strong committee structure that will promote continued engagement with the Advisory Committee and foster sustainable involvement from diverse partners.
- Create obtainable goals and objectives for the Advisory Committee that will increase the use of WSCR data and support CCCP's efforts with the new Cancer Coalition guided by a 5-year cancer plan.
- Identify responsibilities that Advisory Committee members can track and assist WSCR to improve its structure, funding, functionality, and effectiveness in collecting and reporting cancer data for Washington state.

SOLUTION

- Collaboration with CCCP allowed the WSCR Advisory Committee to become one of the Washington State Cancer Coalition workgroups.
- Collaboration with CCCP and its Washington State Cancer Coalition creates an opportunity to engage with diverse partners that are encouraged to join the Advisory Committee.
- Collaboration with CCCP and participation with the Washington State Cancer Coalition will assist WSCR in promoting who they are and the importance of the cancer data that they are collecting.

RESULTS

- Within the first two Coalition meetings, breakout sessions were added to re-introduce the WSCR Advisory Committee and discuss potential areas of focus.
- The initial meeting in June 2023 allowed those interested in learning more about the Advisory Committee to come together with WSCR staff to discuss important registry compliance topics and demonstrate the need for the Advisory Committee.
- The second meeting in October 2023 allowed for discussion on how the Advisory Committee will be housed within the Washington State Cancer Coalition. Housing the Advisory Committee within the statewide cancer coalition helps with the ongoing recruitment of members and encourages data use.
- Coalition participants learned more about who and what WSCR is, how WSCR collects cancer data, how data are used, ways to use data in the future, and internal and external barriers WSCR must overcome to achieve the desired level of data collection and usage.
- The Coalition and Advisory Committee members discussed where WSCR data can be used in the 5-year cancer plan and how they can foster the success of the cancer plan's goals.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- With continued support from the statewide cancer coalition and CCCP, the Advisory Committee has a sustainable place to grow and prosper. This fosters an increase in current participating members, helps identify goals and responsibilities, and develops infrastructure and understanding of what is needed from this Committee in subsequent years.
- As knowledge is shared more broadly about who WSCR is and what they do with the collected cancer data, we will prioritize recruitment for participation from the larger Washington State cancer community. With more participants, the goal is that the Advisory Committee can and will become a standalone workgroup of the larger statewide cancer coalition run successfully by those participating in it.

STORY QUOTE

“Washington has successfully relaunched its statewide cancer coalition guided by a newly drafted 5-year Cancer Plan. This is the first time in more than a decade that this partnership has existed and has provided sustainable widespread engagement with partners interested in joining the WSCR Advisory Committee.”

– Katie Treend, MPH, CCCP Coordinator

REGISTRY CONTACT

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