

KCP Holds Biannual Meeting

The Kansas Cancer Partnership gathered for their biannual meeting on Wednesday, June 30. The group convened at Stormont Vail's Pozez Education Center in Topeka for the meeting hosted by the Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center. The morning session included presentations on Partnership business including a policy update, information on end-of-life legislation, recruitment for a state patient navigator group and an update on the KU Wichita Breast Cancer Survivorship Clinic. In the afternoon, Dr. Doolittle updated the group on the Midwest Cancer Alliance and NCI Designation and Dr. Amanda Reichard presented on Preventive Cancer Screening Patterns of Individuals with Disabilities. Information on the meeting can be found on the group's website: www.cancerkansas.org/partnership_minutes.htm.

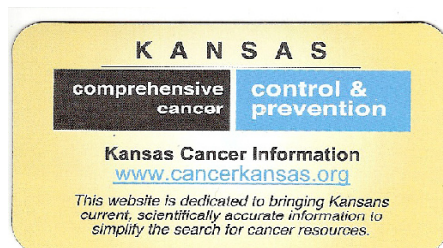
Public Awareness of Cancer

One mission of the Kansas Cancer Partnership is to bring awareness to specific cancers by highlighting those on the official web site. September is Ovarian, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Prostate and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In 2007 (the most recent year for which statistics are available) in Kansas there were 187 cases of ovarian cancer, 2072 cases of prostate cancer and 593 cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosed in citizens according to the Kansas Cancer Registry. Annually, 131 cancer cases are diagnosed in Kansas children under age 19.

Cancer Policy Issues Successful

The 2010 Legislative session was a success when it came to issues important to the Kansas Cancer Partnership. This year the two top KCP public policy priorities were passed. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed a comprehensive clean indoor air bill, which will greatly improve the health of many Kansans. The new law, effective July 1, 2010, eliminates smoking in public places and any workplace, from taxicabs to bars. It will require 80 percent of hotel and motel rooms to be smoke-free. The law does exempt smoking on the gaming floor of state-owned casinos, in tobacco shops, in certain private clubs and in designated smoking areas of adult care homes and long-term care medical facilities. However, the law doesn't override stricter provisions in local laws.

The other bill passed requires health insurers to treat payment for oral chemotherapies no less favorably than intravenous treatments. For many Kansans there has been a loophole in the payment and in some cases the non-payment for oral chemotherapy medications. This bill closes the loophole. The Kansas Cancer Partnership provided both written and in-person testimony on this bill during hearings in both Houses. In addition, the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance provided testimony, including survivors' testimony, for the House hearings.



For Kansas cancer resources, visit www.cancerkansas.org. If you are interested in the magnets pictured here or business-card tents to advertise the website, contact Barbara VanCortlandt, bvancortlandt@kdheks.gov.