MEETING SUMMARY
Advisory Committee to the Texas Cancer Registry (ACTCR)
Friday, October 20, 2017
Conference Call Meeting

Members/Designees/Guests Participating:
Kelly Willis Merriman, M.P.H., Ph.D., C.T.R., University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, ACTCR Chair
Maria Hoang Tran, M.P.H., C.T.R., Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, ACTCR Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Sandi L. Pruitt, Ph.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dimpy P. Shah, M.D., Ph.D.
Sanjay Shete, Ph.D., University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Menghua Tao, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Kristina Walker Whitworth, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston

Texas Cancer Registry (TCR)/Other DSHS Staff Present:
Ashley Dixon, M.P.H., Program Specialist, TCR
Maria Vega, M.P.A., Core Business Operations Manager, TCR
Melanie Williams, Ph.D., Branch Manager, TCR

Note: Please refer to the ACTCR webpage for handouts and presentations from the meeting (see links under October 20, 2017: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/actcr.aspx).

Welcome—Kelli Willis Merriman, M.P.H., Ph.D., C.T.R., ACTCR Chair
Ms. Merriman called the meeting to order, and attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Merriman announced that Maria Hoang Tran, M.P.H., C.T.R., was the new ACTCR Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. Minutes from the March 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Dr. Williams also reviewed the status of the more substantive action items from the March 2017 ACTCR meeting, including the following:

- The ACTCR name will remain the same.

- The TCR provided a link to ACTCR members on the requirements for becoming a Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR): http://www.ncra-usa.org/Certification

- The TCR had success with working with the Central Texas Temple Veteran’s Administration Health Care System related to submission of cancer data.
• Dr. Williams provided the Institutional Review Board (IRB) with a name of a potential public member received from an ACTCR member.
  
  o **ACTION ITEM: Dr. Williams will follow up with the IRB as to status of suggestion.**

TCR General Update—Discussion led by Melanie Williams, Ph.D.

The following briefly summarizes the topics Dr. Williams discussed:

**TCR Legislative Report**

TCR completed a Legislative Report mandated by the Texas Cancer Incidence Reporting Act. The link to the *Cancer in Texas 2017* report can be found at the bottom of this page on the DSHS website ([https://www.dshs.texas.gov/Legislative/Reports-2017.aspx](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/Legislative/Reports-2017.aspx)).

**DSHS Transformation**—

Dr. Williams provided an overview of DSHS Transformation. The current DSHS organizational chart can be found at [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/orgchart/default.shtm](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/orgchart/default.shtm). The TCR is part of the Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section (EEDRS) led by Dr. Heidi Bojes. The EEDRS Section moved to a new area of the department called Community Health Improvement (CHI) led by Dr. Manda Hall. CHI major activities include public health programs, disease registries, health screening, epidemiology and surveillance, maternal and child health, chronic disease management and prevention and vital records.

**HB 2641 HIE Reporting Pilot**—

Dr. Williams provided an update on the HB 2641 Health Information Exchange (HIE) reporting pilot. Each program impacted by HB 2641 updated their respective administrative rules to allow for HIE reporting of data. DSHS led a pilot to work with two HIE organizations to see how HIE reporting could be implemented and the two HIEs were successful in submitting de-identified data as part of the pilot. The pilot is complete and DSHS has written guidelines on HIE reporting. To date, no requests for HIE reporting have been received.
Preparing for the 86th Legislative Session—

Dr. Williams updated ACTCR members on the following:

- Linked Texas Health Care Information Council Inpatient/Outpatient Cancer Data Set(s). This was discussed last session but would require a statute change.
  - ACTION ITEM: Dr. Williams to discuss further with Dr. Merriman to see if there is still interest in pursuing such a statute change.

- TCR is conducting a review of several other state’s administrative rules and statutes related to cancer reporting, especially those related to non-hospital reporting sources including claims data, to ensure that our statute is current.

- TCR, in collaboration with DSHS Information Technology staff, is conducting an IT Assessment Project on the current CDC Registry Plus Software System and the NCI SEER*DMS hosted system. This assessment and gap analysis will help determine if the current registry software system is satisfactory, should be further enhanced by the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or replaced with new software, such as the NCI Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Data Management System (SEER*DMS). The assessment will take place in Spring 2018 with a report on the findings completed in June/July 2018. If a replacement was recommended this likely would result in an exceptional item funding request for the next legislative session.

Call for Data Results—

Dr. Williams reviewed both the CDC-NPCR and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) Calls for Data Results. TCR achieved NAACCR Gold Certification and met NPCR National Data Quality Standards for the 24-month data standards. Please see the link noted above for more detail.

The TCR is on track for meeting standards for both NAACCR and CDC/NPCR for reporting year 2015 cases.

Grant Funding—

- NPCR/CDC Funding – The TCR received slightly increased funding as part of the new 5-year CDC Cooperative Agreement. Dr. Williams shared that the NPCR has put into place new requirements and/or enhancements of existing ones, some of which Texas already does. For example, the TCR continues to support physician reporting, conducts annual linkages with the National Death Index, and does twice annual interstate data exchanges with states across the US. TCR receives approximately 1,200 files from this exchange, while we provide other states,
etc. with detail on over 20,000 cases. For more information, see the handout link noted above for more detail.

- NCI SEER Funding – After assessing requirements, feasibility and impact, the TCR and DSHS did not apply for SEER funding. This decision was impacted by multiple considerations including contract requirements and penalties as well as the increased burden on Texas’ cancer reporting community. Though TCR did not apply for SEER funding the TCR will strive to and continue to make improvement in data quality.
  
  o **ACTION ITEM:** Potential agenda item for next meeting invite speakers from other states who have successfully competed to become a SEER registry to speak on how the state can better position themselves for future funding opportunities.

As part of this discussion, Dr. Williams shared that in the past ACTCR members have been involved in an 10-year evaluation and strategic planning process. Dr. Williams would like to revisit the earlier document with members and work to develop a new evaluation and strategic plan. This effort will position the TCR to potentially apply for future funding opportunities. ACTCR members participating in the conference call agreed that ACTCR members should be part of this effort.

  o **ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Williams will visit with Dr. Giordano to discuss the evaluation and strategic planning process to determine roles, responsibilities, and next steps. Dr. Williams will solicit ACTCR members to participate.
  
  o **ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Williams will share copy of previously prepared plan document.

Special Projects—

Dr. Williams provided updates on the following:

- Web Survivorship Module Pilot – NPCR/CDC is no longer supporting the Web Survivorship Module software due to resource constraints. There is a Cancer of Alliance of Texas (CAT) workgroup that is focused on survivorship issues and led by Dr. Foxhall.

  o **ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Williams to follow-up with Dr. Foxhall on how the TCR can further support the CAT Survivorship Workgroup.

- Genomics Project Pilot – MD Anderson is awaiting funding to support the Genomics Project Pilot. TCR will support Dr. Foxhall and others involved in the pilot with data and other technical expertise. This pilot would result in data
being shared back with facilities (bi-directional exchange) for the purposes of identification of individuals at risk for hereditary cancer predisposition.

- **NAACCR XML File Format Pilot** – This NAACCR-led pilot focuses on moving to an XML reporting format to better accommodate supplemental data collection. Two large NCI designated CoC cancer centers in Texas expressed interest in moving to an XML reporting format to better accommodate supplemental data collection. TCR staff worked with NAACCR and Oncolog (software vendor), and successfully tested over 1,900 cancer reports and reported 100% agreement in all fields between the XML and NAACCR V16 file formats. The conclusion was that the content and quality of the data were comparable with the cancer center’s usual reporting mechanism. The results will be evaluated for further implementation. For more information, see the “TCR Update Slides” handout linked on the ACTCR webpage.

**TCR Data Dissemination Plan**—

- Dr. Williams reported that the TCR Epidemiology Group is now fully staffed. TCR staff have made significant improvements in the TCR’s Statistics and Research Data webpage (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/data.aspx). Dr. Williams has tasked the Epidemiology Group to draft a Data Dissemination Plan by February/March 2018. The plan will include methods, goals and timeframes. The plan would incorporate ideas shared at the last ACTCR meeting related to data dissemination. The plan will be shared with members a month prior to the next ACTCR Meeting (March/April 2018) so that they have time to review prior to the meeting where the plan will be discussed in detail.

  - **ACTION ITEM:** Epidemiology Group to prepare data dissemination plan and share with ACTCR members the month before the next ACTCR meeting. Members to provide written comments prior to the next ACTCR meeting.

As part of this discussion information was shared or suggested on how we can potentially disseminate or announce the availability of new or improved data to TCR’s customers. The ideas included:

- **Continued use of current methods:**
  - GovDelivery list serves/announcements
  - Web Page announcements
  - ACTCR member updates

- **Possible Future Methods to explore:**
Member Updates/New Business—Group Discussion

- Members provided a few updates that included, but not limited to, UT Southwestern has a new cancer center director and MD Anderson has some additional staffing (new coders).
  
  o **ACTION ITEM: Dr. Williams to follow up with New York Cancer Registry to discuss minimum data elements for non-analytic cases to determine if data elements needing to be reported could be reduced, MD Anderson reported this would be very helpful to them in reporting to TCR. Dr. Williams will also check on no longer requiring reporting of non-US citizens (10% of MD Anderson’s case load).**

- Next meeting will be held in March/April 2018. Members suggested the following agenda items for that meeting:
  
  o Evaluation/Strategic Plan Project update/discussion
  o Dissemination Plan discussion
  o Update on 86th Legislative Session Preparation
  o Invite other states who are SEER registries to talk about their programs and how Texas can better position themselves for future funding opportunities

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:55 PM