

SC Cancer Alliance

The SCCA is dedicated to developing & empowering a diverse network of organizations & individuals committed to working together to reduce the impact of cancer on all people in South Carolina.

Quarterly Update

New Executive Director

Leadership promises continued focus on accountability, transparency, communication and outreach.

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Strategic Direction

The Coordinating Council makes changes to maximize focus on SC Cancer Plan.

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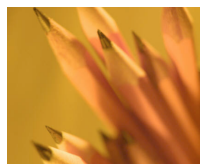


New Meeting Format

Topic-focused educational sessions seek to provide statewide platform for highlighting cancer-related activities across the state.

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Project Workgroups



Changes in SCCA structure allow members to work on a variety of projects.

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October 23rd Meeting "Tools of the Trade"

Registration deadline has been extended until Monday, October 19th. Register on-line at www.sccanceralliance.org.

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Upcoming Activities

Numerous training opportunities are scheduled for 2009-10. Check the SCCA website frequently for details.

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Dear SCCA Members and Friends,

This past June, I shared news of the plans underway to ensure the SCCA's continued success as a strong, coordinated and effective state-wide organization. Since then, we have made great strides in implementing those plans. We have hired a new Executive Director, revamped our accounting system, streamlined operations and begun a thorough evaluation of each of the SCCA projects, committees and workgroups. In addition, we have surveyed our members, partners and the community at large and believe we have a better understanding of the critical role the SCCA can play in increasing the state's capacity to deal with cancer issues.

There is much we all agree on. First, there is overwhelming support for the SCCA and its mission to create and ensure the implementation and evaluation of a statewide cancer plan. In addition, most people believe



It is essential that we not lose sight of the forest for the trees.

that the SCCA has played an essential and irreplaceable role in "bringing people together who ought to be working together" and in the facilitation of a "credible, collective voice for cancer."

The major challenges have been in remaining focused and coordinated, in recruiting members and utilizing members' time

effectively, and in communicating with members and "outsiders" about SCCA activities and impact.

The changes outlined within this update are designed to begin to address those areas of concerns. Meetings have been restructured to educate members about statewide activities and to build consensus within controversial areas. Task Forces are being revamped into Project Workgroups with more clearly defined timelines and outcome measures. The Coordinating Council has begun setting priorities for implementation efforts and resource allocation.

We hope you share the excitement about our future and continue to find the SCCA to be a vital component of your personal and professional life.

*Diane Gluck, MS
President, SCCA Board of Directors*

New Executive Director

Donald Simmons

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of Donald Simmons as the new Executive Director for the SCCA, effective October 19th. Don is an enthusiastic, seasoned leader who has over 20 years of experience in senior management including finance, fund-raising, team building and public relations. He has a Masters Degree in Education and has worked for a variety of non-profit organizations including United Way and, most recently, the Babcock Center in Columbia. His initial areas of focus will be to help establish priorities for the coming year, to ensure that financial and personnel resources are effectively aligned with those priorities and to promote the mission and vision of the SCCA throughout the state.

Don will share an office at DHEC on the 3rd floor of 1800 St. Julian Place in Columbia. He can be reached at (803) 608-4503, or via email at don.simmons@sccanceralliance.org. Please join us in welcoming him during the SCCA Annual Meeting on Friday, Oct. 23rd; take the opportunity to introduce yourself and share your thoughts and ideas for the future of the SCCA.

Behind the Scenes

With the hiring of a full-time Executive Director, Alan Waln will be returning to his previous part-time staff position beginning November 1st. We appreciate Alan for his willingness to step in when needed and commend him for a job well done.

Laura Shull has resigned from her position as coordinator for the CRC Workgroup. Gailya Walter is temporarily staffing that position, in addition to fulfilling her other SCCA responsibilities.

The Breast and Female Cancers Workgroup received a grant from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure to expand the Witness Project to several new communities.

The Colorectal Cancer Workgroup is developing an exciting new Facebook page and is in the midst of a promotional campaign to increase regular colonoscopies among state employees.

The SC Cancer Registry has recently published its 10 year Report on Cancer in South Carolina.

The SCCA has begun collecting Survivor Stories as a precursor to creating a statewide Survivor Network.

Springdale, in Lexington County, has recently gone smoke-free, bringing us to a total of 29 smoke-free ordinances covering 30% of the state's population.

Strategic Direction

The SCCA seeks to facilitate collaboration and coordination in order to ensure maximal use of cancer resources.

With the development of the Board of Directors to oversee the governance-aspects of the organization, the Coordinating Council has taken on more focused responsibility for the Cancer Plan – its implementation, evaluation, resource development and promotion. To facilitate that, the Coordinating Council has voted to meet more frequently and to no longer have its meetings on the same day as the SCCA membership meetings.



A Coordinating Council Liaison committee has been established to help consolidate a strategic

plan regarding potential changes in Council structure, membership, and agenda. Peggy Anthony, Interim Chair for the Coordinating Council, heads that committee. Elections for new Council positions have been suspended pending the results of those discussions.

New Meeting Format

The SCCA is dedicated to providing the research, education and networking opportunities essential to developing strong, effective intervention efforts.

The SCCA has changed the focus of the general membership meetings to a format that places greater emphasis on education and networking. Beginning with the October meeting, you will notice that the Task Force and Coordinating Council meetings have been removed from the agenda to allow more time to learn, network and become engaged in worthwhile discussions about how to address critical cancer issues and controversies confronting our state.

Beginning with the October meeting, which focuses on ways to enhance community outreach efforts, each of the membership meetings will address a specific, cancer-related topic. Future potential program areas include: Cancer Screening (what we know and where to go), Cancer Research



(from bench to bedside), Cancer Risk (heredity vs. environment, or both), and Cancer Prevention (awareness vs. behavior change). A listing of 2009-10 topics will be released soon so that you can clear your calendar to attend. Contact Don Simmons if you are interested in helping with program development.

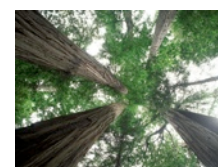
Project Workgroups

Since its inception, the SCCA has been structured around six Task Forces focused on controlling the overall impact of cancer - Prevention, Early Detection, Research, Patient Care, Survivorship and Advocacy. These Task Forces formed the basis of the SC Cancer Plan and have played a critical role in defining the areas of greatest need and promise within our state.

As we moved into implementation, however, the Task Force model has often diverted energies away from focused projects and created challenges in communication, evaluation and membership development. TF members consistently express concerns about lack of direction, insufficient time to get things done, lack of awareness of other SCCA activities and desires to participate in projects falling outside their Task Force.

For that reason, the SCCA will change to a Project-Based rather than TF-based structure. Since many TF members already work on specific project subcommittees, there may be little noticeable change except for the elimination of the quarterly TF meetings. For those who are still looking for a place to connect, information will be available at the October meeting, on the website and in subsequent communications about all on-going projects.

All current SCCA projects - both funded and unfunded - will transition into independent Project WorkGroups. Additional workgroups will be developed, as interest and need arise.



Leadership, meeting structure and frequency, target goals and timelines will be set by the workgroups and overseen by the Coordinating Council.

There is a lot going on - contact any staff member to talk about how you can become more involved.

Upcoming Activities & Opportunities

- November 19, 2009 - Smoke-Free Summit, Midlands
- December 4, 2009 - Palliative Care Conference
- January 22, 2010 - SCCA Member Meeting
- January 30, 2010 - Moving Witness Forward Conference
- January 2010 - Lay Navigator Pilot Training