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An Introduction to the Priorities of the Michigan Cancer Consortium

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An Introduction to the Priorities of the Michigan Cancer Consortium

Cover Page Footnote

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

An Introduction to the Priorities of the Michigan Cancer Consortium

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Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Michigan. Approximately 144 people are diagnosed with cancer and 56 people die from cancer each day in our state. For those under 80 years of age, cancer is the leading cause of death (Michigan Vital Records). Efforts to address cancer take place at many levels including federal, state, local, and organizational. Through this multi-level approach all areas and populations in Michigan are targeted with interventions intended to reduce the impact of cancer.

An important facet of this state's approach to cancer is the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC). The statewide coalition consists of nearly 100 diverse member organizations that address cancer using an evidence-based cancer plan. Michigan's plan reflects the cancer continuum and encompasses prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and quality of life. In order to focus its collective resources, the Consortium selected four priorities to address from 2016 through 2018.

The following four articles describe each priority of the MCC. The articles represent and are organized according to the cancer continuum, a) prevent cancer from occurring, b) promote early detection of cancer using tests that have been shown to reduce mortality, c) diagnose and treat patients using effective and appropriate methods, and d) optimize quality of life for people affected by cancer.

All articles address the efforts undertaken by workgroups assembled around each priority for 2016-2018 (implementation ended December 31, 2017). The work described in the articles was completed through collective effort. Each workgroup was led by one, or two, content experts and each workgroup received staff support. The contributions of content experts, staff, and workgroup members must be acknowledged and is critical to the successes and managing the challenges encountered.

It is helpful to know that workgroups were asked to undertake projects that addressed health equity and/or policy, system, and environmental change related to each priority. Health equity and policy, system, and environmental change are two of four pillars that support the cancer plan and its implementation. Work plans were developed to outline the projects and the MCC Board of Directors approved each one prior to implementation. Workgroups provided a mid-term status report to the Board in early 2017.

In the fall of 2017, the MCC Board of Directors selected four priorities for 2018 through 2020 (implementation will end December 31, 2019). Work has begun on the new priorities and those activities are mentioned in varying degrees within the articles. The leadership of the MCC, Board of Directors, MCC member organizations, and partners are vital to the successes you will read about.

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References:

1. 2015 Michigan Resident Death File, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics.
2. Michigan Resident Cancer Incidence File. Includes cases diagnosed in 2014 and processed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics by November 30, 2016.