



MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee to the Texas Cancer Registry
Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 12:00–1:00 PM

Members/Designees/Guests Participating:

Maria Hoang Tran, MPH, CTR, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, **ACTCR Chair**
Philip Lupo, PhD, MPH, Baylor College of Medicine, **ACTCR Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect**
Sandi Pruitt, PhD, MPH, UT Southwestern Medical Center
Lewis Foxhall, MD, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Kelly Merriman, MPH, PhD, CTR, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Laura Wood, American Cancer Society
Michael Scheurer, PhD, MPH, Baylor College of Medicine
Zuber Mulla, MSPH, PhD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
Theresa Byrd, RN, DrPH, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Sharon Giordano, MD, MPH, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Karen Torges, Cancer Alliance of Texas

Texas Cancer Registry:

Melanie Williams, PhD, Branch Manager, TCR
Saroj Rai, PhD, MPH, Epidemiology Manager, TCR
Susan Perez, CTR, RHIT, Registry Operations Manager, TCR
Katie Dahlquist, MEd, Information Specialist, TCR

Note: Please refer to the ACTCR webpage for handouts and presentations from the meeting (see links under July 29, 2020: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/actcr.aspx>)

I. Welcome — Maria Hoang Tran, MPH, CTR, ACTCR Chair	
Call to Order and Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called meeting to order. Introduced new ACTCR member – Laura Wood, American Cancer Society Transition to new ACTCR officers



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair – Philip Lupo, PhD, MPH ○ Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect – Sandi Pruitt, PhD, MPH ● Approved minutes from October 2019 ACTCR meeting.
II. General Updates – Melanie Williams, PhD, TCR Branch Director	
<p>COVID-19 Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TCR went from zero telework staff to 100% telework staff this spring. It took a few months for all staff to get necessary work laptops and network access. ● Majority of TCR staff have been assigned temporary COVID-related job duties, including contact tracing. As of July, only three TCR staff are still assigned to COVID duties. Two epi staff will be phased out of COVID duties soon. ● Impact on cancer reporting is still being assessed. ● TCR has no plans on supplemental Covid-19 data collection at this time, but this could change. ● NCI contacted TCR about a data linkage to study the impact of COVID-19 on cancer patients. TCR and DSHS (Infection Disease) are currently looking at the feasibility and ability to participate. ● Question (Lewis Foxhall): Has TCR seen a decrease in cancer screening or diagnosis, which Dr Brooks of American Cancer Society recently reported. Answer: At this time, TCR has only heard directly from facilities about how it’s impacting reporting. ● Question (Lewis Foxhall): How will TCR account for late-stage cancer patients who die of COVID-19 but would likely have died of cancer. Answer: Having correctly filled out death certificates is always an issue. TCR looks at all lines of the death certificate data, including underlining/primary and contributing causes of death.
<p>Staffing Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TCR currently has only 4 vacancies! In contrast, TCR had 15 vacancies in August 2017, 11 in August 2018, and 11 in August 2019.
<p>SEER Application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In February 2020, TCR submitted a proposal to join the National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results program. ● Total proposed cost — \$9,699,727 (over 7.5 years) ● Currently, SEER is on track to announce award recipients in Fall 2020.
<p>CDC-NPCR Cooperative Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submitted Year 3 Progress Report and Year 4 Workplan in January 2020 ● Year progress report received commendation and no deficiencies were noted



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TCR received a level (\$1,988,315) Year 4 funding with no requested budget revisions Year 4 workplan was accepted without questions or revision
Calls for Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnosis Year 2017 -- TCR received NAACCR Gold Certification for the 14th time; achieved NPCR "High Quality Data Standards" and recognized as CDC-NPCR Registry of Distinction Diagnosis Year 2018 – 87.7% complete (as of 7/28/20) Diagnosis Year 2019 – 44.9% complete (as of 7/28/20)
87 th Legislative Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSHS and CHI Division are continuing to monitor and review plans for 87th Legislative Session. Texas is expecting a shortfall in revenue due to COVID-19 economic crisis. TCR is funded through CPRIT bond and CDC grant, not the state general revenue. There are no proposed changes to TCR state funding or TCR statutes.

III. Epidemiology Update — Saroj Rai, PhD, MPH, TCR Epidemiology Manager

2020 Data Dissemination Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published all annual web tables to the TCR website and updated Limited-Use Data File and Web Query Tool through diagnosis year 2017 Published 2020 TCR Annual Legislative Report on DSHS website Web reports and Cancer in Texas 2020 publication have been pushed back until August–September 2020 due to Covid-19. Question (Kelly Merriman): How is TCR selecting cancers for Race Cancers in Texas Report? Answer: TCR Epi Keisha Musonda has conducted a lit review looking at how rare cancers are defined and which sites are usually included. She is putting together a recommendation for the report. TCR can share with Kelly and other interested members for feedback. See handout for more information
Published TCR Data Products	See handout for list of tables and products published to website in 2020
Feedback and Suggestions for 2021 Data Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood Cancers (dependent on whether childhood cancers are included in the rare cancers report) Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers

IV. Other Updates — Group Discussion

Due to time constraints, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks to discuss national childhood cancer initiatives and subcounty cancer data projects.



Action Item: Katie will send out poll to select date of follow-up meeting.

V. Member Updates/New Business — Group Discussion

Member Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Scheurer – Dan L Duncan Cancer Center received feedback from NCI regarding their Cancer Center Support Grant. It has been renewed for five more years.• Kelly Merriman – Shout out to all the CTRs. Many across the national are being furloughed, and she’s grateful for programs that have been able to keep their CTRs on at this time. Without CTRs, there is not cancer data.
Member Recommendations	TCR is seeking new members to represent pathology and the UT School of Public Health. Action Item: Send suggestions/recommendations to Katie Dahlquist.
Next Regular Meeting	Date: September 11, 2020 (Friday) Time: 11:30am–1:30pm Teleconference only

VI. Adjourn