

Karmanos Cancer Institute Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement

Collaborating Partners:

The Research and Advocacy Consortium (RAC), a community-based collaborative spearheaded by OCHCE, is a growing network of community partners including faith based, social service, public health and cultural organizations. There are currently close to 40 community stakeholder organizations working together with OCHECE and KCI scientists to support evidence-based interventions to improve cancer outcomes; inform diverse communities about clinical trials, cancer control, prevention, screening, treatment; aid in the dissemination and implementation of research discoveries; and support cancer-relevant health practices and policy recommendations to address social determinants of cancer care. Collaborating partners represent diverse populations with respect to age, race and ethnicity, gender, income and geography. Minority communities include, but are not limited to the LGBTQ, Black, Latinx, Arab American, tribal, rural and elderly populations. OCHCE takes identified research priorities and matches them to participatory research funding opportunities to help further investigate key factors that expose the complexity of cancer-related issues and develop recommendations for implementation. Specific partner organizations include:

Southeast Region

- ACCESS
- Affirmations
- Detroit Health Department
- Detroit Parent Network
- Focus Hope
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council
- Gilda's Club
- Honor Community Health
- Jewish Family Services
- LGBT Detroit
- Macomb County Health Department
- Oakland Community Health Network
- Oakland County Michigan Health Division
- Pro Literacy Detroit
- Sisters Network Greater Metropolitan Detroit
- Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
- Wayne County Health Department
- Western Wayne Family Health Center

East Region

- Ebenezer Ministries
- Flint ReCast
- Latinos United for Flint

North/Central Region

- Isabella County Community Center
- United Ways of Gratiot and Isabella
- East Jordan Family Health Center

- Health Department of Northwest Michigan
- Region 9 Area Agency on Aging
- Area Agency on Aging of Northwestern Michigan

Statewide/multi-region

- American Cancer Society – North Central Region
- Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Isabella Citizens for Health

Additionally, OCHECE coordinates the Michigan Cancer HealthLink, a network of Cancer Action Councils (CACs): groups of cancer survivors, caregivers, and advocates who use their local expertise and influence within the community to inform a cancer research agenda and deliver cancer-relevant education. More than 80 CAC members have undergone a basic research curriculum to build their capacity around research and are asked to reflect and act upon the pressing cancer needs of their respective communities by generating research questions for scientists to pursue. Active CACs include Conner Creek Village (Detroit), Western Wayne Family Health Center (Inkster), ACCESS (Dearborn), LGBT Detroit (Detroit), American Cancer Society (Southfield), Macomb Department of Health (Mt. Clemens), Ebenezer Ministries (Burton/metro Flint) and the Black Men’s Cancer Action Council (Detroit), recently launched in early 2020. Moreover, OCHCE is in the process of identifying new members to form a Rural Health CAC representing residents from North/Central Michigan.

Project description and outcomes:

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In OCHCE’s first three years of existence, collaborations led to the expansion of both the Michigan Cancer HealthLink CACs and the RAC. Initial RAC members included approximately 15 partners already involved in research with KCI, all from southeast Michigan. Fast forward and the RAC now has close to

40 members across the 46-county catchment area, representing a 2.6 fold increase in less than two years.

Learn More:

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