

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program Allocation Steering Committee Minutes Conference Call, May 19, 2009

Committee Members:

- Dr. Michelle Berlin; representing Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU Center for Women's Health)—not present but responding in writing
- Gail Brownmiller; representing Susan G. Komen for the Cure
- Pat Crozier; representing Conference of Local Health Officials (CHLO)
- Beth Epstein; representing DHS Women's and Reproductive Health Section
- Mandi Poltl; representing American Cancer Society
- Julie McFarlane; representing DHS WISEWOMAN (WW) program—not present but responding in writing
- Dr. Elizabeth Steiner; representing the Knight Cancer Center

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) staff in attendance: Amy Manchester Harris, Anna Meddaugh, Elvin Yuen, Maureen Hinman, Mary Kate Brousseau, and Kate Schmidt

Welcome – Amy Manchester Harris

Amy welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda.

- a. Overall number discussion
- b. Provider Map Overview
- c. Provider Allocations/Adjustments/Waiting List
- d. Policies – Mammography payments and Provider Triage Guidance
- e. Notification of Providers and Next Steps

Overall Numbers – Amy Manchester Harris

BCCP received the final budget award from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in early May. The funding request BCCP submitted to CDC was for an additional \$1 million. This was not awarded and the program received a small increase of about \$50,000.

This change requires BCCP to re-figure the Clinical Cost Worksheet (CCW) to match the budget award. CCW estimates the types and numbers of diagnostic services needed, has a formula for this calculation using a projected screening volume and program-specific rates of abnormalities. Data from the BCCP Web Data System are used to determine abnormal rates. CCW takes both CDC and other non-federal funds (Susan G. Komen and American Cancer Society) and calculates the number of women the program can cover with the funding provided.

When the original grant application was submitted for the additional \$1 million; ACS and Komen funds were tentative. The program now has those final additional funding amount, which have been added to figure the total number of women.

The number of projected women the program can serve with the funding is lower than originally though. Cost have gone up and even with the mammography to every 2 years the cost does not go down greatly - the mammography policy allows us to see different women and therefore over the course of a couple years serve more individual women with BCCP services.

At this time, the total the CCW is calculating BCCP can serve is: 5758. This is the number which is currently found in the allocation materials. We are reviewing our budget to see if we can put any additional funds into services (moved from other administrative services) and still be able to functionally run the program. This also means working with CDC to seek approval for the reduction of funds in administrative line items. The total number may be increased slightly and we would re-adjust the final allocation numbers based on this prior to release to BCCP providers. But realistically this will add a couple of slots and not thousands.

Some of the reasons that the projected number of women is lower include:

- BCCP is being conservative about projecting numbers to ensure that the program does not go over budget.
- BCCP is anticipating that there will be a higher percentage of symptomatic women this year. Since symptomatic women typically need more services, costs will be increased.
- The cost of services have been increased.

The total number on the county allocations is now 4758. This is because 1000 allotments were held as a reserve to allow the program to serve symptomatic women.

Provider Map Overview – Anna Meddaugh

Anna reviewed the map showing where in each county BCCP providers are located, overlaid on population density. The map table that accompanies it shows the number of providers in each city within each county because they can be difficult to read in detail on the map.

The map will be finalized after this meeting when provider allocations have been approved. Some wait-listed providers were included on the map. There are 4 tribes being added and some placeholders in counties where more providers are needed.

The map shows that BCCP providers are generally located in population centers of each county. Recruitment is occurring in the few instances where that is not the case.

Provider Allocations/Adjustment/Waiting List – Mary Kate Brousseau

Mary Kate reviewed the methodology that was used to apply the criteria to providers within a county [*see meeting minutes from 4/24/09 for more detail*]. She also discussed the document called BCCP Allocation Process that describes how allocations were shifted by provider in the cases that were exceptions to the standard criteria process.

It was noted that BCCP should monitor the rule that providers receive a minimum of four allotments to see if that is worth the time for the provider to learn the program.

There was a clarifying question about whether symptomatic women come out of the base number assigned to providers until their allocations are used up, and it was confirmed that they do.

Policies – Mammography payments and Provider Triage Guidance

Maureen discussed the implementation plan for the new policy which allows BCCP to pay for a mammogram for a client every other year rather than annually. The policy applies only to screening mammograms. Clinical Breast Exams will still be paid for annually and women that have a clinically documented personal history of breast cancer will be allowed an exception to the policy.

Extensive communications will be sent out beginning with an insert in the allocation packet. The policy will also be posted on the BCCP website, sent to mammogram facilities, included in BCCP newsletters and with claims. It was suggested that an insert be included in with checks as well and included on the announcement page that will be added to the BCCP web data system. Gail offered to send out e-blast to all Komen grantees.

It was noted that there needs to be a rule in the system that allows for follow-up mammograms in the case that a woman gets a mammogram that the BCCP doesn't pay for and there is a need for follow-up.

There was concern that women will get billed and a question about if BCCP could have a backup plan for that. The implementation plan includes a 3-month grace period from July 1 until October 1 to allow time for the communication to get out and providers to develop a plan for their clinics to manage the policy. In October the program will begin contacting providers that are continuing to bill for second annual mammograms. System changes will be implemented by January, and if possible, earlier. Detailed system requirements are being developed and cost and time estimates will be gathered from Ahlers and Associates.

A guidance was also developed to help providers triage which clients they use their allotments on based on BCCP's priority populations. The guidance focuses on BCCP's goal of providing at least 75% of initial mammograms to women over the age of 50. It was decided that no policy will be developed in the 2009-2010 fiscal year to avoid overwhelming providers with changes. If the percentage of initial mammograms that are provided to women over the age of 50 does not significantly increase in the next year then a policy may need to be created and enforced in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Notification of Providers and Next Steps – Amy Manchester Harris

Providers will be sent an allocation packet including:

- Cover letter with allocation numbers; quarter breakdown of numbers; and list of materials include in the mailing;
- Mammography Policy
- Priority Population Guidance
- CBE training materials/announcement
- BCCP Technical Assistance Guide
- Eligibility Grid
- List of MSA Ancillary Providers
- How to use your explanation of benefits (EOB) document
- Survey of Specialized Services

Steering Committee members will be sent the same packet. BCCP will mail the packets out before June 1, 2009.