

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend the first CLP meeting of 2021. We hope you'll find the following summary and recent CoC updates useful in your role as the CLP for your program.

### **CLP Meeting**

At the April 20 CLP Meeting, Cancer Liaison Program Chair Quyen Chu, MD, FACS and Vice-Chair Maria Castaldi, MD, FACS, welcomed participants. Dr. Chu provided an update from the CoC, including an [overview of changes to CoC Standard 6.5](#) (programs are no longer required to collect follow up information for cases diagnosed before 2004). The [2020 Annual Cancer Quality Improvement Program \(CQIP\) Report](#) has been released. CQIP allows programs to assess quality and outcomes based on the data they have submitted to the National Cancer Database (NCDB). CLPs can use this report to meet compliance with the Cancer Liaison Physician Standard 2.2 to include presenting key findings from the report to the cancer committee with a focus on areas of concern or where expected performance is not being met and lead a discussion on recommendations for interventions to improve cancer care.

Following Dr. Chu's opening remarks, American Cancer Society Chief Medical and Scientific Officer William Cance, MD, FACS, provided an update on the Society's Return to Screening Initiative. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented drops in breast, colorectal, lung, and cervical cancer screenings. As a result, the American Cancer Society is focusing efforts and resources on increasing screening rates, while addressing and improving health equity. CLPs also viewed a presentation on the [Cancer Surgery Standards Program](#) (CSSP) and CoC Operative Standards, led by CSSP Education Committee Chair Mediget Teshome, MD, FACS and CSSP Education Committee Vice-Chair Timothy Vreeland, MD, FACS.

Finally, Dr. Chu welcomed a panel of CoC site reviewers to discuss best practices, common challenges, and tips for success. The site reviewers on the panel included Robert Flanigan, MD, FACS; Peter Hopewood, MD, FACS; Maureen Killackey, MD, FACS; and Jim Kruse, DO, FACS.

A recording of the April 20 CLP Meeting will be available on the [CLP web page](#). The Commission on Cancer (CoC) is planning a second CLP meetings this year, in October. Please keep an eye out for an invitation with more information later this summer.

### **New PDSA Quality Improvement Project and Clinical Study**

At the April 13 Town Hall meeting, ACS Cancer Programs Medical Director Heidi Nelson, MD, FACS, and Brian Brajcich, MD, presented information on the new elective [Plan/Do/Study/Act \(PDSA\) 2021 quality improvement project and clinical study](#), which is now available for all CoC and National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) sites who wish to participate. The new initiative was created to help programs curtail the rising cancer burden in their local community, resulting from the pandemic, and use the American Cancer Society return to screening resources to comply with select standards.

Among the highlights cited by Dr. Nelson and Dr Brajcich:

- It is **elective**; you do not have to participate.
- It is intended to help use **existing materials** to accelerate return to screening.
- Completing the PDSA project will fulfill **CoC Standard 8.3** (cancer screening event) and **NAPBC Standard 4.1** (education, prevention, and early detection programs).
- Completing the PDSA project will fulfill **CoC Standard 7.3** (quality improvement initiative) and **NAPBC Standard 6.1** (quality and outcomes).

- Completing the IRB exempt clinical study will provide local PI status, publication authorship, and part or full credit for **CoC Standard 9.1** (clinical research accrual) and **NAPBC standard 3.2** (clinical trial accrual).
- CoC and NAPBC-accredited programs can participate in the PDSA only, or in the PDSA and clinical study.
- Completing forms A, B, and C will be required in order for programs to achieve compliance with CoC Standards 7.3, 8.3, and 9.1 and NAPBC Standards 3.2, 4.1, and 6.1.
- Programs are welcome to use the information and interventions without completing and submitting the PDSA or clinical study forms, but they will not be eligible to receive credit for CoC Standards 7.3, 8.3, and 9.1 and NAPBC Standards 3.2, 4.1, and 6.1.

### **ACS Cancer Programs Conference: Quality Cancer Care in Motion VIRTUAL**

CLPs can still register and view recorded content from the [Cancer Programs Conference: Quality Cancer Care in Motion VIRTUAL](#), which was held April 27 and 28. Several sessions of particular interest to CLPs include deep dives into Standards 2.2, 7.1 and 7.3, and Standards 5.3 to 5.8. An additional session focused on the new Rapid Cancer Reporting System. Your registration will allow you to access the content for the next several months. There is a nominal registration fee.

### **CLP Tip**

If you haven't already done so, please take some time to view the [CLP Orientation Video](#). Whether you are new to the role or need a refresher on topics such as the CoC Standards, CoC Datalinks, or the NCDB tools, this brief video will provide you with background on the responsibilities of the CLP.

Thank you for all you do as your cancer program's CLP to improve the quality of care for cancer patients.