

2/12/2025 | 12pm | Virtual Meeting Only

Type of Meeting	Monthly eHealth Commission Meeting
Facilitator	Kaakpema (KP) Yelpaala
Commission	Amy Bhikha, Kaakpema (KP) Yelpaala, Kevin Stansbury, Micah Jones, Michael Feldmiller, Misgana Tesfaye, Alex Reed, Ellen Sarcone, Jackie Sievers, Krystal
Attendees	Morwood Absent: Mona Baset (prior notice), Toni Baruti, Sophia Gin (prior notice), Patrick Gordon, Parrish Steinbrecher

Minutes

Call to Order

KP Yelpaala

- Quorum Met: No
- Voting of Meeting Minutes: The approval of the January meeting minutes was deferred to the next month due to the lack of quorum.
- Corrections for January 2024 eHealth Commission meeting minutes: None

Announcements

Stephanie Pugliese, Director, Office of eHealth Innovation

- Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera welcomed two new eHealth Commissioners, Ellen Sarcone and Dr. Alex Reed. She also thanked everyone for their feedback on the Health IT Roadmap, and emphasized the importance of cancer survivorship resources and Colorado's commitment to expanding early detection programs.
- Stephanie Pugliese announced that the Colorado Health IT Roadmap will be released in April, 2025. She also announced that several commissioner reappointments are in progress and that there are a couple of vacant spots on the commission, including a digital health representative.
- Kaakpema (KP) Yelpaala wished Stephanie Pugliese a happy belated birthday (February 8th) and Danielle Varda a happy birthday.

New Business

Mapping Cancer Survivorship Resources in Colorado: Results

Bing Walker, PhD | Danielle Varda, PhD | Jennifer Lawlor, PhD | Andy Zheng, MA

- Presentation Slides: [Mapping Cancer Survivorship Resources in Colorado: Results](#)

Detailed Summary: Danielle Varda, Bing Walker, and Jennifer Lawlor presented on mapping



cancer survivorship resources in Colorado. They discussed the importance of the project, the methodology used, and the key findings. The project identified 92 cancer centers and 117 community resources in Colorado. The results showed that cancer centers are offering and referring survivors to many resources, but there are still some gaps, particularly in financial support and formalized referrals. The project also found that there are many referral relationships that are long-standing but fairly low volume, and many that operate at the awareness-only level. Overall, the project provides valuable insights into the cancer survivorship ecosystem in Colorado and can be used to inform future efforts to improve care for survivors.

- **Overview**

- The Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program was funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP)
- Bing explained that the purpose of this program is to increase cancer prevention and control across the continuum of care - primary prevention, screening and early detection, and cancer survivorship.
- In order to do this, there was a need to fund policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) approaches through strategies that leverage data to identify needs, collaborate with partners across the state, and implement evidence-based interventions (EBIs) to improve screening and monitor and evaluate progress.
- This project identifies survivorship resources and opportunities to provide technical assistance to cancer centers to increase connections to survivorship resources, and aligns with Colorado Cancer Plan Objective 8.3: Improve transitions throughout the continuum of care for all people affected by cancer.

- **About CDPHE & Visible Network Labs**

- Visible Network Labs (VNL) is a social enterprise with a mission to strengthen social connectedness at the individual and systems levels, for better health, mental health, wellness, and economic opportunities.
- They provide technology-based data and mapping tools, learning through trainings and workshops, and opportunities for collaborative innovation
- VNL currently works with multiple state agencies including OeHI and CDPHE.

- **Alignment to CO Health IT Roadmap & Goals**

- Danielle highlighted the importance of networking/collaboration in doing this work in the public health sector.
- She proceeded to show that this platform aligns with the Colorado Health IT Roadmap goals by
 - enhancing ways to track community engagement
 - providing safe and accessible data sharing



- and applying Science of Networks to community partnerships and care coordination.
- **About the Project: Cancer Survivorship Referral Ecosystem in CO**
 - Jenny started to explain more about the project by outlining the project background
 - The need was to map the referral ecosystem for cancer survivors in CO
 - Tools developed for this project was a customized Partner CPRM which served as a tool to collect, store, map, and analyze the referral ecosystem.
 - To carry out the work, VNL and CDPHE collaboratively compiled and uploaded ecosystem members (a list of cancer centers and organizational resources in CO), developed questions that capture info about members and their connections, launched a survey of cancer centers in Colorado, and identified community resources to which they refer survivors, and described their referral experiences
 - This data was used to
 - Identify barriers to service and gaps in services to cancer survivors
 - Identify strengths in services and referral relationships
 - Characterize the existing referral relationships in terms of their quality, length, and origin
 - Project deliverable and resources produced were (information to these deliverables and resources can be found on slide 18):
 - a live dashboard
 - a policy brief
 - a full report of finding
 - Jenny explained that as CDPHE and VNL began doing this work, they found that there was no comprehensive list of cancer centers across Colorado, so the project team worked to compile a list.
 - The results were that there were:
 - 92 cancer centers identified in CO
 - 117 community resources identified (some cancer centers)
 - Of those centers:
 - 17 responded to the survey
 - 339 were identified as a referral relationship.
 - A map of where services are provided was developed and the results showed that there was slightly more concentration in urban parts of Colorado.
 - VNL also found that cancer centers refer patients to several community services that provide support via financial support, support groups and services, psychological support and psychiatric services, and more. However, some of these resources do not



have an ideal amount of availability, particularly in financial support and formalized referrals.

- The project also found that there are many referral relationships that are long-standing but fairly low volume, and many that operate at the awareness-only level.
- Some of the barriers that arise in serving survivors are lack of transportation, lack of integrated health systems, and the lack of personnel/staff, and more.

- **Key Findings From This Work**

- The project used a network science approach to map the referral ecosystem for cancer survivors in Colorado.
- The project identified 92 cancer centers and 117 community resources in Colorado.
- Cancer centers are offering and referring survivors to many resources, but there are still some gaps, particularly in financial support and formalized referrals.
- Many referral relationships are long-standing but fairly low volume, and many operate at the awareness-only level.
- The project provides valuable insights into the cancer survivorship ecosystem in Colorado and can be used to inform future efforts to improve care for survivors.

Open Discussion

- Jackie Sievers commented on the transportation needs identified in the project and shared that her organization, Contexture and QHN, consistently sees transportation as a top need in their social determinants of health assessments.
- Krystal Morwood asked if the project was able to gain any insights on racial inequities in cancer survivorship and challenges.
 - Danielle Varda responded that the project did not specifically ask about race but that it is something they could consider in future work.
 - Bing Walker added that it was a demographic question they considered, but it was hard to quantify since they were asking cancer centers.

Public Comment Period

- No new comments

Action Items

- *Next meeting: March 12, 2025 (HYBRID) at 12pm*

Motion to Adjourn

Kaakpema (KP) Yelapaala

- Motion to adjourn this meeting was approved by Commissioner Krystal Morwood
- Seconded by Commissioner Parrish Steinbrecher