

NAACCR Professional Development Steering Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

8:30 am PT; 11:30 am ET

1. Welcome, Roll Call
Present: Angela, Mignon Frances, Michelle
2. Approval of minutes from 9/28/17 – amended and approved
3. Update on “Survey Course” – Recinda is working on a couple of presentations, and may try to use Webex rather than Powerpoint. Angela will have to test it to see if it works in the LMS.
4. LMS Update – NAACCR has finished the survey about the NAACCR Talks and they will be featured in an article in the next NAACCR Narrative.
5. IT Forum Update and Next Steps – Michelle reported that a Brainstorming Session conference call has been set up for Oct. 31st, with several interested parties from the University of Pittsburg, as well as Isaac Hands, and Charlie Blackburn and Angela Martin from NAACCR. This will primarily be a planning session, dealing with the logistics of carrying out the hack-a-thon. Although she has not received a firm commitment from Pitt yet, Michelle has received very positive feedback regarding their interest in hosting this event, at a minimal cost. She said she was supposed to get some cost information before the call, but has not received it yet. The work group plans to approach other universities in the area, (Duquesne, Carnegie Mellon) to see if there is interest in participating after the meeting with the Pitt representatives.
6. Question from Robin Maliki of Wisconsin regarding cancer registry educational resources for cancer informatics personnel. This was sent to Michelle who forwarded it to the group. Frances had forwarded it to Eric Durbin, but has not received a reply yet. We will keep looking for a resource to answer this question.
7. Special Guest: Lori Swain, NCRA Executive Director - Overview of NCRA R&R efforts

Lori gave a brief but remarkably thorough synopsis of all of the NCRA’s efforts to address recruitment and retention issues of concern to cancer registrars. She said that their efforts really got underway about 15 years ago, when the primary pathway to this occupation was education and the CTR credential. In 2004, they conducted a survey to assess what the cancer registrar workforce actually looked like. This resulted in a list of recommendations which they shared with the larger cancer surveillance community. One conclusion was that the path to this career is a ‘pipeline’ where interested potential registrars start to learn the necessary skills and then apply for the certification test to get their credentials.

One of the recommendations that NCRA pursued was to get a Standard Occupational Code, or designation, for cancer registrars. This would allow access to data on this specific group in the future, and would elevate the profession’s visibility. Initial efforts to achieve this designation

have not been successful; cancer registrars are still lumped into a category of employment with other occupations, but NCRA is continuing to work on this.

About 7 years ago, NCRA surveyed Health Information Management schools, to find out how they teach the cancer registry curriculum section. They found a wide variation in how much attention and time was given to this aspect of health information. More attention to this education section was given if the faculty was familiar with cancer registries themselves. Lori said that NCRA began to create educational materials and presentations and gave them to HIM schools to use.

In 2012, NCRA conducted another survey and published a Salary and Compensation Manual, to help provide a national overview for registrars who are considering this career choice, and for employers who would use this information in establishing and filling these positions. The Manual has been reviewed and updated, and will be released again in 2017.

Lori's recommendation to this committee was to identify the specific barriers and problems that central cancer registries are encountering when trying to find qualified registry personnel. She felt that there would be issues specific to each state or locality, but that many of them would be in common. We could conduct a survey and analyze the responses to see what specific issues affected central registries the most; what issues are policy issues (i.e., remote working), budget issues, educational issues, etc. Then we could begin to develop a plan to address specific issues where we could have the most impact.