
BREAST CANCER ACTION PLAN FOR KENTUCKY

Report to Governor Paul E. Patton
by the
Kentucky Breast Cancer Task Force



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 30, 1999



Executive Summary

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death among Kentucky women. Risk for breast cancer increases with age. Each year, three-quarters of the new breast cancer cases diagnosed in Kentucky occur among women over age 50, and half of all new cases occur in women over age 65. To reduce breast cancer mortality rates among women of all ages, screening mammography services must be readily available and accessible, women diagnosed with breast cancer must receive optimal treatment, and provisions must be made for continuity of care across all stages of the disease.

The critical need to address breast cancer mortality and related issues prompted Governor Paul E. Patton to establish the Kentucky Breast Cancer Task Force. An Executive Order issued in February 1998 instructed the Task Force to assess and make recommendations to the Governor on the following:

- Effectiveness and adequacy of educational inreach/outreach programs throughout the state, including an inventory of such programs and the materials and approaches used;
- Availability, accessibility, quality, utilization, and outcomes of public and private breast cancer screening and treatment services, including continuity of care and rehabilitation;
- Adequacy of health insurance coverage with regard to breast cancer-related issues;
- Services needed and received by uninsured and underinsured women with breast cancer;
- Availability and allocation of state and federal dollars for breast cancer and areas of need; and
- Availability and utilization of data from private and public sources on breast cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.

The Governor appointed Judi Patton, First Lady of the Commonwealth, to chair the Task Force and Dr. Gilbert Friedell, Director Emeritus of the Markey Cancer Center, to serve as Executive Director. At the Governor's request, the Kentucky Cancer Program assumed responsibility for Task Force coordination and management. Task Force members included radiologists, medical oncologists, radiation therapists, surgeons, and other practicing physicians; nurses; breast cancer survivors; local/county public health officials; medical social workers; and representatives of the Kentucky Department for



Public Health, American Cancer Society, Health Kentucky, Inc., Kentucky African Americans Against Cancer, the Kentucky Breast Cancer Advisory Committee, the Kentucky Breast Cancer Coalition, the Kentucky Medical Association, local breast cancer coalitions, and the health insurance community. National experts on mammography registries, breast cancer prevention and education, and clinical treatment guidelines served as Task Force consultants.

The Task Force held meetings in October and December 1998 and in February and April 1999. At the October inaugural meeting, Task Force members established four work groups to gather preliminary information on breast cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and quality-of-life services. After completing these tasks, members divided into five new work groups to examine public education, breast cancer screening and treatment, health insurance coverage, supportive services and palliative care, and data/research needs. Each work group met several times and communicated by conference call between meetings. Their collective activities culminated in the adoption of 18 recommendations and 60 proposed actions.

This report summarizes key issues affecting the quality, accessibility, and outcomes of breast cancer screening and care. Specific recommendations and proposed actions follow each issue, along with a listing of data/information needs. The Task Force's priorities for implementation are as follows:

First Priority

- Establish an integrated, ongoing public information program to foster a high degree of knowledge among women of all ages about breast cancer risks, early detection, treatment options, and quality-of-life issues.
- Provide all women ages 40 and older with access to screening mammography in accordance with current American Cancer Society guidelines.
- Develop strategies to improve the availability and accessibility of breast cancer screening services and to increase screening mammography rates in geographic areas with high proportions of late-diagnosed breast cancers and among subgroups of women with lower screening rates (e.g., African American women; women with less than 12 years of education; women who are non-English-speaking; and women who are low-income, uninsured, and/or • 70 years).
- Promote universal adherence to professionally-accepted standards of care for breast cancer early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.



- Improve linkages among existing data sources, expand the Kentucky Cancer Registry to include initial and follow-up treatment data from physicians' offices, and establish new data sources (e.g., a statewide mammography registry) consistent with a data analysis plan based upon Task Force recommendations.
- Link breast cancer patients with information and services that will help them effectively navigate the cancer care continuum.
- Provide all breast cancer patients with access to funded sources of treatment.
- Establish an ongoing mechanism for monitoring implementation of Task Force recommendations, identifying emergent problems, and updating recommended actions.

Second Priority

- Encourage all health professionals to use professionally-accepted pain management assessments and palliative care protocols when caring for breast cancer patients.
- Activate the Kentucky Department for Public Health breast cancer screening fund for uninsured and underinsured women with support from grants, private donations, the sale of specialty license tags, and/or financial contributions denoted on individual income tax returns.
- Evaluate the economic impact of breast cancer prevention strategies, early versus late-stage diagnosis, and alternative approaches to treatment and rehabilitation in Kentucky.

Third Priority

- Increase clinical research on breast cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation. Encourage studies on the psychological and social implications of genetic testing.
- Inform breast cancer patients, family members, and caregivers about available counseling and support services and facilitate access to these services.
- Provide insurance coverage and other resources to reduce financial barriers and facilitate universal access to breast cancer early detection, treatment rehabilitation, support, and hospice services.



- Encourage in-state self-insured companies and in-state branches of out-of-state companies to provide screening mammography coverage in accordance with current American Cancer Society guidelines.
- Prohibit insurance, employment, and other forms of discrimination against women with breast cancer and women who are considered to be at “high risk” for breast cancer because they have requested or received genetic testing.
- Encourage the Health Care Financing Administration to extend hospice eligibility to all patients who could benefit from these services, regardless of life expectancy.
- Examine variations in charges for breast cancer services across Kentucky, taking into account stage of disease at diagnosis, the quality of services provided, the availability of free services, and other cost-related factors.

Recommendations & Actions Requiring Legislative Support

- **Recommendation:** Prohibit insurance, employment, and other forms of discrimination against women with breast cancer and women who are considered to be at “high risk” for breast cancer because they have requested or received genetic testing.
- **Recommendation:** Activate the Kentucky Department for Public Health breast cancer screening fund for uninsured and underinsured women with support from grants, private donations, the sale of specialty license tags, and/or financial contributions denoted on individual income tax returns.
- **Action:** Provide the state match needed to obtain federal grants for screening medically indigent women.
- **Action:** Fund the Kentucky Cancer Registry to expand treatment data collection.
- **Action:** Fund the Kentucky Cancer Program to explore the feasibility of establishing a mammography registry.
- **Action:** Fund the Kentucky Cancer Program to oversee the development of a statewide strategic plan for public education and outreach, coordinate statewide activities that emanate from this plan, and organize an implementation phase to move the Task Force recommendations forward.



Kentucky Legislature Search Results on Breast Cancer

<http://www.lrc.state.ky.us>

KRS 214.550 Definitions for KRS 214.552 to 214.556
KRS 214.554 Breast Cancer Screening Program/Advisory Committee
KRS. 214.552 Breast Cancer Screening Fund
KRS> 216.2920 Definitions for KRS 216.2920 to 216.2929
KRS 304.17-316 Coverage for low-dose mammography
KRC 304.38-1936 Coverage for treatment of breast cancer
KRC 304.32-1595 Coverage for treatment of breast cancer
KRS 304.18-0985 Coverage for treatment of breast cancer
KRS 304.17A-135 Coverage for treatment of breast cancer
KRS 304.17-3165 Coverage for treatment of breast cancer
KRS 304.38-1035 Coverage for low-dose mammography screening
KRS 304.38-1932 Coverage for breast reconstruction surgery, diagnosis
DRS 304.32-1593 Coverage for breast reconstruction surgery, diagnosis
KRS 304.32-1591 Coverage for low-dose mammography screening
KRS 304.18-0983 coverage for breast reconstructino surgery, diagnosis
KRS. 304.18-098 Coverage for low-dose mammography screening.
KRS. 304.17!134 Coverage for breast reconstruction surgery, diagnosis
KRS. 304.17-3163 coverage for breast reconstruction surgery, diagnosis
KRS 311.935 Preparation of standardized written summary of findings
HB504
HB931
SB041
HB062
HB864
HB476
SB402
HB262
SB29
HB85
HB718
98RS (9160) Women
98RS (6910)Public Health
98RS (6440) Physicians and Practitioners
98RS (4360) Health and Medical Services
98RS (4240) Governor
SB343 Untitled
SB170 Untitled

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