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The Neighborhood Cancer Center

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Published In/Presented At

Harper, G., Salas-Lopez, D., Weinhold, K., & Sussman, E. (2010, June). *The neighborhood cancer center*. Poster presented at: The 5th Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference: Recovery and Beyond, Washington, DC.

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The Neighborhood Cancer Center

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The *Neighborhood Cancer Center* is a new initiative at Lehigh Valley Health Network that will create a culturally comfortable environment for Latinos in our community to receive comprehensive cancer care.

Background

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), serves more than 800,000 people living in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton in east-central Pennsylvania. LVHN is composed of three hospitals of nearly 1,000 beds, eight health centers in four counties, primary and specialty care physician practices, home health services and hospice care. A member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals, LVHN provides education and clinical training for 278 residents in 17 programs. Among America's Best Hospitals for 14 years (U.S. News & World Report) and one of the 10 Best Hospitals in America in 2009 (Becker's Hospital Review), LVHN has been a Magnet Hospital since 2002.

Patient Service Area

In FY 2009, outpatient registrations at 40 primary and specialty care community clinics for low-income residents numbered 122,795. An additional 379,039 outpatients were registered in the network at the three LVHN hospitals. The Cancer Center is located in both the Muhlenberg and Allentown campuses and registers more than 2600 new analytic cases to the Tumor Registry every year, over 90 percent of which come from six surrounding counties.

Our Vision in Action

- Lehigh Valley Health Network has existing collaborations in the community that include the Lehigh Coalition for Cancer Control, Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley, Latinos for Healthy Communities, Casa Guadalupe and the Latino Leadership Alliance.
- Two Promotoras (grant funded community health care workers) are currently working in our community and with our community partners to expand outreach, education and support to Latinas over 40. The promotoras provide community education in cancer prevention and facilitate access to existing breast and cervix screening services. NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) funding will permit an expansion of the promotora program.
- The primary care practices at LVH-17th Street include the Center for Women's Medicine (CWM), CWM-Casa Guadalupe, Centro de Salud Latino-americano, Vida Nueva and family and internal medicine practices, all of which have bilingual and bicultural support staff.
- LVHN has moved forward with both cultural competency strategic planning and tracking race and ethnicity employing OMB standards.
- Both the departments of Family Medicine and Medicine have committed to developing patient-centered medical home (PCMH) models of care at LVH-17th Street.
- The John and Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center at LVH-Cedar Crest is a dedicated center for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. In addition to the core practices of radiation, medical, surgical, and gynecologic oncology, the cancer center offers genetic counseling and access to genetic testing, psychosocial support services, and palliative care.
- NCCCP funding will provide newly diagnosed cancer patients their own "navigator" to ease the transition from screening and diagnosis to cancer treatment. The navigator will facilitate consultation, treatment, and follow-up appointments at the cancer center and access to cancer support and financial counseling services. During and at the completion of cancer treatment, the navigator will assist in care at both the cancer center and the patient's "medical home" in the neighborhood cancer center at LVH-17th Street.

LVHN Model of the Neighborhood Cancer Center

