



Breaking The Barriers Of Silence

**AFRICAN WOMEN'S
CANCER AWARENESS
ASSOCIATION**



Maryland Patient Navigation Network Annual Meeting and Training

June 14, 2016

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President and Founder

African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA)



THE PINK GONG

- Recognize this? The **African GONG**; the ancient African method of making a public announcement





Organizational Background

- **ABOUT AWCAA**
- **OUR MISSION**
- **OUR VISION**
- **OUR VALUES**
- **THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE**

ABOUT AWCAA

- ❑ Established in 2004
- ❑ A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- ❑ Created by African immigrant women who are healthcare professionals.

OUR MISSION

The African Women's Cancer Awareness Association mission: is to reduce the burden of cancer on African immigrants and their families.

OUR VISION

- ❖ To increase access to quality healthcare for all African immigrants in the United States.

Our Services

- ❖ **Community Outreach**
- ❖ **Patient Navigation**
- ❖ **Research and Medical Mission**



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Patient Navigation Services

What is Patient Navigation?

- Patient navigation is the process of assisting patients with the healthcare systems and overcoming barriers to quality care.
- Patient navigation is responsible for ensuring timely delivery of services, providing information on available treatment options, and preventative behaviors.

Our Certified Patient Navigators

- 15 trained Patient Navigators

GW Cancer Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



SMITH FARM CENTER
for healing and the arts

Georgetown | Lombardi

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER



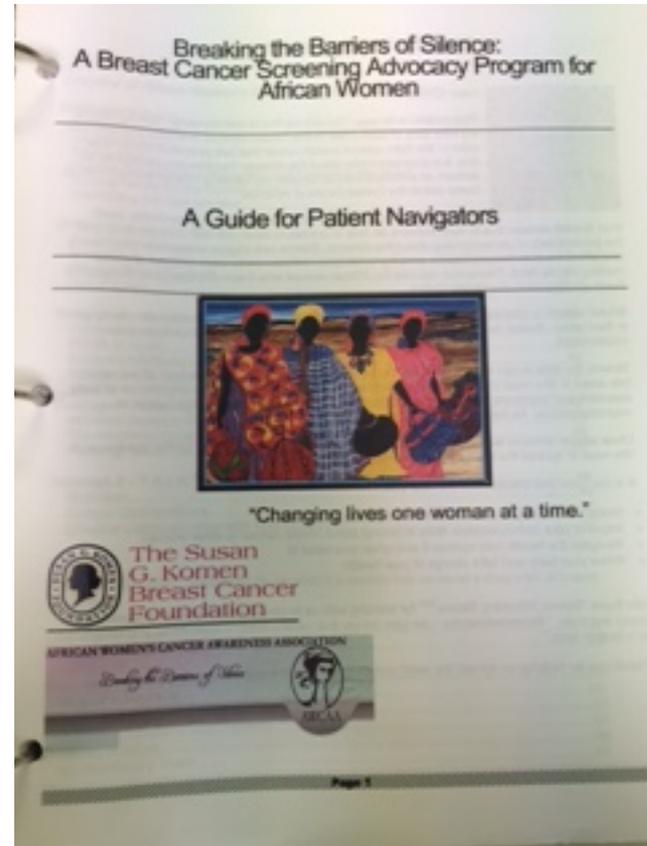
Past Susan G. Komen Grant - 2010

AWCAA

and

Dr. Vanessa Sheppard

Georgetown University





AWCAA –Navigation System

- Identify barriers to care and work to establish possible solutions.
- Connect patients with community and social support services.
- Communicate with patients while they receive care and monitor their progress.
- Facilitate communication with healthcare staff and providers.
- Connect patients and caregivers with necessary follow up services.

Challenges within the Cancer Care Continuum

PHASES IN THE CANCER CONTINUUM



Common Barriers

- Age limit restrictions for screenings
- Childcare
- Cultural and religious beliefs
- Fear
- Immigration status - mostly undocumented
- Lack of health insurance or underinsured
- Lack of transportation
- Language barriers – 15,000 different languages. Translation into 11 major languages done.
- Low level of health literacy
- Misconceptions about cancer
- Stigma

Resources used by AWCAA

➤ **Montgomery County:**

- Maryland Dept. of Health & Human Resources
- Muslim Community Medical Center
- Mobile Med Clinics
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Women's Cancer Control in Wheaton
- African Affairs Advisory Group

➤ **Prince George's County:**

- Prince George's County Breast & Cervical Cancer Program
- Doctors Community Hospital
- Washington Adventist Hospital
- Community Advisory Group (CAG/Cancer Coalition)

➤ **Baltimore County:**

- Breast & Cervical Care Program in Baltimore

Other Resources Used To Expand Care Pro Bono Services

- Private Clinics run by African Physicians
- Survivors
- Negotiated reduced cost for screening with
Community Health Centers
 - Targeted to our elderly population



AWCAA Community Cultural Ambassadors



L to R: Pastor Gloria Cline-Smith – Sierra Leone, Yemisi Joel-Osebor – Nigeria, Alphonse Bassene – Senegal, Asha Nyanganyi – Tanzania, Dr. Roseleen Mba-kalu – Nigeria, Hanan Eltayeb – Sudan

Yoruba: *Eṣé*

Swahili: *Asante sana*

Twi: *Me da Si*

Wolof: *Jerejef*



Hausa: *Na gode*

Igbo: *Daalu*

Arabic: *shukran*

French: *Merci*