

**Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan
Environmental Issues and Cancer Committee**

*December 4, 2009, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
DHMH Conference Room L-3 (Lobby Level)*

MEETING SUMMARY

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</u>
Definition of Environment and Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See page 3 below: Definitions of Environment
Review Progress Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached excel document: Progress Tool • Review Progress Tool and add any other progress known • The final Progress Report document will consist of bullets showing Progress Highlights and Challenges (there will be one for each chapter of the plan). The Progress Highlights and Challenges will include a reference to the Objective/Strategy that they are linked to. <i>(See Sample Progress Report document from Meeting 1)</i>
Finalize Chapter Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible discussions for the chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment in Maryland – list industries/employment? • Environmental public health tracking – give links to tracking page and TRI (toxic release inventory) • Include information on the Chesapeake – and related environmental implications • Include maps showing cancer risk from air – MD is in top 5th percentile in nation • Include maps showing rates of cancer • Discuss ‘clusters’ – address public concern; admit we don’t know everything, but note that what appears to be a cluster may be a result of a large number of people living in an area or common cancers; discuss the appropriate approach to investigating clusters • Precautionary Principle (because of potential severity of consequences, take regulatory action even before you have scientific certainty) – In chapter: identify the information we do have and what can be done with it now; • In advance of next meeting, Cliff Mitchell will create an outline for chapter organization and send to the group • Will finalize sections at next meeting
Develop Chapter Goals and Brainstorm Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will address next time • Note: Should include educating providers

<p>Assignments for Next Meeting</p>	<p>FOR CHAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an outline for chapter organization and send to group in advance of the next meeting <p>FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Progress Tool chart and make additions/changes to Notes column; Send your changes to Sarah Conolly Hokenmaier by Monday, January 4th. • Look at our definition of the environment and cancer along with the previous chapter; Use this information and the new chapter outline to email Sarah with which section(s) you are interested in writing.
<p>Set Future Meeting Dates/Times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, January 8th, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. • Location: DHMH, Room L-3

Brainstorming Definitions of Environment – from 12/4/09 Meeting:

- Where we are: home, work, school, indoors, outdoors
Chemical, biological, radiological
- Exclude lifestyle factors ie: alcohol
- Inside the body and outside the body; start with the universe and pare down
- Natural phenomenon (universe) – may be too broad for the chapter
- Want to cover what the general public interprets as environment
- Food/water carcinogens – but not nutritional information
- Start with broader definition; depending on what is in other chapters – don't cover all
- Include disparities – social determinants (income, race, etc.)
- Need to differentiate between biological and social disparity issues
- Important to acknowledge social determinants even if don't cover in detail; add a section to the chapter which briefly addresses this issue
- Home, work, school; eat, drink, breathe
- Previous chapter focuses on exposures that are involuntary
- Factors difficult or impossible to avoid because of where live, work, etc.
- Environmental justice issues
- Chronic disease? Internal environment
- Internal factors (which vary over time) are one piece of environment
- Cluster investigations – if include in chapter, need to cover both sides of the issue in a way the lay public can understand; Link to cluster investigation protocol

NOTE: Define what is meant by 'environment' at the beginning of the chapter

Draft Definition from Dr. Mitchell:

What do we mean by “environment and cancer” for Maryland?

1. Cognitive dissonance: improvements in many cancers, while increasing concerns about exposures
2. Missing link: knowledge of body burdens and mechanisms
3. Cluster investigations: often inconclusive; focus usually on exposures, outcomes in small populations

By environment, we mean the chemical and physical environment with which the people of Maryland interact at home, at work, and in recreation. Environmental exposure means exposures to chemical and physical agents (**DEFINE chemical and physical?**) that can influence cancer, and may occur from the air we breathe, foods we eat, and other routes (e.g., trans-placental).

By environment and cancer issues, we are focused primarily on identifying and reducing exposures to environmental agents that may promote cancer, either through causation of new cancers, or promotion of non-environmental cancers.