

2016 Community Health Leadership Award – Nomination

Nominator Name: John Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer
Organization Being Nominated: Sunnyside Community Hospital & Clinics
Name of Program: SCH Cancer Center
Program Contact: Dr. Patricia Deisler

Program Description:

The Cancer Center at Sunnyside Community Hospital is committed to providing compassionate, personalized care to residents in our service area while evolving the understanding of the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery from cancer while advancing survivorship.

The Center is dedicated to keeping our patients close to home while they receive the care they need and deserve and is the first of its kind in our primary service area.

The center features a five-chair infusion unit for cancer patients receiving chemotherapy, exam rooms and a dedicated entry area at the hospital.

Our Director, Dr. Patricia Deisler has dedicated her medical practice to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survival of cancer. She has over 25 years of medical experience.

Dr. Deisler is Fellowship-Trained in Hematology and Oncology. She completed her Bachelors of Science at Columbia University in New York. Dr. Deisler attended Cornell Weill Medical College in New York, where she obtained her Doctor of Medicine and Fellowship Training in Hematology and Oncology. In addition, Dr. Deisler participated in extensive oncology research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Deisler is Board-Certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.

Population Served:

Sunnyside, Grandview, Prosser, Yakima and the rest of the Yakima Valley is a culturally diverse region of over 80,000 people living between the city of Yakima, on the west, and Tri-Cities, Washington, on the east. The service area is considered rural and medically underserved by census data and access to care is critical in serving community health needs.

Goal and measure of success:

The program goal is to increase the level of cancer treatment services available to the community while improving patient outcomes and overall survivorship of cancer in our service area.

How did the nominee identify the community's health need, for example, did you use the community health needs assessment?

Utilization of the Community Health Needs Assessment specifically identifying a greater need for access to oncology services.

Describe how community partners were involved:

We involved survivors groups and are a community partner of the American Cancer Society.

Was the Board of Trustees or the Board of Commissioners involved in the program?

Yes

Did you use data in benchmarking and goal setting? If you didn't use data, how did you evaluate effectiveness? Please describe.

Data and benchmarks were utilized by internal survey metrics as well as analyzing and responding to community needs for cancer treatment services within the service area and utilization of the Community Health Needs Assessment.

How did this project help to advance the cause of Equity of Care in Washington State?

This initiative advanced health equity by providing a new high-level service based on community need and by bringing cancer treatment closer to the population in our services area.

What results are you seeing? What difference has this program made in the community?

This program is able to provide cancer care in an environment closer to home allowing our patients a more comfortable treatment environment for infusion services and consultations.

Has this program been awarded or recognized by others?

This program is frequently recognized in the local press.

Who else was involved in making this successful?

Survivor support groups and the Sunnyside community were heavily involved in making this project successful.

Anything else you want to add about this program?

The Cancer Center improves the health outcomes for oncology patients within our service area. Prior to opening the facility, cancer patients were forced to travel well outside the primary service area to receive care. They can now be treated close to home, increasing patient comfort, satisfaction and creating potential increase in overall survivorship.