



*Alabama*  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER  
CONTROL COALITION

# QUARTERLY NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

## Member Spotlight: Jennifer Hicks, MSHA, MBA



*Q&A with Jennifer Hicks, Administrative Director of the UAB Center for Supportive and Palliative Care*

**How long have you worked in your current field and what is a current initiative you are working on?**

I've been here 8 years, and in health administration for 12 years. We are working to increase awareness of and access to palliative care services in Alabama. Alabama was just "graded" on the Center

to Advance Palliative Care's Report Card on Access to Palliative Care and we scored a D. There's so much opportunity! We are encouraging those who support greater access to palliative care to support the PCHETA bill as it goes to the Senate. It provides funding for training for physicians, nurses, and other interdisciplinary team members. You can send a note directly to our Senators through this link: <http://aahpm.org/advocacy/take-action>.

**How does this initiative impact cancer in Alabama?**

Cancer and its treatment cause physical symptoms and side effects. Cancer can also cause or enhance emotional, social, and spiritual concerns. Palliative care (also called supportive care) is a medical specialty that works with patients to improve quality of life while focusing on what matters most to the patients and their loved ones. Everyone with cancer in Alabama should have access to palliative care services.

**What ACCCC Committee do you serve on and why did you choose it?**

I'm the Co-Chair of the Survivorship Committee along with Veronica Wehby-Upchurch. The committee focuses on supporting people living with cancer and their families through treatment and into survivorship. It fits perfectly with my work at UAB.

**What's a fun fact about you?**

When not at work, my two small children (3 and 5 years old) keep me on my toes! I also coach a U4 soccer team.

# ACCCC at Work

## *Committee work continues*

### **Access to Care Committee**

**Chair: Mary Elizabeth Brooks**

Focus Areas:

- 1) Completed Advocacy Training at Oct. meeting
- 2) Rural Transportation for cancer patients - cross-promoting ACS Road to Recovery and ride-sharing options to increase access

### **Early Detection Committee**

**Chair: Dr. Dina Avery**

Focus Areas:

- 1) Create anti-vaping resource card.
- 2) Collect church contacts.

### **Prevention Committee**

**Chair: Chelsea Green**

Focus Areas:

- 1) HPV education for pharmacists
- 2) College-age educational messaging
- 3) Coordinating with the Alabama Adolescent Vaccine Task Force

### **Survivorship & Palliative Care Committee**

**Co-Chairs: Jennifer Hicks & Veronica Wehby-Upchurch**

Focus Areas:

- 1) Evaluating/assessing needs to identify gaps that need to be addressed

**Committees are holding working calls in between quarterly ACCCC meetings. Email [Carol.Garrett@ADPH.state.al.us](mailto:Carol.Garrett@ADPH.state.al.us) to be added to a committee!**

## **Calls to Action**

- *Join a committee.*
- *Submit a project to the **Collected Works Catalog.***
- *Invite a potential member to the next meeting: **Friday, January 17th at UAB, with a focus on both cervical cancer and palliative care.***

## **Collaboration Corner**

Working on a project relevant to the ACCCC and looking for partners/participants? Let us know so we can include it here!

### **Community Projects**

**Dr. Jennifer Young-Pierce**

[JYPierce@health.southalabama.edu](mailto:JYPierce@health.southalabama.edu)

**Seeking:** Participants/collaborating organizations for cervical cancer awareness campaign in January.

**Mary Anne King**

[MA.King@ThinkofLaura.org](mailto:MA.King@ThinkofLaura.org)

**Seeking:** Participants for GYN Cancer Advocacy Day in Montgomery, AL on 2/27/2020.