

2015 CANCER REGISTRY SUCCESS STORY

STORY TITLE: Rural Reporters Workshop

STATE REGISTRY AND AUTHOR NAME(S): Missouri Cancer Registry

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SUMMARY:

Missouri Cancer Registry has a long tradition of excellence in educational programming for Missouri registrars. Our existing programs served current hospital CTRs as well as HIT students in metropolitan areas. Through collaboration with an interested instructor at a more rural community college, we first provided online written materials which the instructor incorporated into student coursework (see 2014 MCR Success Story “Use of MCR online educational resources by rural college HIT program”). This success led to a new collaboration when the same instructor suggested that we participate in a full day workshop that included both her students and representatives from low volume hospitals in the region that reported data to us.

Two MCR CTRs presented the major portion of this workshop. It successfully met the needs of students who may in the future become cancer data reporters. It also supported current low-volume facility (LVF) reporting staff that had not previously had face to face contact with MCR training staff.

CHALLENGE:

An individual we trained while working at a small Missouri hospital became the Director of a Health Information Management program at a small college in Missouri. As a result of her experience in reporting cancer cases to the MCR, this instructor chose to incorporate MCR’s resources into her program and inquired about collaboration with MCR.

MCR staff already provided training for several large junior college Health Information Technology (HIT) programs near major cities. When this program director at a smaller community college in rural Missouri reached out to us to bring such a program to their location and suggested that we also invite reporters from “low volume facilities” in

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the region to attend the training workshop we saw a great opportunity. It is important to reach these coders and future “coders” who are often employed at low-volume facilities (75 or fewer cancer cases annually) and may be assigned to report cancer cases for their facilities. Teaching them the significance of cancer registration and how to perform casefinding might improve their ability to report cases accurately in the future. It is hoped that some of the students might further explore the cancer registry profession and become Certified Tumor Registrars (CTRs) during their careers.

SOLUTION:

Working in collaboration with the course instructor, we created the first Basic Cancer Registry Training workshop for North Central Missouri College in Trenton, Missouri. The instructor set an agenda that included a welcome from her Dean of Allied Health and discussion with the college President. MCR CTR Angela Martin presented a comprehensive overview of Cancer Registry Operations and professional opportunities. MCR CTR Brenda Lee presented low volume facility training which explained casefinding techniques (MRDI format, procedural hints and use of ambiguous terminology) as well as confidentiality and security issues surrounding the compilation and transfer of cancer data. The afternoon concluded with two guest speakers: one who serves as HIM director at a rural hospital and another who manages ethics and compliance for a local health system. The audience of 20 included HIT students as well as representatives from six regional LVFs.

RESULTS:

The instructor organizer of the event expressed appreciation for the work MCR staff did designing and implementing this new training workshop for both HIT students and rural hospital reporters. She indicated that the student’s eyes were opened about the diligence that goes into compiling cancer statistics. Her thank you note to MCR reads in part: "You passed on valuable statistics and information! I appreciate you spending time with us and appreciate the work you do in collecting and reporting cancer data; AMAZING!" She indicated that some students were now considering cancer registry as a career option.

A LVF representative was very complimentary of the training and felt re-energized to “be better at submitting cases”.

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The course design was successful in meeting the needs of both attending groups.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

The organizing instructor would like to continue to present this workshop to new students and LVF staff in future years. As time and resources allow, MCR would like to take this model to other rural areas of the state if other community college programs have an interest in partnering for such an event.

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