

A Look at Survivorship- Highlights from the Fall Symposium

The attendees of the Fall MTCCC Statewide meeting in Helena on November 5th got the opportunity to learn more about cancer survivorship, specifically survivorship care plans. Dr. K. Scott Baker, director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Survivorship Program provided the keynote address and discussed at length the intent and current practices regarding survivorship clinics and care plans. His experiences provided audience members the opportunity to ponder options for integrating different models of care delivery and care plans into existing programs throughout the state.

Of course a presentation on survivorship is not complete without hearing directly from a cancer survivor. Martha Blevins, a cancer survivor from Great Falls graciously shared her story of survivorship and the importance of obtaining a written care plan in her physical and emotional healing.

Additional speakers covered topics including managing cancer pain, emotional health, communication and transition of care, as well as interactive break-out sessions on massage, acupuncture and nutrition. The meeting provided excitement and ideas for us to take back to our partner organizations to enhance cancer survivorship in Montana.

A special thanks to Lisa O'Brien, Annie Elena, Wendy Gwinner, Cheryl Hackett, Sue Warren, Candy Amerine, Kaye Norris, Britin Cross, Stephanie Streed, Janae Grotbo and Val Weedman for all of their hard work in organizing this educational opportunity. Congratulations on a job well done!

MTCCC Business from the Fall Statewide Meeting

- On November 5, 2009, updates to the MTCCC **Bylaws** were approved by a vote of the general membership at the Fall Statewide meeting in Helena, with the exception of Section VI Structure, 4 Definitions, Physician Advisory Group. The Bylaws Taskforce will revise the language in the Physician Advisory Group section for a vote at the May 5, 2010 MTCCC meeting. An updated copy of the bylaws will be published this month on the MTCCC website, www.mtcancercoalition.org, for reference.
- **Save the Date** for the Spring Statewide meeting- scheduled for May 5th, 2010 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, MT. The spring meeting will be a working meeting to update the Montana CCC Plan. Time will be spent as a large group as well as breaking into Implementation Teams and Committees. More information to come.