**Special Commission to Study Pancreatic Cancer**

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2019

3:00 -5:00 pm

**Date of meeting:** Tuesday, August 27, 2019

**Start time:** 3:04 pm

**End time:** 4:12 pm

**Location:** Conference Room 1, 21st Floor, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108

**Members present:**

* Lauren Peters – Executive Office of Health and Human Services
* Joshua Nyambose—Department of Public Health
* Niels Puetthoff—Division of Insurance
* Jody Quinn—Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
* Brock N. Cordeiro—Patient Advocate
* Andrea Cleghorn—Survivor
* Dr. Giles Whalen—UMass Memorial Health Care
* Carole Siegel – Patient Advocate
* Michael Scinto, on behalf of Senator Jo Comerford—Massachusetts Senate
* Dr. Brian Wolpin—Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
* Janice Griffin—Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

**Members calling in:**

* Dr. Andrew Warshaw—Massachusetts General Hospital

**Members absent:**

* Representative John Mahoney—Massachusetts House of Representatives
* Cynthia Callahan, RN—Patient Advocate
* Doug Shatford—Pancreatic Cancer Caregiver

**Proceedings:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

**Vote: Dr. Whalen introduced a motion to accept the minutes of the June 27th meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Griffin and unanimously approved, by roll call.**

The Chair introduced the draft recommendations (attached), which had been circulated to members ahead of time. He suggested going through the list of recommendations one by one to discuss any changes members saw fit.

Members discussed each item and offered suggestions for the next draft of recommendations.

Dr. Wolpin arrived at 3:08pm; Ms. Siegel arrived at 3:11pm.

Members agreed that all changes that were not specifically and unanimously agreed upon during the meeting would be made electronically by members on an individual basis, submitting these changes to Commission Secretary Amy Kaplan.

Undersecretary Peters entered at 3:29pm. Members continued to discuss and clarify each item in the draft recommendations.

Members discussed the recommendations around “Research,” and Dr. Wolpin explained Dana Farber’s tissue donation protocols and how useful blanket consent forms have been to gleaning more information in research. Dr. Whalen noted that these practices require well-funded infrastructures to maintain the database of consents for each patient and the IRB requests for each tissue sample. Undersecretary Peters agreed that this recommendation would be aimed at larger academic hospitals, not smaller community hospitals.

Dr. Wolpin mentioned a large colorectal cancer initiative by Ohio, which could be used as a model for a Massachusetts-wide effort to study pancreatic cancer. He offered that Dana Farber would “be happy” to house samples from across the state, but that the state would need to fund coordinators. He noted that “there are roadmaps for doing this that I think would be wonderful for us to take on…it would need momentum from the state level.” He clarified that he did not know the details of the workings of the Ohio colorectal cancer initiative.

Members agreed to convene for a final meeting in October, and to conduct the remainder of draft-writing via email as a group.

**Vote: The Chair introduced a motion for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously approved, by roll call.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.