Cervical Health Initiative in Gallia County

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Problem Identified

- Women under age 40 with abnormal Pap smears have difficulties receiving necessary diagnostic services due to financial and logistical barriers.

- Lack of follow-up services available locally for underserved women with abnormal Pap smears in Gallia County.
Gallia County Data

- Gallia County
  - Cervical cancer incidence rate is 24.4% greater than the rate for non-Appalachia Ohio
  - Highest age-adjusted incidence rate of cervical cancer of the 32 Ohio Appalachia Counties
  - Cervical cancer incidence rate is 122% higher than the state rate

- Cervical cancer mortality rate is 41.7% greater in Appalachia Ohio compared to non-Appalachia Ohio
A Closer Look at the Problem

- In 2007, the Gallia County Health District completed 227 Pap tests exams and reported a 22% abnormal Pap test rate among those clients
  - 47% did not complete follow-up
  - 95% of these women are under 40 years old – colposcopy not covered through BCCP
Currently, women are called and informed of their abnormal Pap test and that there’s follow-up needed.

Due to lack of local services, women are referred to River Rose Clinic in Athens County:
- Two trips to clinic – 45-60 miles away
- Out of Pocket Cost - $290 for office visits, $300-600 lab work
Cervical Health Initiative

Goal: To increase follow-up for women with abnormal Pap Smears in Gallia County

- GYN Committed
- Enhance Education
- Identified Needs
- Colposcopy Equipment
- Local Facility
- Transportation Assistance
- Trained HCP Colposcopy Procedure
- Raise Awareness
Part 1
Cervical Health Awareness Project

The Cervical Health Awareness Project (CHAP) is an awareness and education project that will help women understand the significance of their abnormal Pap test, the importance of timely follow-up, along with the details of the colposcopic examination and treatment, if necessary.

Funded by
Appalachia Community Cancer Network
A program of the National Cancer Institute
Goal:

CHAP will target female residents in Gallia County to address possible distress after an abnormal Pap test result and to encourage follow-up care.
Gallia County Health District staff will identify and contact women, distribute an educational brochure, send out an appointment reminder card, provide travel vouchers and call the client to follow-up.
Approach

• Gallia County Health District staff
  ○ Distribute an educational brochure to women with abnormal Pap tests
  ○ Send appointment reminder cards and phone at least 1 week prior to follow-up appointment
  ○ Distribute travel voucher with a personal note to encourage women to get regular check-ups after their follow-up appointment
Focus groups will begin in May to review coalition brochures

Gas vouchers are currently being distributed to women attending The River Rose Clinic
Part 2
Cervical Health Project – Colposcopy Clinic

To provide diagnostic follow-up services for underserved women with abnormal Pap test results in Gallia County.

Application submitted to Governor’s Office of Appalachia

Matching Funds committed by the Partners of Hope Cancer Coalition
Community Support - Clinic

- Facility – Gallia County Health District would provide space - exam room

- Equipment – Colposcope & forceps requested

- Forceps Sanitized – Holzer Medical Center
Community Support - Clinic

- Training – Certified Nurse Midwife will attend the Advanced Practice Clinician Colposcopy Training – funds requested

- Lab work – Indigent contract with LabCorp

- Board Certified Gynecologist committed to follow-up based on colposcopy results
Collaborations

- Appalachia Community Cancer Network
- Gallia County Health District
- Holzer Medical Center
- OSU College of Public Health
- OSU School of Communications
- River Rose Clinic
Acknowledgements