2026-2027

GWCC TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brittney Hemraj

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Cassandra Web

AZ Department of Health Services Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Denise Thomas

Kentucky Cancer Program - University of Louisville

Garth Smith

Maine CDC Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Jeff Soule

Oregon Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Jessica Quinn

State of Alaska/Alaska Cancer Partnership

Julie Chytil

NEDHHS/Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Laura McGough

New Mexico Department of Health

Mary Owl

Cherokee Nation Cancer Program

Shauntay Davis-Patterson

CA Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Brittney Hemraj

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Years In CCC: 2-3 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
I look forward to deepening my understanding of GW Cancer Center's strategies, contributing to the development of impactful trainings, and collaborating with peers to enhance technical assistance for NCCCP recipients. I'm especially interested in applying and sharing these resources within my coalition to strengthen cancer control efforts.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
We have a very strong network of partners and members who help to implement the activities across the cancer continuum.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
We are always looking for new ideas and ways to implement PSE changes.

Cassandra Web

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager
Arizona Department of Health Services Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Years In CCC: 4-6 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
Help strengthen the comp cancer program overall.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
Our coalition and state plan.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
Growing our PSE programs to have state wide impact.

Denise Thomas, *MED, MA, TTS, NBCC, PHD-Candidate*

Regional Cancer Control Specialist
Kentucky Cancer Program

Years In CCC: 2-3 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
I am a trauma therapist and have worked in oncology and public health for over twenty years, currently completing a doctoral degree in public health. I will aim to ensure that our recommendations are grounded in an understanding of how people make health-related choices. I will also champion initiatives that reduce disparities and expand access to prevention and treatment resources for underserved populations. Having lived in both urban cities and rural Appalachia, I believe I have an appreciation for the diverse needs of different populations.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
KCP was formed over 40 years ago as a cancer control initiative due to the high rates of cancer in Kentucky. Few states have comprehensive, statewide programs dedicated to cancer control and outreach. We work closely with universities, policymakers, healthcare organizations, and state health programs in our efforts to provide health education, access to cancer screenings, and in general to improve the health of the citizens in Kentucky.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
We continue to work towards finding innovative initiatives to expand our reach into underserved populations. Funding remains a constant concern and it takes effort to ensure that expenses lead to positive and measurable outcomes for our community.

Garth Smith

Program Coordinator
Maine CDC Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Years In CCC: 0-1 year

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
To provide feedback for materials, share what has worked well in our program, and learn from others.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
The ability to connect with partners across the state.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
Connecting with schools.

Jeff Soule

Program Coordinator
Oregon Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Years In CCC: 2-3 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
To contribute to the development of resources to support the success of state comprehensive cancer programs.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
Enthusiasm and responsiveness to changing conditions in public health cancer at the state and national level.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
Further expansion and development of the Oregon Cancer Coalition

Jessica Quinn

Comprehensive Cancer Program Director
State of Alaska/Alaska Cancer Partnership

Years In CCC: 7-9 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
Share my experiences and the perspective of members of my coalition. Learn from national experts and peers.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
Collaborative spirit. Doing a lot with a little.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
Fostering more leadership from within.

Julie Chytil

Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Coordinator*NEDHHS/Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Control Program*

Years In CCC: 2-3 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
I hope to learn from others, share our success and struggles, help create opportunities for more collaboration

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
The program has been around a long time has accomplished a lot over the years. Our coalition is brand new but we have a great group of dedicated people and partners around the table. It's inspiring to see the collaboration.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
We are still working on basic infrastructure and improving membership on-boarding, communication and more.

Shauntay Davis-Patterson

Program Director
California Comprehensive Cancer Control Program - CA Department of Public Health

Years In CCC: 17-20 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
Serving on a national committee dedicated to comprehensive cancer control offers a meaningful opportunity to leverage my 18 years of experience in the field to strengthen programs across the country. I aim to support local and state initiatives by sharing practical insights, helping programs articulate their challenges, and fostering cross-program collaboration. I’m especially committed to advancing communication between programs and CDC leadership to ensure that local concerns inform national priorities and guidance for states. My goal is to contribute to more effective, equitable, and responsive cancer control strategies nationwide.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
California’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has a strong and enduring coalition that has been active since 2002 and includes a diverse array of partners. The program benefits from long-standing partnerships and collaborative efforts with NCI-designated cancer centers, which contribute broad expertise and clinical insight to statewide initiatives. National and local subject matter experts regularly engage with coalition workgroups, helping shape priorities. Ultimately, our partners are our biggest strength.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
California’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has a large outstanding coalition that helps to move goals forward in the CDC Action Plan. However, we could benefit from more engagement. Regarding implementation of our CDC Action Plan and the State Cancer Plan, systemic issues have been a huge challenge in achieving our goals, such as rising costs, unpredictable federal policy shifts, and persistent workforce shortages which create instability and limit collaboration. Many systems are overwhelmed by competing priorities and are often reluctant to engage, even when proposed efforts could improve their own operations. These barriers, coupled with siloed data systems and fragmented interagency coordination, hinder the implementation of policy, systems, and environmental changes. Additionally, like other programs, increased and sustained funding would of course help as well.

Laura McGough

Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Health

Years In CCC: 0-1 year

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
Ensure that technical assistance and trainings are relevant for people relatively new to comprehensive cancer and for states that have large Hispanic, Native American, and rural populations

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
Strong collaboration with the NM Tumor Registry and the NM Cancer Council; strong relationship with the only NCI-designated cancer center in New Mexico; partnerships with broad range of small nonprofits working in the cancer space; people appreciate the NM Cancer Care and Treatment Directory, which is produced by the NM Cancer Council. Membership is diverse in terms of ethnicity and race.

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
New Mexico does not have a statewide colorectal or lung cancer screening program. The NM Cancer Council is dependent on the Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Program and therefore lacks initiative and follow through capability. Statewide engagement is a challenge; most organizations are based in Albuquerque. County and tribal health councils do not list cancer as one of their priorities, which makes it hard to engage with them. Funding has been flat for years, despite inflation. Recent crises in funding make it hard to elevate cancer as a priority with the state legislature.

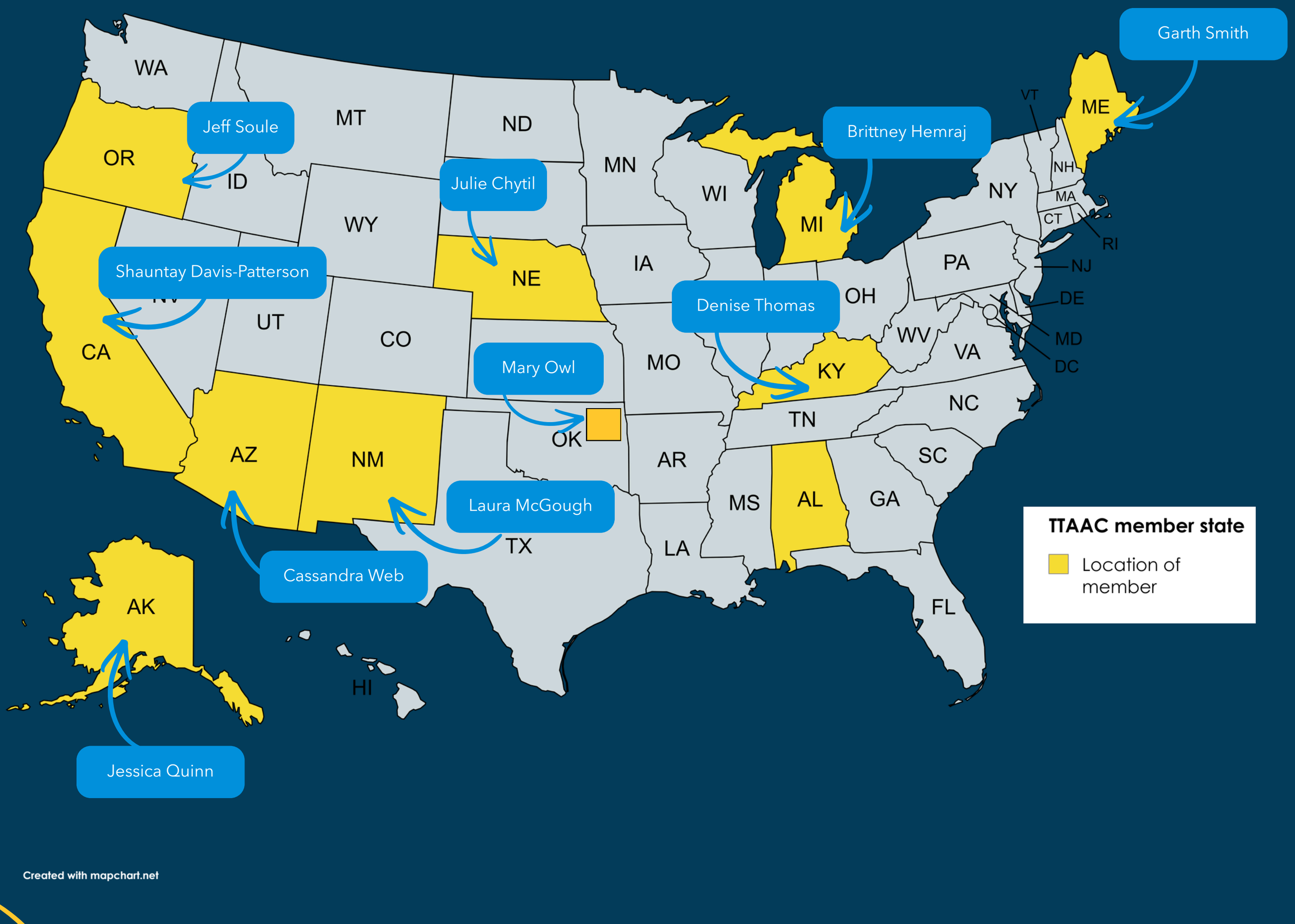
Mary Owl

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Coordinator
Cherokee Nation Cancer Program

Years In CCC: 4-6 years

What do you hope to accomplish as being a member of this advisory committee?
Contribute my knowledge and skills as well as learn from other members to provide accurate recommendations.

What are the strengths of your respective comp cancer program?
Unity, dedication, knowledge, variety, commitment

What are areas for improvement for your comp cancer program?
Resources, missing representation, diversity

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