

Breast Health Collaborative of Texas Hires Patient Navigator for Pilot Program

Last week the Breast Health Collaborative of Texas hired Jauana Hanks, the first patient navigator to join the Collaborative's staff. Jauana, a DSHS-certified community health worker, will be working part-time on a joint project between the Collaborative, The Rose, and St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities to improve the no-show rate for African-American women's mammogram appointments.

The two-year project, funded by Avon Foundation for Women and modeled on an evidence-based project conducted by Duke University, involved implementation of participatory groups of African-American women in 2010, in which surveys to identify barriers to making and going to mammogram appointments were developed. Based on information gathered through conducting these surveys at The Rose, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities created an intervention to improve the rate of attendance at mammogram appointments with the ultimate goal of decreasing the number of late-stage breast cancer diagnoses in African-Americans.

The intervention will be carried out primarily by the program's patient navigator, Jauana, who will place reminder calls with African-American women who have mammogram appointments as well as follow-up calls with those who have already missed their mammograms. With the support of the Collaborative and The Rose, Jauana will work with these patients to get them to appointments by identifying and reducing barriers that are both psychological (worry/beliefs) and logistical, such as cost, lack of transportation, inability to get time off work, or need for childcare support. The Collaborative, The Rose, and St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities believe that this pilot program can be easily implemented at a number of healthcare organizations, such as free clinics, that need to improve no-show rates.

For questions or more information about the pilot program, please contact kingram@therose.org.

About the Breast Health Collaborative of Texas

The Breast Health Collaborative of Texas is made up of over 350 nonprofit, corporate and individual members throughout the State of Texas that are dedicated to making sure no one goes without breast health care. It is the coordinating body influencing education, funding, and policy by serving as a resource for breast health issues and services. The Collaborative advocates on behalf of breast cancer services, education, patient navigation services and research. Visit www.BreastHealthCollaborativeofTexas.org for more information.

About The Rose

The Rose is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) breast cancer organization, offering a full range of breast cancer screening and diagnostic services including mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies and access to treatment. The Rose's mission is to reduce deaths from breast cancer by providing screening, diagnostics and access to treatment for all women regardless of their ability to pay. Key to The Rose's sustainability and uniqueness is that women, who have the ability to pay for services, help offset the costs for those who cannot pay. Information about The Rose, its services, events, and opportunities to support its mission, can be found at its website, www.TheRose.org, and on its Facebook page.

About St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities

Through research-informed grantmaking to Texas nonprofits, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, a separate component of St. Luke's Episcopal Health System, improves community health and reduces health disparities. Our Center for Community-Based Research is dedicated to community-based participatory research practices that foster informed action, collaboration and empowerment for the medically underserved and other vulnerable populations. For more information, visit www.slehc.org.

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