

Oncology Massage Alliance
June 2011

Report to the Board

Oncology Massage Program

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Summary

The Oncology Massage Program continues to be a heartfelt success to us and all those we touch. We continue to make progress with increasing our outreach efforts and educating the general public to the benefits of oncology massage. We are also making progress on our application as a 501(c)3 entity and are very grateful to the support we've received from the good folks at Texas Oncology, Cancer Connection, Breast Cancer Research Center, Livestrong and Friends of Cancer Support Community Central Texas. We are so grateful that so many people are showing such support for our foundation.

The general highlights of the program are as follows:

- We continue coverage at Texas Oncology 4 of 5 days through the generous support from RHJB and are covering Texas Oncology Balcones location with 4 of 5 days per week of additional volunteer work.
- We touched 82 people in 18 days at Texas Oncology Midtown.
- We touched 60 people in 11 days at Texas Oncology Balcones.
- The Oncology Massage Program met with potential massage therapists to add more therapists to our program at the Balcones location. From this meeting, we had 3 therapists sign up immediately, with 1 signing on in the fall.
- The Oncology Massage Program changed the policy for accepting donations at the Texas Oncology locations. We are referring any cash donations from patients to the social worker at the location so if someone would like to donate, we will refer them to the OMA website or they can give cash to the staff contact. This way, patients do not feel obligated to donate if/when they see other patients donating.
- The Oncology Massage Program has set up a date of July 11th for chair massages at the Balcones location.
- The Oncology Massage Program is meeting the potential board members in early July, and will start fundraising efforts.

Goals/Objectives

The achievable and realistic goals for the Oncology Massage Program are outlined as follows;

- To provide trained oncology massage therapists at each of the cancer treatment infusion centers in the Austin area five days a week. The program is now established in the Texas Oncology Austin locations with a new goal of expanding to other facilities, such as Brackenridge Hospital.
- To encourage collaboration by providing ongoing professional growth through networking in a setting with trained oncology massage therapists and conventional cancer treatment experts
- To educate patients, caregivers, family members and health care providers as to the many benefits that oncology massage can bring to those fighting cancer.
- To conduct well planned research projects for the purpose of identifying the effects of massage on people undergoing cancer treatments.

Infusion Room Stories

Each person we meet in the infusion room has such a special story and each one that we reach out to touches us deeply. By providing compassionate touch and a safe space for that person to simply relax, talk, or just close their eyes and feel another's gentle touch is a great honor for us to connect with them and give them hope to just believe in their future. Here are some of their stories.

Lovely middle-aged woman from surrounding area of Austin. I gave her a hand massage as we talked about oncology massage, its benefits and how it differs from regular massage. She relies on her friends to get her to Texas Oncology for her infusions.

Offered a hand massage to a woman who works for a cancer organization. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and she had just completed her chemotherapy treatment. In her job, she said that she was helping many cancer survivors with counseling and support; now, she knew what it was really like to receive that type of assistance since she is now a survivor herself. She very much appreciated the hand massage.

Gave a foot massage to a woman who fell asleep as I worked on her. When she woke up, she said, "Wow. I forgot where I was. Thanks!"

Worked on a woman with ovarian cancer. I worked on her feet. She said the bottoms of her feet have been burning, and that the massage helped it. We talked about dealing with losing her hair and wigs. She is going to check out the free wigs from the American Cancer Society.

Worked on a woman with stage 4 cancer. She's scared. They are starting a new drug in pill form that has side effects of foot and hand syndrome. She has treatment once a month for regular treatment, also. She's quitting her job in August, because she wants the last part of her life to be stress free and pleasant. She's making peace with her progress. The massage relaxed her .

Worked on a gentleman in his 50's. It was his first chemo treatment. He is diagnosed with prostate cancer. He was feeling a bit fatigued, so I gave him a hand massage. It helped his fatigue and feeling of nausea. He really enjoyed the hand massage.

Monthly Statistics

Since the program began in February, 2011, we have been able to touch many people in so many ways. Below is a table outlining the program statistics for the month of June, 2011.

In the month of June, we continued our commitment to the Midtown location while expanding at the Balcones location. We continue to honor our goals as outlined in the proposal presented to the RHJB Board last November and hope to reach our goal by the end of this year.

In order to move forward with our Oncology Massage Program, we are pleased to announce that the Oncology Massage Alliance (OMA) has joined forces with the Rob Hill Just Believe Foundation to expand the Oncology Massage Program beyond the Midtown location. While the OMA is currently a volunteer entity, it will allow us to bring in newly trained oncology massage therapists into our program in additional infusion room locations such as the Balcones and South locations.

Midtown location June Statistics

	Actual	Goal
Patients touched	72	90
Caregivers/Staff touched	1	10
Staff Touched	9	10
Massage therapists worked	4	5
Total days in Infusion Room	18	20
Volunteer hours	13.5	20
RHJB paid hours	36	40
Donations Received for this month	\$67	\$200

Balcones location June Statistics

	Actual	Goal
Patients touched	58	90
Caregivers touched	2	10
Massage therapists worked	3	5
Total days in Infusion Room	11	20
Volunteer hours	37	20
OMA paid hours	0	40
Donations Received for this month	\$269.35	\$200.00
OMA Dues Received	\$25.00	\$200.00
OMA Raffle Tickets	\$150.00	\$3,750.00