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Tillamook Regional Medical Center receives additional funding to strengthen cancer services in county

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Justin Hersom and LaLonnie Hurliman
Courtesy photo

The following is a press release from Tillamook Regional Medical Center:

Tillamook Regional Medical Center (TRMC) received \$25,000 from the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program to continue to strengthen our local community's capacity to address cancer-related needs. Using the findings of the cancer needs assessment completed last year, this Tier 2 grant will support a pilot project that begins to address gaps and barriers that can be experienced by cancer patients who live in Tillamook County.

Cancer is a leading cause of death in Tillamook County. Because of our rural location, some cancer treatment services are available locally and some are only available in Portland.

Developing a robust network that supports patients and their families along the care continuum—from prevention, to diagnosis, through treatment, and into survivorship—has been identified as a key to improving the quality of life for individuals and their families who are battling cancer.

“It is an honor to continue our work with the Community Partnership Program to enhance continuity of care for patients battling cancer,” David Butler, CEO at TRMC, said. “The overall goal for this Tier 2 project is to develop clearer pathways and more robust cancer care partnerships, both locally and regionally, that inspire hope and healing for Tillamook County residents.”

The Tier 2 project team is led by behavioral health clinician Justin Hersom and includes cancer nurse navigator LaLonn Hurliman, the Oncology nurses with the Tillamook Regional Medical Center’s Outpatient Therapy Services clinic, as well as physicians John Bohlman and Ben Douglas and their clinic staff. Cancer patients, survivors, and interested community members will have opportunity to provide valuable input and feedback as the project progresses.

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program is designed to build sustainable collaborations with Oregon communities by providing grants and other resources to foster development of community-identified cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship projects. The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has made a decade-long commitment to invest in this program to develop robust, sustainable programs that benefit the health of all Oregonians. Additional information about the program is available on the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute’s website.