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**Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer**

August 8, 2024

Dear,

According to the 2023 Report Card of Community Health Indicators, "Breast and prostate cancer are responsible for one-third of newly diagnosed cancers" in Howard County. In addition, Howard County's rate of breast and cervical cancer remains stable while prostate cancer is escalating. The Cancer Program continues to work towards offering consistent no-cost screenings to eligible individuals for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer with the goal of detecting cancer prior to development or in its earliest stage for better outcomes.

As noted in the above statistics, screening for cancer continues to be a need in Howard County. In addition, the United States Census Bureau (2022) indicated that over four percent of individuals in Howard County are without healthcare benefits. Therefore, the Howard County Health Department will be creating a new coalition centered about focused efforts to discuss items related to cancer: available services, resources, and data.

The Cancer Coalition will meet quarterly via a virtual format. The coalition's group members need to be comprised of a diverse population containing individuals to represent a multitude of disciplines in Howard County. Therefore, we would like to extend an invitation for you to join the exciting new Cancer Coalition and bring your energy and unique perspective. Advantages include being a member of a group that would include the following key items:

- Collaboration with partners that share common goals
- Share resources with other organizations
- Obtain information about Cancer and related topics
- Locate resources to assist with barriers to cancer care

Please respond to this email and indicate whether you would like to be a member of the new Cancer Coalition. Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Sunyoung Nicolas,  
Cancer Program Supervisor  
Howard County Health Department