



This citizen council included 24 community members of Southwest Georgia who were selected for their diversity of views and life experiences. All were citizens of African ancestry.

Southwest Georgia Council on
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer

Citizen Council

What the members had to say

Southwest Georgia Council members considered whether to expand cancer screening in their community



Council members reviewed and weighted scientific evidence about cancer risk among those of African Ancestry and considered how screening programs could support the common good.

Council members saw both pros and cons of a family history screening program for people of African ancestry. The potential to save lives was emphasized. However, some 'cons' such as access to the program deserve careful attention.



Access to screening for a family history of cancer should be expanded

There needs to be greater awareness of family history screening



Council members felt that most citizens did not know that there was a family history screening program at Women's Health Clinics in Georgia, and felt that this lack of awareness held it back from being successful.

They thought that the term "hereditary breast and ovarian cancer" suggest that only women have a family history of risk. Instead, they suggested a name that includes both men & women.



Men also need to know their cancer risk based on family history

Cancer policy decision makers in Georgia value council members' views



Stakeholders across Georgia agreed with views about targeting citizens of African ancestry for family history of cancer risk. They viewed council members to have given thoughtful consideration to the advantages and disadvantages of the screening program.

Council members appreciated being involved in policies that directly affect them and found deliberative democracy to be a very useful process.



Council members want to be part of the policy discussion making