



The Gathering Place at MetroHealth Expands Partnership

Enhanced programs and services available for patients, families and staff

The Gathering Place at MetroHealth, a pilot program designed to give patients diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers a convenient way to access resources right where they're receiving care, is pleased to announce expanded services and programming.

The Gathering Place (TGP) and The MetroHealth System originally partnered in May 2021. As part of the initial collaboration, TGP staff were available onsite at the MetroHealth Cancer Center, twice a week to answer questions about free cancer support services including individual and group support, nutrition and exercise programs and legal and financial consultation.

The initial goal was to provide onsite psychosocial support and link patients, caregivers and families to TGP's services and sites. Over time it became evident that there was a need to tailor and expand services and programs onsite at MetroHealth to best meet the needs of patients, families and even employees.

In the next phase of service expansion, TGP Program Staff have begun facilitating education and support groups for Women Newly Diagnosed and Women in Survivorship for Breast Cancer. Groups will eventually expand to offer more specialized support for young women and women with re-occurrence and other cancers.

"We are thrilled to partner with MetroHealth to provide needed support services for their patients and caregivers onsite. By having our clinicians on-site, we have been able to create a successful model which provides easy access to TGP services. Our goal is to help improve the quality of life, reduce stress, and provide education for patients and their support partners as they plan for survivorship," said Michele Seyranian, CEO of The Gathering Place.

"With these services onsite, we're removing barriers to care," said Brian Kovach, MetroHealth's Cancer Care Service Line Administrator. "This allows us to bring services to those who wouldn't traditionally have access to them."

TGP clinicians are also providing support and education to MetroHealth Cancer Center staff through sessions and workshops designed to manage stress, anxiety, emotions, and reduce burnout. They continue to manage wig services, expand individual support to patients and caregivers, and address areas of concern through the continuum of care such as post treatment planning and grief support. Movement (exercise) and nutrition will also be included as part of the services for patients during and after treatment to aid in improved health outcomes.

To refer a patient or family, contact Lisa M. Eulinberg MSW, LSW, Coordinator Social Work, MetroHealth Cancer Center at ext. 88204 or leulinberg@metrohealth.org.

