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Cancer Support Community Adds Anabella Aspiras, Elizabeth Franklin to Growing Team

Cancer Support Community hires leaders from White House and George Washington University Cancer Institute to expand public policy efforts and strategic initiatives

WASHINGTON – (Jan. 23, 2017) – The Cancer Support Community is pleased to announce the addition of Anabella Aspiras, RN, MPA, as Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives, and Elizabeth Franklin, MSW, ACSW, as Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy.

Previously, Anabella Aspiras served as Director for Patient Engagement at Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot Task Force. A registered nurse by training, she spent the first part of her career working in critical care, vascular access, and emergency medicine. Nursing took Anabella to Haiti twice following the 2010 earthquake, to Guyana to coordinate public health clinics along the Essequibo River, and to Sierra Leone to assist with Ebola containment efforts. Inspired by her frontline experiences, Anabella returned to school to complete a Master of Public Administration in health policy to better understand the intersection of health and social justice. Following her graduate studies, Anabella became a Patient Services Administrator for Oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital, where she worked with interdisciplinary care teams to ensure evidence-based, holistic and person-centered care for patients and families facing cancer.

Anabella's dedication to achieving better patient outcomes for every individual with cancer is motivated in part by her own mother, who died from metastatic breast cancer in 2010. During the four years that Anabella cared for her mother while in treatment, they utilized the many services of their local Cancer Support Community affiliate, then called The Wellness Community. Anabella holds a Master of Public Administration from New York University, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Government & Politics from the University of Maryland.

Prior to joining the Cancer Support Community, Elizabeth Franklin was Director of Policy and Engagement at the George Washington University Cancer Institute where she worked at both the macro level, developing and implementing the Institute's policy agenda, and at the micro level, working with the patient-centered care team to ensure that all patients had access to high-quality, timely cancer care. Elizabeth was previously Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy with the Prevent Cancer Foundation where she engaged lawmakers, policymakers, key opinion leaders, and grassroots advocates in support of cancer prevention and early detection through the promotion of issues such as research funding, patient access, and healthcare equity. She was also Special Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Policy Analyst at the National Association of Social Workers where she advised the CEO on key planning, strategic, and policy issues, and managed special projects within the association.

Currently a doctoral student at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, Elizabeth is focusing her studies on the systemic barriers facing underserved cancer patients and their families, and finding innovative, policy-oriented solutions to healthcare challenges. Elizabeth holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Kentucky.

“The Cancer Support Community is thrilled by the addition of Anabella Aspiras and Elizabeth Franklin, two highly skilled individuals who have had an enormous impact on patients and families in their careers. We look forward to working with them to advance our organization’s vital mission and expand our capabilities in 2017 and beyond,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, CEO of the Cancer Support Community.

To learn more about the Cancer Support Community team, visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Leadership.

About the Cancer Support Community

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. CSC achieves its mission through three areas: direct service delivery, research and advocacy. The organization includes an international network of Affiliates that offer the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer, as well as a community of support available online and over the phone. The Research and Training Institute conducts cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research. CSC furthers its focus on patient advocacy through its Cancer Policy Institute, informing public policy in Washington, D.C. and across the nation. For more information, please call the toll-free Cancer Support Helpline at 888-793-9355, or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org. *So that no one faces cancer alone*®

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