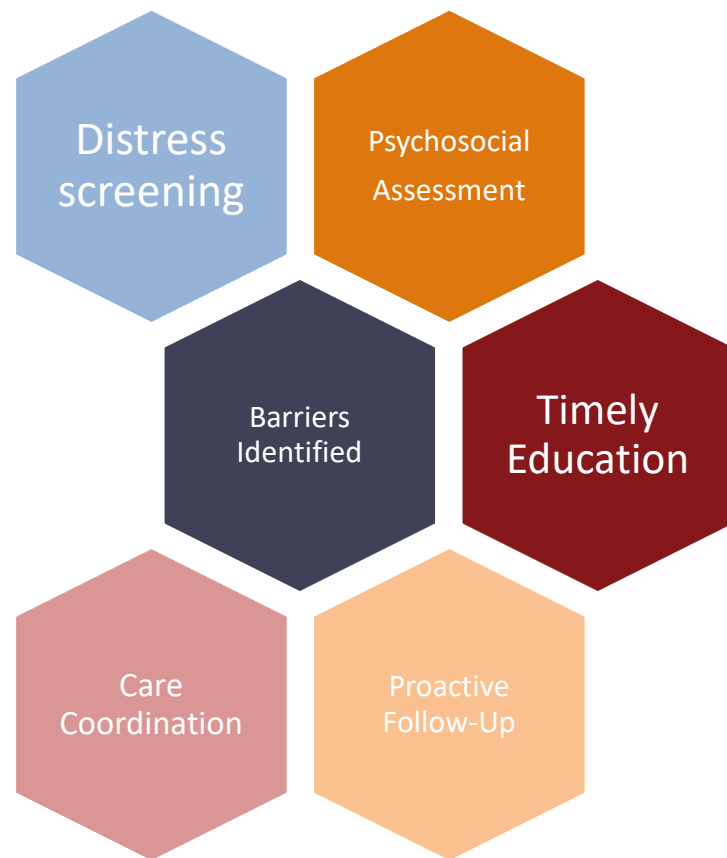


BACKGROUND

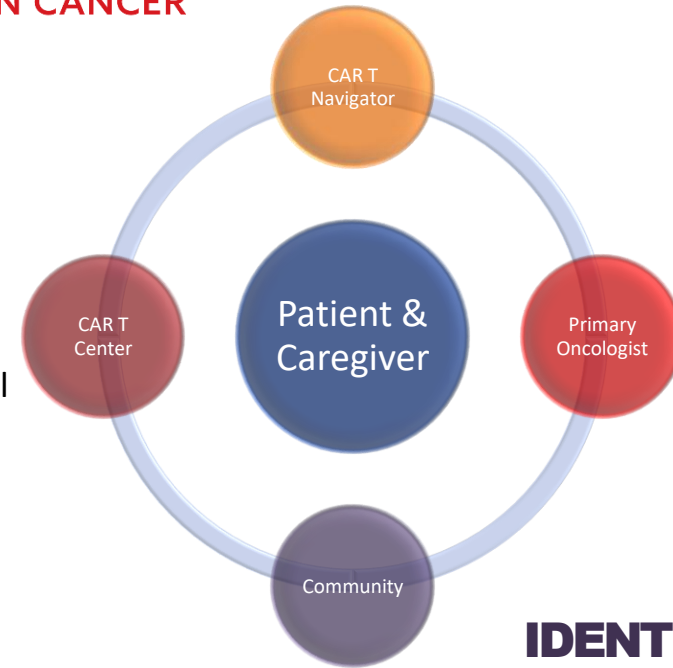
Cancer Support Community's (CSC) CAR T Navigation Program is an innovative practice initiative for which social workers take the lead and work alongside patients and caregivers to navigate systems of care, provide essential resources and offer ongoing support. CSC recognizes that social work navigators are the experts in psychosocial assessment and resource provision. The identified gaps of need for this population paired with skilled oncology social workers (OSWs) serving as navigators has elevated our ability to meet the scope of need across a spectrum of practical to emotional support.

Built on the **Expanded Chronic Disease Navigation framework**, our evidence-based navigation program collaborates with centers of excellence to provide patient- and caregiver-centered evaluations and interventions focused on core navigation goals:



Oncology Social Workers Bridging the Gap in Patient and Caregiver Needs

Lauren Burling, MSS, LCSW, Karen Costello, MSS, LSW, OSW-C
Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC, USA



*"The social and emotional support of regular conversations with an extremely thoughtful, competent, caring, empathic social worker was valuable beyond words."
- Patient participant*

IDENTIFIED NEED IN CAR T POPULATION

What is CAR T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor) T Therapy is a type of immunotherapy that uses a body's T cells to create the treatment itself • Second line of treatment for Leukemia, Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma
Psycho-social-spiritual concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distress and uncertainty about the future (<i>Will this work?</i>) • Expected emotional response • Isolation from community & primary supports • Caregiver (<i>Do they have one? Are they one themselves? Care for the carer</i>)
Practical Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to evaluation • Relocation for care and associated costs • Insurance coverage and financial impact • Access to lodging and transportation • Navigating employer-sponsored, state and federal benefit programs

LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS THROUGH THE LENS OF ONCOLOGY STANDARDS OF NAVIGATION PRACTICE

<p>QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (STANDARDS 2, 3, 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oncology certified through the American Cancer Society Leadership In Oncology Navigation Certification (LION) • Board of Oncology Social Work Certified • Maintained state licensure 	<p>ADVOCACY (STANDARD 16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with variety of working summits & task forces to elevate the patient experience perspective • Education on health equity concerns • Participated as content contributors • Served as advisory board members • Presented posters and educational webinars 	<p>SUPERVISION, AND MENTORSHIP (STANDARDS 8, 9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing partnership with Masters of Social Work programs that offer psychosocial oncology specialization 	<p>OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM EVALUATION (STANDARDS 17, 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing policy development • Proposal grant writing for new and established funders • Foster funder & partner relationships • Track metrics and evaluate outcomes
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• **The Frankly Speaking About Cancer (FSAC)** series provides in-depth coverage of topics relevant to those affected by cancer that are often not otherwise available in a comprehensive format. There are materials available for specific cancer types, as well as pan-cancer topics such as Clinical Trials, Cost of Care, and Immunotherapy.

• **FSAC: CAR T** is a comprehensive psychosocial educational program that provides information about what to expect, side effect management, and social and emotional challenges of CAR T Cell treatment.

