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# SOCIAL DRIVERS TUMOR BOARD

- Carla Baker
- Maria Robinson
- Rafael Miranda
- Diane Young

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# OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together national and local thought leaders—those who have witnessed firsthand the barriers social determinants of health present in cancer care—to share their insights.
  2. To highlight current programs and initiatives that have emerged to address these disparities in cancer care delivery.
  3. To foster new collaborations among cancer programs, healthcare professionals, nonprofits, and community leaders—so that we can move beyond identifying barriers to actively working toward solutions.
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# DENISE

“The keeps telling me I need surgery again.”

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# DENISE

- Ms. Denise Williams is a 52-year-old African American woman diagnosed with Stage II breast cancer.
  - She lives in a historically underserved neighborhood with limited access to specialty care and relies on public transportation, making frequent medical appointments a logistical challenge.
  - She works two part-time jobs—one as a home health aide and another in a grocery store—neither of which provides health insurance, paid sick leave, or job security.
  - She is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother, who has multiple chronic illnesses, and she also helps care for her three grandchildren while her daughter works long shifts as a nursing assistant.
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# DENISE

- Denise has had negative experiences with the healthcare system in the past, including dismissive treatment of her pain concerns, and she is hesitant to undergo recommended chemotherapy due to fears of side effects impacting her ability to work and care for her family.
  - Financial strain is a major concern, as she is already behind on utility bills and rent.
  - She has a strong church community but has not disclosed her diagnosis to them due to a sense of self-reliance and not wanting to burden others.
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# JOSÉ

“I want to get treatment so I can see my children grow up.”

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# JOSÉ

- Mr. José Rodríguez is a 45-year-old Spanish-speaking-only construction worker recently diagnosed with Stage III colon cancer.
  - He has lived in the U.S. for 18 years and is undocumented.
  - He shares a two-bedroom apartment with his wife, who cleans houses, and their three children, ages 8, 12, and 15.
  - His job is physically demanding, and he fears losing employment if he takes extended time off for treatment.
  - He has no health insurance and is hesitant to apply for financial aid due to concerns that accessing government services could jeopardize his residency status in the future.
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# JOSÉ

- José has long avoided routine healthcare visits, relying instead on over-the-counter medications and home remedies.
  - His wife has been his main source of support, but she is overwhelmed managing their household and working to cover expenses.
  - His oldest child often serves as an interpreter during medical visits, which has made discussions about his prognosis emotionally difficult.
  - With conversation surrounding immigration shifting toward stricter enforcement policies, José is increasingly anxious about seeking care and worries about what will happen to his family if he is unable to work.
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# CONCLUSION

**The problems are complex but they are  
SOLVABLE**

