

Navigation as a Success

As a Breast Health Patient Navigator, I have found that women who can connect a face to a service are more likely to complete recommended screenings. These women now can have Early Detection Works (EDW) and navigation, explained to them as a source that will help them get scheduled for breast and cervical screenings without the barrier of having no insurance. Working with EDW, before I became trained as a navigator, there were many women who did not keep appointments for breast or cervical screenings.

I have been working with EDW and the Unified Government Public Health Department as a navigator for the past five years, and I can say that screening rates have increased due to personally speaking with them to get enrolled, Then asking what the best times and days for *them* to get to a mammogram appointment, if they need transportation, informing them which radiology location they will have the appointment, what to do to prepare for the appointment, and most importantly, an EDW voucher that will pay for the service and any diagnostic or additional imaging they may need, is all done before they leave the clinic, are some barriers removed.

I believe the ease for enrollment and the explanation of services covered for these women, is as invaluable to them, as it is to me using an insurance card, it makes them more confident when they have information about what will happen at the appointment, they know who to call if they have questions and tend keep appointments for screening services.