

Panel develops plan of action

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CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE

A committee of parents and environmental and health experts joined forces Wednesday evening on a daunting mission: to seek answers to the most challenging questions surrounding the Southside cancer investigation.

Members of the Southside Advisory Committee said they realized that they may not find out why the state says a "statistically significant" number of Southside High School students and graduates have developed testicular cancer, or why many others have developed other kinds of cancers and illnesses.

The questions they say they must answer are these:

- Have state health and environmental experts collected enough information to determine what health risks, if any, are present at the school?
- And is that information

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List of advisory committee members/3C

enough to convince the community to trust the results?

"This isn't black and white," said Dr. Patricia Meinhardt, executive medical director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Arnot Ogden Medical Center. "How do you prove that the school is having no effect (on the students' health)?"

The committee has set forth a rigorous agenda to act quickly and effectively in obtaining information and presenting their findings to the public.

The group scheduled its next meeting for 6 p.m. Oct. 23

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