

Section I. Executive Summary, Honors, and Partnership Changes

Awards and Celebrations

2006 was an exciting implementation year! CARES celebrated its first five years as a funded program!

We held our **Second Annual Cancer Conference** on October 6th. Nebraska C.A.R.E.S recognized several of its partners during this conference: Charlotte Burke, June Eilers, Alan G. Thorson, MD, and Tracy Wiseman received certificates of appreciation for their contributions to Nebraska C.A.R.E.S. **Stephen Lemon, MD** was our keynote speaker. The planning committee included: Josie Abboud, Kelly Axmann-Wolfe, Charlotte Burke, Aliisa Criffield, Karen Crocker, Mary Jo Gillespie, Janelle Jacobson, Rita Kaul, Marilyn Kile, Carol Mitchell, Kathy Ortegren, June Ryan, Stephanie Stephenson, Alan G. Thorson, and Connie Wittman. Thanks for an informative conference that featured updates on genetics, survivorship, healthy lifestyles, tobacco, clinical trials, hereditary risks, and breast cancer screening.

We held our **Second Dialogue for Action** on November 3rd. We continue the work from the first Dialogue in engaging partners to find ways to increase colorectal cancer screening. Fifty-two energetic partners met in November and identified some 54 actions that CARES partners could take to increase screening. **David Hoelting, MD** and **William Minier, MD** delivered our keynote address.

We continued to work with national partners including the American Cancer Society, American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, Cancer Information Service, C-Change, Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, Intercultural Cancer Conference, and Lance Armstrong Foundation.

We expanded CARES' relationship with the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board that serves four Nebraska Native American Tribes; AATCHB is funded by CDC for comprehensive cancer control planning.

Staff Changes

Janelle J. Jacobson, M.P.H., CHES, became the new Partnership Program Coordinator on February 27, 2006. Her position is a joint partnership between CARES and the National Cancer Institutes' Cancer Information Service.

Jennifer Dunavan, M.S. R.D., was hired as our Partnership Coordinator. She began working with us on April 3, 2006. After a period of orientation, Janelle and Jennie have assumed leadership roles in CARES, notably, they support the 10 work groups.

Holly Dingman, M.S., R.D., continues to be in a new HHSS position that CARES shares with the Diabetes and Cardiovascular Health Programs. Holly leads the Healthy Lifestyles-Nutrition work group.

Michael Ray, MA, was hired by the Cardiovascular Health Program and offers assistance and consultation on physical activities to other HHSS chronic disease programs including Nebraska CARES.

New Partners:

We continue to recruit new partner organizations and representatives of those organizations. Our major growth this year was through Dialogue attendance and organizations involving more staff in projects, work groups and activities. As in the past, our partners participate at various levels--some attend meetings, some review documents, emails, and other communications, and some come forward to work on specific projects. All partners and levels of participation are welcome and appreciated.

From December 2005 to December 2006, Nebraska C.A.R.E.S grew from 241 partners and 150 groups/organizations to 294 persons representing 175 groups/organizations.

THANK YOU to our partners who contributed nearly 1600 hours and \$150,215 in resources and services in 2006!

We challenge each partner to become involved in one implementation activity during 2007!

Section II. 2006 Plans and Accomplishments

Plan: We will continue to expand and maintain Statewide Partnership.

Accomplishments: Our Partnership grew from 241 to 294 by December 2006.

Plan: We will maintain program staffing levels and create a new position; we will work with students.

Accomplishments: We received approval to hire into a new position that was filled by Jennifer Dunavan. We hosted a volunteer law student, Marice Reyes, from January through May.

Plan: We will hold two Partnership meetings and four Advisory Committee meetings in 2006.

Accomplishments: We held a spring Partnership meeting, the October Cancer Conference and Advisory Committee meetings in March, June and December. The September meeting was replaced by the Leadership Institute that was attended by 6 of the Advisory Committee members and staff.

Plan: We will adopt bylaws.

Accomplishments: Our partners voted to adopt and implement CARES bylaws.

Plan: We will plan and convene our Second Annual Cancer Conference in Fall, 2006.

Accomplishments: We held our Second Annual Cancer Conference on October 6, 2006.

Plan: We will hold our Dialogue for Action in collaboration with CDC and CRPF.

Accomplishments: We held our Second Dialogue on November 3, 2006. It was attended by 52 clinicians and others who expanded our Action Plan for increasing colorectal cancer screening.

Plan: We will apply for CDC continuing funding to support State Plan implementation.

Accomplishments: We applied for CDC funding for plan implementation (basic grant); we did not apply for other grants during 2006, in part because we did not have program positions filled. We documented contribution of partner resources in the amount of \$111,215 during this calendar year.

Plan: We will continue to support the activities of our work groups through administrative support and \$10,000 mini-grants to each of the 10 work groups.

Accomplishments: Ten work groups received funding and other support to help implement activities described more fully below. This strategy was successful and will be used in 2007. We decided to integrate the consumer and professional education function from two work groups into all the other work groups and develop new work groups focusing on genetics and workforce development, maintaining 10 work groups.

Plan: We will provide networking and educational opportunities for partners through attendance at national meetings and conferences. We believe this will benefit Nebraska CARES through new ideas and strategies.

Accomplishments: We supported partner participation at the following meetings and conferences (staff number in parenthesis): 2 at the Intercultural Cancer Conference in Washington, D.C.; 4 (1) at the National Dialogue for Action in Baltimore; (3) at the World Cancer Congress; 12 (3) at the National Partners Leadership Institute in Seattle; 4 (1) at the Lance Armstrong Survivorship Meeting; 1 (1) at the Clinical Trials Symposium in Baltimore, and 7 (2) at the Northern Plains Cancer Summit in Rapid City. We waived registration fees for two people to attend the cancer conference, two to attend the Dialogue, and provided five scholarships for the Women's Health Symposium. Staff participated in the Midwest Region Comprehensive Cancer Control meeting with Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board and Fond du Lac Reservation in Des Moines. (Since that meeting, Nebraska was re-assigned to the Mountain Plains Region with Idaho, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.)

Plan: We will continue to work toward achievement of cancer-related goals and priority objectives.

Accomplishments: The following section offers highlights of the work groups over the past year.

Section III: Work Group Reports

Eliminating Cancer Disparities Janelle Jacobson, Leader

- Participated in Tobacco Disparities Work Group.
- Assisted in offering Women, Tobacco and Cancer symposia for Hispanic women in Omaha.
- Conducted survey related to use of cancer education materials in other languages.
- Supported Nebraska Native Americans attending the Northern Plains Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Summit

Reducing Cancer Risks through Tobacco Control Judy Martin, Leader

- Supported Women, Tobacco and Cancer Symposia follow-up projects in Omaha.
- Submitted an application to C-Change for enhancing collaboration and addressing sustainability.
- Distributed copies of “A Family Gone Up in Smoke: The Kathy Black Story”.
- Supported the implementation of a Spanish-speaking smoking cessation promotora in Omaha.
- Worked with TFN planning group around tobacco cessation; developed an action plan.

Reducing Cancer Risks through Healthy Lifestyles-Nutrition Holly Dingman, RD, Leader

- Developed nutrition newsletters that were widely distributed to health departments and others.
- Developed nutrition information kits for cancer centers and updated kits for Native Americans
- Developed a “traveling” nutrition education exhibit.

Early Detection and Early Screening Tracy Wiseman, Leader

- Facilitated collaboration among Omaha, Lincoln and EWM colorectal cancer screening projects.
- Planned and held Second Nebraska Dialogue for Action; action plan expanded.

Networking by Cancer Specialists Alan G. Thorson, M.D., Leader

- Promoted cancer centers in the press and at statewide meetings and conferences.
- Hosted Fourth Annual Cancer Center Conference in Kearney at Good Samaritan Cancer Center.

Cancer Clinical Trials Janelle Jacobson, Leader

- Participated in national cancer clinical trials conference to identify resources and programs.
- Provided clinical trials information to numerous partners.

Living with Cancer Mary Jo Gillespie, Leader

- Planned and presented Survivorship session at Cancer Conference.
- Supported partner participation in Lance Armstrong Foundation Survivorship meeting.
- Disseminated survey to collect data on program and services offered to cancer survivors.

End-of-Life Jon Krutz, Leader

- Provided training for staff of AAAs, the Nebraska Respite Network and others.
- Supported re-survey of Nebraska attitudes and behaviors related to end of life.

Professional and Consumer Education Staff facilitated; no Leader

- Collaborated with many partners to promote awareness and education about cancer.
- Provided CEU opportunities for nurses and physicians.
- We will integrate the work of the professional and consumer work groups into other work group priorities in 2007-08 and establish two new work groups: genetics and workforce development.

Section IV. Cancer Control Goals and Priority Objectives for 2007-2008

Goal 1: Eliminate Cancer Disparities for all Nebraskans

- 1.2: Evaluate barriers to cancer care and develop a plan for aggressively addressing these barriers.
- 1.3: Distribute information to the public on sources of payment for cancer care.
- 1.7: Evaluate geographic distribution of cancer services across the continuum to identify gaps in services.
- 1.8: Document an increase in availability of cancer materials for non-English speaking residents.
- 3.9: Assess cancer screening and diagnostic services to identify gaps in service. Develop an access plan.

Goal 2. Reduce Cancer Risks of People who live in Nebraska.

- 2.1: Document reduction in the number of Nebraskans who use tobacco products.
- 2.2: Partner with existing groups to support/protect tobacco elimination policies and activities.
- 2.3: Document improved overall diet of Nebraskans.
- 2.4: Increase awareness about the links between diet, physical activity and cancer.
- 2.5: Document an increase in the # of Nebraskans participating in physical activity.
- 2.6: Document modification of school and workplace policies that encourage physical activity.
- 2.7: Provide information and resources on physical activity to cancer healthcare professionals.
- 2.8 and 2.9: Increase awareness about skin cancer and sun safe behaviors.

Goal 3: Increase Early Detection and appropriate Screening for Cancer.

- 3.1: Increase professional training opportunities related to cancer screening and early detection.
- 3.2: Collaborate with partners to promote early detection and cancer screening initiatives.
- 3.3: Provide continuing professional education programs about colorectal cancer screening guidelines.
- 3.4 and 3.6: Support EWM for breast and cervical cancer screening; expand CRC demo project.
- 3.5: Disseminate simplified cancer screening guides and recommendations for providers.
- 3.7: Provide consumer education related to detecting cancer early and at a more treatable stage.
- 3.10: Demonstrated increased cancer screening through linkage with non-traditional partners.
- 3.11: Demonstrate advocacy for screening and early detection insurance initiatives.

Goal 4: Increase Access to Appropriate and Effective Cancer Treatment and Care.

- 4.1: Increase access/use of optimal cancer care for residents.
- 4.4: Identify barriers to receiving state-of-the art treatment; develop strategies to overcome the barriers.
- 4.5: Analyze the status of treatment through a review of existing databases and processes.
- 4.6: Encourage eligible hospitals/cancer treatment facilities to become accredited by the ACoS.
- 4.9: Promote policies supporting patient's access to a second opinion from a cancer specialist.
- 4.10: Ensure that payers facilitate prompt access to appropriate cancer treatment and supportive services.
- 4.13: Leverage community assets to implement a program of improved cancer treatment.

Goal 5: Increase Understanding of Cancer Survivorship and Quality of Life.

- 1.9: Increase activities to inform persons of their right to participate fully in their care.
- 4.12: Increase quality of life through appropriate pain/other symptom management and rehabilitation.
- 4.14: Facilitate informed decision making re: treatment and quality of life issues.
- 5.3: Gather and use quality of cancer care/quality of patient life evaluation data.
- 5.4: Increase awareness, availability and use of cancer patient and family support services.
- 5.5: Adopt components of CDC Lance Armstrong National Plan for Survivorship.

Goal 6: Improve Cancer Knowledge through Education and Training.

- 6.01 and 6.02: Promote public and professional continuing education programs on cancer-related topics.
- 6.03: Increase knowledge of family history significance and usefulness of screening and genetic testing.
- 6.04: Obtain/develop/distribute linguistically, culturally appropriate patient cancer education materials.
- 6.05: Identify and promote best practices and current cancer research to providers.

Section V: 2007 Plans (More specific workplans may be available from work group chairs.)

Coordination and Collaboration

We will continue to expand, maintain and engage our Statewide Partnership.
We will continue to seek ways to collaborate with many diverse partners across the state.
We will hold two Partnership meetings: Spring Meeting and the third Annual Cancer Conference.
We will promote the work of our Partners and increase awareness about their activities and services.
We will implement the bylaws that were adopted by our Partners last year
We will update the website to better connect with our partners and keep them informed of CARES activities.

Implement the State Plan

We will address additional priority objectives, including all of those we planned to complete by 2008.
We will continue to build and develop our work groups as the action-oriented entities for cancer control.
We will continue to identify and seek funding to sustain and expand our cancer control efforts.
We will support the activities of our work groups through staff support and small grants to each work group.

Goal 1: Eliminate Cancer Disparities

We will identify and distribute information about potential sources of payment for cancer care.
We will assess geographic distribution of cancer services and propose suggestions for increasing access.
We will identify and distribute information about cancer materials for non-English speaking residents.
We will establish a workforce development work group and set initial priorities.

Goal 2: Reduce Cancer Risks Related to Nutrition and Tobacco

We will continue to support community symposia for Women on Tobacco and Cancer.
We will work with faith-based groups to raise awareness about tobacco use and its impact on health status.
We will work with Tobacco Free Nebraska to implement additional smoking cessation strategies.
We will support and participate in national nutrition campaigns.
We will partner with community health educators in local health departments to promote nutrition messages.

Goal 3: Increase Screening and Early Detection

We will participate in the National Dialogue for Action and hold regional Colorectal Cancer Dialogues.
We will continue to implement our Dialogue Action Plan related to colorectal cancer screening.
We will continue to implement our statewide colorectal cancer demonstration project with CDC.
We will establish a genetics work group and establish initial priorities.

Goal 4: Increase Access to Appropriate and Effective Cancer Treatment & Care

We will hold our Fifth Annual Cancer Center Meeting with ACoS Commission on Cancer and ACS.
We will continue the work began by our Clinical Trials Interest Group to increase enrollment in clinical trials.
We will raise awareness about the accredited cancer centers and support those seeking accreditation.

Goal 5: Increase Understanding of Living with Cancer (Survivorship) and End-of-Life

We will raise awareness about survivorship among health care professionals and consumers.
We will continue providing training on end-of-life issues.
We will present a survivorship related topic at the 2007 Cancer Conference.
We will bring together partners to discuss and define palliative care for Nebraska.
We will continue promoting end-of-life decision making by promoting use of advance directives.

Goal 6: Increase Professional and Consumer Cancer Knowledge

We will promote evidence-based or social marketing tested cancer information.
We will identify and promote best practices.
We will increase public knowledge about cancer prevention, early detection, patient care and survivorship.

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All Partners are welcome to join any of the work groups to add their experience and resources to controlling cancer in Nebraska. Work groups and their leaders are as follows:

Eliminating Cancer Disparities	Janelle Jacobson	janelle.jacobson@dhhs.ne.gov
Healthy Lifestyles Tobacco	Kathy Burklund	kathy.burklund@dhhs.ne.gov
Healthy Lifestyles Nutrition	Holly Dingman	holly.dingman@dhhs.ne.gov
Screening & Early Detection	Julie Glover	julie.glover@cancer.org
Networking Cancer Centers	Alan Thorson	contact june.ryan@dhhs.ne.gov
Clinical Trials	TBA	contact janelle.jacobson@dhhs.ne.gov
Survivorship: Living with Cancer	Mary Jo Gillespie	mjgillespie@neb.rr.com
Survivorship: End of Life	Jonathan Krutz	NebraskaHospice@aol.com
Genetics	Stephen Lemon	contact janelle.jacobson@dhhs.ne.gov
Workforce Development	TBA	contact june.ryan@dhhs.ne.gov

Do you know of someone who should become a Nebraska C.A.R.E.S Partner?
Contact staff and we will send them an invitation to become a Partner.

Announcements:

- **Web Site Changes:** We will be making changes to our website. We plan to introduce the new and improved website in July 2007. If you have suggestions, please contact jennifer.dunavan@dhhs.ne.gov. You will find our website at www.hhss.ne.gov/NebraskaCARES/
- **SAVE the DATE!** Spring Partnership Meeting • April 13th • Country Inn & Suites • Lincoln, NE • More information to follow