



Vermont State Cancer Plan 2006 Activities Report

PREVENTING FUTURE CANCERS

Tobacco cessation programs for youth and adults & 2nd hand smoke exposure (3 objectives)

Our affiliates, the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Vermont and the Vermont Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, are taking a seven-prong approach to reduce tobacco use in Vermont. These include 1) tobacco-free community coalitions, 2) school-based tobacco use prevention programs, 3) hospital-based cessation services, 4) media and public education, 5) statewide trainings for health care providers, 6) enforcement of laws banning tobacco sales to minors, and 7) program evaluation.

Obesity control & fruits & vegetable consumption (6 objectives)

The Vermont Department of Health's Fit and Healthy Vermonters obesity prevention program has completed the state plan for nutrition and physical activity and is working on implementing components of the plan. The worksite wellness work group is creating a resource guide for wellness programs; the schools group is working on a resource for implementing wellness policies; and provider practice tools have been created for identification, screening and counseling for overweight and obesity. Supporting activities include development of the Eat for Health consumer website and revisions of the Get Moving Vermont physical activity program materials. Funding for one community to implement comprehensive obesity prevention programming targeted towards families with young children was given to the Fit Family Coalition for the community of Swanton.

Physical activity for youth and adults (2 objectives)

Collaborations between Vermont's Departments of Health and Education, the Agency of Transportation and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport has led to an increase in moderate physical activity in both adults and adolescents. These collaborations include the Governor's Spring and Fall Daylight Savings Challenges, Girls on Track, SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program. The Vermont Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control program supports several of these initiatives each year.

Radon detection

The Vermont Department of Health Cancer Control and Radon programs have worked together to promote free residential radon detection kits in areas where radon testing rates are lowest, including Bennington, Essex and Caledonia counties.

Sun protection promotion

The Vermont Cancer Center has taken the lead in promoting sun protection for children at Kids Day and related events in Chittenden County. The Vermont Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control program has supported these efforts by purchasing educational and promotional materials.

Breastfeeding promotion

The Vermont Department of Health promotes breastfeeding through its District Offices, WIC program, and the La Leche League. Vermont's private, not-for-profit home health agencies and Visiting Nurse Associations work in collaboration with VDH through the Healthy Babies, Kids & Families Program to provide comprehensive education and support to new families.

DETECTING NEW CANCERS EARLY

Breast cancer screening

The Vermont Department of Health Ladies First Program, is reaching out to low-income women across Vermont. Ladies First and the American Cancer Society are offering incentives to women in Rutland and Chittenden counties, where mammography rates are lower. These partners and others are also reaching out to non-English speaking refugee and minority women in the Burlington area who have rarely or never been screened for cancers of the breast and cervix.

Cervical cancer screening

In addition to the refugee and minority outreach program, several VTAAC partners sit on the legislative-mandated Cervical Cancer Eradication Task Force making recommendations to Vermont Department of Health and the legislature. VTAAC has formed a Cervical Cancer workgroup to develop and prioritize strategies related to HPV vaccinations for young women and cervical cancer screening for women of all ages.

Colorectal cancer screening

A VTAAC Colon Cancer workgroup was formed in 2005 and worked with the University of Vermont's College of Medicine to conduct a capacity assessment for colorectal cancer screening. The American Cancer Society hosted a statewide summit in March 2006 and created a partnership with the state's health insurers to encourage healthcare providers and insured Vermonters over 50 to talk about colorectal cancer screening. The workgroup is now examining ways to increase screening among under-insured Vermonters.

Prostate cancer screening/informed decision making

Vermont Department of Health and VTAAC staff presented information about VTAAC, Vermont Cancer Survivor Network and the State Cancer Plan to a prostate cancer survivor support group in Chittenden County; laying the groundwork for a future prostate cancer workgroup. Prostate cancer survivors in southern Vermont also participated in the cancer survivorship needs assessment focus groups.

INCREASING ACCESS TO OPTIMUM CANCER TREATMENT

Multi-modality treatment assessment

To be addressed in 2008.

Transportation service usage

To be addressed in 2007.

Clinical trials participation

The Center for Disease Control and national partners are beginning to offer technical assistance in this area. VTAAC has identified co-chairs for a workgroup to be convened in 2007. We are discussing a statewide needs assessment based on a model developed in New Hampshire.

Insurance coverage

The Colon Cancer workgroup is collaborating with major insurers to encourage colon cancer screening among insured Vermonters over age 50; and exploring coverage of under-insured Vermonters under the Catamount Health Plan.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Survivorship

A new affiliate, the Vermont Cancer Survivor Network, was created in December 2005 at Vermont's first Cancer Survivors' Summit, and currently has 75 members.

VCSN organized two National Cancer Survivor's Day celebrations in June; and collaborated with the Vermont Department of Health to assess the needs of cancer survivors in Vermont through a series of six focus groups during the summer of 2006. That report is available at vtaac.org and healthvermont.gov/cancer.

Pain management, Hospice and palliative care availability

Our affiliate, the Vermont Pain Initiative has worked with The Vermont Medical Board, the Vermont Pharmacy Board and the Hospice and Palliative Care Council of Vermont to implement policies resulting in Vermont's "Pain Report Card" grade improving from a C to a B+ during 2006.

Advance directives

In 2005, the Vermont Department of Health convened a task force to study the feasibility of a statewide electronic Advance Directives Registry. A contract was signed to create this registry in July 2006. Our affiliate, the Vermont Ethics Network, is promoting use of this on-line service.

COALITION STRUCTURE AND PROMOTION

Infrastructure

An Organization and Operation work group was formed by VTAAC in 2005 to develop Guiding Principles and an organization chart, which were adopted in November 2006.

David Cranmer was hired in September 2006 as half-time staff coordinator responsible for logistics and communications for VTAAC. Additional committee are being reformed to address membership, resources and advocacy.

Promoting VTAAC and the State Cancer Plan

VTAAC staff has presented information at several cancer-related programs/conference across the state in 2006; and is strategizing ways to further promote the coalition, the State Cancer Plan, and various cancer control activities. In addition, a VTAAC Communications Committee has been formed. This committee worked on several projects including a public TV special on cancer survivorship ("A Lion in the House"), roll-out of the State Cancer Plan out, and a report on the survivorship needs assessment.

The Vermont State Cancer Plan

The Cancer Plan was introduced at a special press conference and meeting in Montpelier on December 13, 2005. A progress report was released by the Vermont Department of Health in September 2006. Progress and activities reports will be issued annually.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2007

Colorectal cancer

Colon Cancer Workgroup to continue and will host an annual summit in March 2007. Assess results of 2006 activities. Develop strategies to increase access to screening for uninsured Vermonters.

Survivorship

Vermont Cancer Survivor Network to develop strategies to meet needs of Vermonters living with cancer. Support two new National Cancer Survivor Day celebrations. Formally organize network to seek funding for implementation.

Cervical cancer

VTAAC is forming a Cervical Cancer workgroup to develop and prioritize strategies related to cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccinations.

Clinical trials

VTAAC will create and support a new Workgroup to assess, prioritize, strategize, and promote therapeutical clinical trials among cancer patients in Vermont.

Insurance

VTAAC will work with affiliates to insure that Catamount Health Plan provides adequate coverage for cancer screening, treatment, and follow-up care.

Sun protection

VTAAC partners will work with the Vermont Department of Health to provide "mini-grants" to communities wishing to institute sun protection awareness programs.

Pain management, Hospice & palliative care

VTAAC will work with the Vermont Department of Health and American Cancer Society to promote pain management awareness activities with health care professionals.

Transportation services

VTAAC will work with affiliates to assess and develop a patient transportation plan for Vermont.

Partner recruitment

VTAAC to convene a Membership Committee to work with staff to develop and implement a membership recruitment program.

Promote plan/VTAAC

VTAAC Communications Committee to create marketing plan.

VTAAC staff to implement plan and continue information tables at cancer-related events.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2008

Palliative care

Promote insurance reimbursement for hospice and palliative care.

Treatment Assessment

Create a Treatment Assessment Workgroup to develop strategies & activities to increase access to optimal cancer treatment and follow-up care.

Prostate Cancer

Create a Prostate Cancer Work Group to develop strategies & activities to promote informed decision-making about prostate screening options.

Survivorship

Work with affiliate the Vermont Cancer Survivor Network to advocate for improved survivor services and policy change to address survivorship issues.

Colorectal cancer

Colon Cancer workgroup to continue addressing screening for all Vermonters.

Review Plan & Progress

VTAAC staff work with the Vermont Department of Health and Steering Committee to develop and implement an Evaluation plan for the State Cancer Plan.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2009

Evaluate Plan

VTAAC Staff/Steering Committee

Expand partnerships

VTAAC Staff/Membership Committee

Begin planning for 2010-15

VTAAC Staff/Steering Committee

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2010

Publish new plan

VTAAC Staff/Steering Committee

Set priorities

VTAAC Staff/Steering Committee

Plan for implementation

VTAAC Staff/Steering Committee

Implement New Plan

VERMONTERS ARE TAKING ACTION AGAINST CANCER!

To find out what actions you can take:

Call: David Cranmer, VTAAC coordinator, at 802-872-6303

Click: www.vtaac.org or <http://vermonthealth.gov/cancer>

Join: Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer

Or: Vermont Cancer Survivors Network <http://vcsn.net>