Overview of Project

The Collaboration awarded funds to the American Lung Association of the Northeast to plan and facilitate a Lung Cancer Screening Summit for New Hampshire. The overarching goal of this summit was to bring together key individuals and organizations to begin to define what the lung cancer screening system would look like to meet the needs of the people of New Hampshire.

NH Cancer Plan Objectives

- Increase percentage of NH adults who receive screening for colorectal, cervical, and breast cancer based on the most recent US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines, with an emphasis on populations experiencing disparities.
- Increase access to informed and shared decision making for cancer screenings.

Background

- A report published in August, 2011 in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed that participants who received low-dose helical CT scans had a 20 percent lower risk of dying from lung cancer than participants who received standard chest x-rays. In early 2014, the U.S. Preventive Health Services Task Force gave its approval for targeted lung cancer screening and the screening is covered under the Affordable Care Act requirements. Lung Cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer in both women and men, and is the leading cause of cancer death in the country, killing more than 150,000 people each year including over 750 in New Hampshire.

Results

- Forty-two health care professionals from across the state attended the summit on June 30, 2015
- Three educational sessions were provided: ‘An Overview of the Development of Lung Cancer Screenings’, ‘Sharing Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s Experience’, and ‘Sharing Wentworth-Douglass Hospital’s Experience’
- Participants brainstormed to identify next steps:
  1. Continue with quarterly meetings
  2. Standardize tools and resources
  3. Offer Shared-Decision Making training workshops
  4. Track Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updates and offer input into rule making
  5. Continue to work together to develop effective best practices for a lung cancer screening system for NH.