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Recent NHCCC Conference Highlights Successes and Challenges in the Fight Against Cancer in NH *Opportunities For Increased Access To Screening Provided By Health Care Reform Gives Hope For Decreasing Cancer*

Nearly 200 people – from cancer survivors to health care professionals – attended the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NHCCC) day-long conference last Wednesday, April 13th in Concord. NH CCC's Sixth Annual Conference, *Cancer and the Health Reform Environment: New Opportunities and New Partnerships* celebrated successful community efforts, reviewed goals in the NH Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, and addressed issues surrounding Health Care Reform and the Cancer Community in this state.

Dr. Jose Montero, Director of NH's Public Health Services, addressed health care reform and how it could save lives and money by providing screenings that detect or prevent certain cancers. "Basically, what is the quality of the disease care that we are delivering? Because at the end of the day, every dollar that we have to invest in treating somebody who is ill is a dollar that we don't save or that we don't use for prevention, where it will actually save us a lot of money down the road," said Dr. Montero.

One of the most highly attended break-out sessions of the day was the presentation of a tale of two brothers who have prostate cancer. Several people in the audience were overcome with emotion as Terry Johnson of New Hampshire, and Steve Johnson, living in England, shared their personal stories about being diagnosed and then navigating the two very different health care systems after both being diagnosed last year. While the type of treatment was similar, from the perspective of these two cancer patients, the US health care system and England's National Health Service were markedly different as far as information exchange and support through the

system. As Steve Johnson said when asked about filling out paperwork at various health care providers, “What paperwork?”

Other topics included the importance of changing policy, environment and systems to improve health and reduce costs with featured speakers Dr. Marcus Plescia of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, David Woodmansee of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and Carrie Hoverman Colla, PhD, of The Dartmouth Institute.

A complete agenda and presentations from the conference can be found at www.NHCancerPlan.org.

About the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NHCCC) was established in 2004 to address one of the leading causes of death in New Hampshire (NH). The NHCCC is a dedicated partnership of individuals and organizations committed to eliminating cancer in the state. The NHCCC developed the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan to address the following priorities: preventing cancer by creating environments that support a healthy life style, increasing early detection of cancer through screening, improving the treatment of cancer and quality of life for people living with cancer, and reporting on the latest cancer research. For more information about the NHCCC and the NH Cancer Plan, visit www.NHCancerPlan.org.

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Terry Johnson, 55, of Dover, NH, discusses his recent experience navigating the US health care system after prostate cancer diagnosis.