

Coalition award pacts for screenings, end-of-life care

MANCHESTER — The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration said Wednesday it has awarded contracts to promote old-age colon cancer screening, smoke-free pregnancy and end-of-life care for cancer patients.

"We are pleased to support three innovative projects addressing important areas for cancer prevention and treatment in New Hampshire," Nancy Kane, board chairman for the cancer coalition, said in a statement.

"We believe that by coming together to coordinate our efforts, we can better reach our goal of eliminating the incidence and suffering due to cancer in our state," she said.

The contracts support:

- New Hampshire Colorectal Cancer Screening Program's "Grandparents, Let's Get Screened," a drive to increase screening in adults ages 65 and over in the state.

Brochures, posters and let-

ters will be made available to New Hampshire organizations to inform and motivate people to be screened.

- Community Health Institute/JSI of Bow will work to reduce smoking among participants in the Women Infant Children (WIC) program at Southern New Hampshire Services Inc. clinics in the Hillsborough and Rockingham counties.

In 2010, more than 20 percent of WIC participants in the two counties smoked during pregnancy, compared to 13 percent of participants nationally.

- New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's "Promoting Earlier Access to End-of-Life Care" aims to improve access to better pain and symptom management in settings serving cancer patients.

An educational video as well as other tools will educate patients, families and health care providers on the availability of palliative care and hospice services.