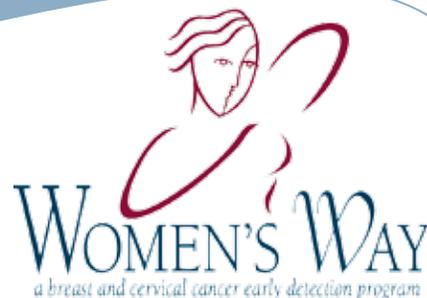


HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER EXAMINER

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Working Together - **Making a Difference for Women**

The success of the North Dakota's *Women's Way* Program depends on many people working separately, but in unison, to help women stay healthy. Health-care providers provide the services, talk to women about enrolling in the program and complete paperwork summarizing the screenings provided. Local coordinating units educate and recruit women, help them enroll in the program and also complete paperwork. State staff administer, monitor and evaluate program progress and effectiveness by using program performance indicators. State staff members also act as valuable resources – providing information, educational materials and advertising to those working with the program and making sure the funding continues by applying for grants and reporting to the federal funding source, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“We are a great team,” said Mary Ann Foss, program director of *Women's Way*. “Every person plays an essential role when it comes to providing outstanding services for women. Each of us working alone could not accomplish what we can do together.”

Foss highlights two of the goals that the *Women's Way* Program continues to work on: (1) recruiting and serving more women, and (2) making sure that the paperwork is accurately completed by health-care providers on a timely and efficient schedule.

“We have approximately 24,000 women in North Dakota who are eligible for *Women's Way* screening services,” Foss said. “Last year, we served just over 3,000 women. We have the potential to help many more women.”

(continued on Page 2)



Kellie Laumb, physician's assistant at Great Plains Clinic in Dickinson, checks a patient's blood pressure during a Women's Way screening.

Working Together – Making a Difference for Women – continued from Page 1

Leah Madler of Southwestern District Health Unit in Dickinson relies on and appreciates her local health-care providers. “The health-care providers we work with are so wonderful. They do a great job at turning in the necessary paperwork in a timely manner,” Madler said. “This is so important so the flow of funding keeps coming. Our funding truly is based on our paper trail, which is the proof that we have provided services.”

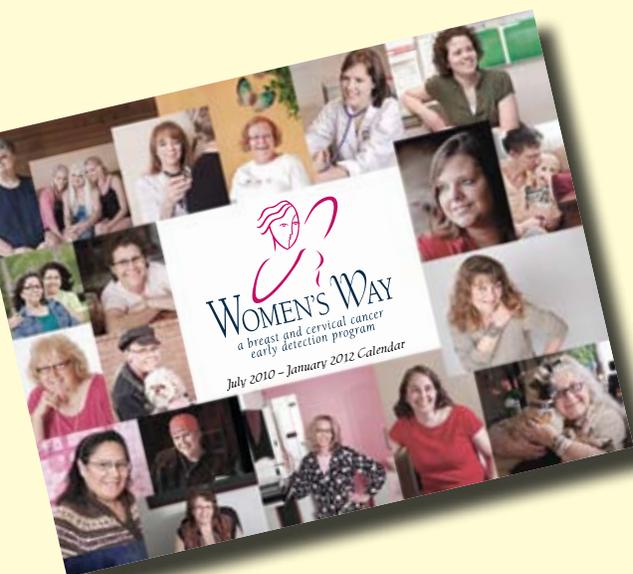
Kailee Dvorak, a *Women’s Way* local coordinator in Grand Forks, agrees that the paper trail is of utmost importance. “The prompt return of the *Women’s Way* Intake and Visit Summary form from health-care providers is a major priority to meet requirements for federal funding,” Dvorak said. “This includes accurate data entry for program reports and payment at the local level.”

Dvorak also acknowledges the importance of the health-care providers in the referral and recruitment process. “Health-care provider referral to *Women’s Way* is one of many important avenues to reach eligible women for the program,” Dvorak said. “The health-care provider is vital for referring eligible women who are overdue for their breast and cervical cancer screenings.”

Theresa Schmidt, a *Women’s Way* local coordinator in Bismarck, mentions a Malayan proverb when she talks about the health-care providers in North Dakota. “I saw this proverb and it reminded me of our kind health-care providers. It says, ‘One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind,’” Schmidt said. “As with every competitive grant program, our funding to cover breast and cervical cancer screenings is challenged every year. Without the dedication of our health-care providers who refer new women and see *Women’s Way* clients, our program would not be successful in meeting CDC screening goals. It’s a good feeling to know you have those professionals on your side, helping you help women stay healthy.”

The women who are served by *Women’s Way* likely will never know about all that is involved to provide them with screening services – the paperwork involved, the preparations necessary. They will know, though, that they are welcomed and provided for, that they are treated with kindness and respect, and that they can continue with their busy lives without worrying about how they will pay for breast and cervical cancer screenings. *Women’s Way* is an invaluable service provided by a great team – working together to make a difference for women!

FEATURING... *Women’s Way*



- The *Women’s Way* website has had an extreme makeover! Visit the new site at www.ndhealth.gov/womensway.
- *Women’s Way* clients, health-care providers and local coordinators are featured in a new wall calendar. Order your copies by visiting the *Women’s Way* website at www.ndhealth.gov/womensway. Click For Professionals, Downloads and Patient Education Materials.
- *Women’s Way* PSAs (radio, TV and print) are available for use. Access them by visiting the website and clicking on For Media.

Director's Dialogue



Mary Ann Foss

By Mary Ann Foss,
Women's Way
Program Director

As the North Dakota program for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), *Women's Way* is proud to be part of the 20th Anniversary celebration that will take place in Atlanta, Ga., in September 2010. The NBCCEDP has been providing low-income, uninsured and underserved women access to timely breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services since 1991. From January 2004 through December 2009, the NBCCEDP provided more than 1.8 million breast and cervical cancer screenings. More than 25,000 cervical cancers or cervical precancers, and almost 16,000 breast cancers were detected.

Women's Way has provided eligible North Dakota women who enroll in the program breast and cervical cancer screening services since September 1997. From January 2004 through December 2009, *Women's Way* provided more than 7,500 breast and cervical cancer screenings. As a result, 273 cervical cancers or cervical precancers, and 117 breast cancers were detected for North Dakota women who probably would not have obtained these life-saving services otherwise.

The goal of *Women's Way* is to provide services to at least 3,200 women a year. Reaching this goal is

critical because funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is performance based.

This is where you come in. Results of study after study indicate that health-care provider referral is the most effective way to get women to obtain a mammogram and a Pap test. Doctors and nurses are so respected by patients. Taking a minute to discuss the importance of regular breast and cervical cancer screening and encouraging a potentially eligible woman to enroll in *Women's Way* could make all the difference in that woman's life. So your referrals for these services are essential. You are in the perfect position to encourage and even help eligible women enroll in *Women's Way*.

"We will surely get to our destination if we join hands." Kyi, Aung San Suu, Burmese political leader

Two easy options are: (1) ask your *Women's Way* local coordinator for enrollment packets so you can enroll women at your facility, or (2) encourage and assist the woman to call her local coordinator at 800.449.6636 or the state office at 800.280.5512.

"There is nothing permanent except change." Heraculitus

Change is on the horizon and health-care reform is happening. However, until it is known just what the impact will be for the NBCCEDP, *Women's Way* will continue to recruit women and send them on to you for their screening services.

North Dakota is so fortunate to have extraordinary health-care professionals such as you! Your collaboration with, and support of, *Women's Way* is so appreciated!

On behalf of the women we all serve, thank you. Let us continue to work together to reach many more.

If you ever have any questions, you can reach your *Women's Way* local coordinator at 800.449.6636 or the state office at 800.280.5512.

Look for your What's Covered Women's Way CPT Code Medicare Part B Rate List included with this newsletter. Post this handy reference in a convenient spot and use it to look up Women's Way payable CPT codes. Please share a copy with your billing staff. This list also is posted online at www.ndhealth.gov/womensway. Click For Professionals, Downloads and What's Covered By Women's Way.

LCU Spotlight

Marilyn Lacher and Leah Madler

Marilyn Lacher and Leah Madler have quite a bit in common. Both are nurses; both have husbands who farm; and both are *Women's Way* local coordinators at the Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU). As local coordinators, Marilyn and Leah are responsible for recruiting, enrolling and reenrolling women in the program; working with health-care providers; answering billing questions; and educating everyone about *Women's Way*.

Both women are also involved in a local fundraiser – a 5K run and walk – that SWDHU holds in Dickinson every year to raise extra money for *Women's Way* clients. The money is made available to help pay for things not covered by *Women's Way*, like specific tests and travel and lodging for women who are receiving treatments. “It means so much to me to have this extra resource fund available,” Marilyn said. “Some women would not be able to have additional tests or be able to travel for treatments since those items aren’t included in what *Women's Way* pays for. It’s so nice that we are able to help them pay for those things.”

From 1997 through April 2010, SWDHU had 768 women enrolled in the program and 703 women screened. The number of those with abnormal screenings was relatively low, with 12 women receiving a breast cancer diagnosis and two women receiving a cervical cancer diagnosis. This rate of about 2 percent of women finding cancer during their *Women's Way* screening mirrors the rate across the state.



Marilyn Lacher

According to Leah, one of the challenges the women face is that people misunderstand the program. “Some people think the program is just like Medicaid,” she said. “The program is actually for those who fall between the cracks. It’s for those without insurance or who are underinsured, and who don’t qualify for Medicaid or Medicare.”

Another struggle is that some of the women need to be convinced that it’s okay to accept the services offered – that they don’t have to feel bad or guilty for accepting the offer of help. Marilyn and Leah agree that public education is the best way to solve these problems. “It’s so important that we continue our education efforts about what the program truly is, so that we are able to find the women who need help and get them enrolled,” Leah said.

As part of their education efforts, the women attend health fairs, set up booths at places like Wal-Mart and visit all the clinics in their area to remind them of the program. They use the promotional items provided by the state *Women's Way* office and face-to-face conversations to spread the word. As proof that their efforts are working, they were pleased that after a round of clinic visits in 2009 they received 11 referrals from eight counties.

Marilyn sums up her dedication to *Women's Way*: “Knowing that I work for such a great program that helps so many women gives me a feeling of great satisfaction in my life,” she said. “I have had one particular difficult time in my life and so many people were more than willing to step forward and help me out. The more I can promote the *Women's Way* program, enroll women and ensure their breast and cervical cancer screenings are paid in full is just paying it forward. Isn’t that a big part of what life is all about?”



Leah Madler

Clinical Coordinator's Corner



Barb Steiner

What Is the Medicaid – Women's Way Treatment Program?

By **Barb Steiner**,
Women's Way
Clinical Coordinator

The Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program **is not** the same as the *Women's Way* Program. The *Women's Way* Program provides breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services for eligible North Dakota women and **does not** pay for any treatment services. *Women's Way* is available for eligible uninsured and underinsured women.

The Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program pays for treatment of breast and cervical cancer, including cervical pre-cancerous conditions. In order for a woman to be eligible for the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program, she must be a *Women's Way* client before diagnosis; be screened and/or diagnosed through *Women's Way*; be in need of treatment for breast or cervical cancer, including cervical pre-cancers; be a United States citizen; be younger than 65; have no credible health insurance; and not be eligible for any other Medicaid Program.

Treatment includes, but is not limited to, cryotherapy, LEEPS, and breast cancer treatment, such as surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and adjunctive therapy such as Tamoxifen or Arimidex. A woman can stay on the Medicaid – *Women's Way* treatment program for as long as the treatment is needed. When treatment is done, she is no longer eligible for the treatment program.

Other instances that would end the woman's eligibility for the treatment program include that the woman turns 65, is no longer a state resident, becomes eligible under other Medicaid coverage groups or obtains credible health insurance.

In addition to paying for breast and cervical cancer and cervical pre-cancer treatment, eligible women have full Medicaid benefits and can go to any North Dakota provider that accepts Medicaid.

A special application form completed by the woman, and a Verification of Diagnosis form completed by the health-care provider are needed to apply for the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program. These forms are submitted to the state Medicaid office by the *Women's Way* local coordinator. When treatment is finished, a Completion of Treatment form is completed by the health-care provider and submitted to the *Women's Way* local coordinator.

If determined eligible, a woman will receive an Approval Notice with a Medicaid client identification (ID) number from the state Medicaid Office. No gold card will be issued. The Medicaid client ID number will be a special category number (WW#-##-#####). To verify that a client is on the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program, providers can call Deb Masad (701.328.1830) or Janet Helbling (701.328.1065) at the state Medicaid office.

Billing for services provided on the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program is consistent with the way you submit a regular Medicaid claim. The only difference in billing is the Medicaid client ID number (WW#-##-#####). For billing questions, call Medicaid Provider Relations at 701.328.4043 or 701.328.4030, or the Medicaid toll-free number at 800.755.2604. You will be asked to leave a message and someone will return your call.

Since July 2001, 216 women have received treatment through the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program. Forty women currently are receiving treatment.

Helpful Website Links

American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program – www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp

National Cancer Institute – www.cancer.gov

American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology – www.asccp.org/consensus.shtml

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – www.cdc.gov/hpv/screening.html

HPV and HPV Vaccine – www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/default.htm

Nancy Jardine – A Survivor

Nancy Jardine knows the importance of having a regular mammogram. Breast cancer runs in her family – her mom and one of her sisters have both been diagnosed with cancer. Nancy had been enrolled with a similar program in Minnesota and signed up for the *Women's Way* Program when she moved back to North Dakota.

And thank goodness she did. Nancy had been enrolled with *Women's Way* for about five years when one of her annual mammograms revealed some abnormal cells.

Nancy had a second scan and a needle biopsy and discovered that she had Stage 1 breast cancer.

Nancy chose to have a lumpectomy and then proceed with catheter radiation and a regimen of Tamoxifen medication. As soon as her treatment began, Nancy was switched from the *Women's Way* Program to the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program. The Medicaid Program was able to pay for Nancy's lumpectomy surgery and radiation treatments and also continues to pay for her medication and follow-up checkups.

Nancy was concerned that the program might not pay for the radiation treatment she chose. "With the

catheter radiation, they put a catheter right into the spot where the cancer is and only give radiation in that area," she said. "I was only the sixth person to have this treatment in my area, so I was worried that it might not be covered under the program."

Nancy was happy to find out that the treatment program did pay for that procedure. Her ability to have the catheter radiation made it possible for her to keep working during the entire time of the treatment.

Nancy sings the praises of her local *Women's Way* coordinator, Kristi Weyrauch. "Kristi is everything to me," she said. "She calls me every year and helps me redetermine my status so I can continue with my treatment. She is VERY helpful."

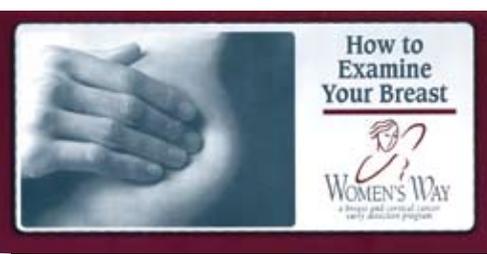
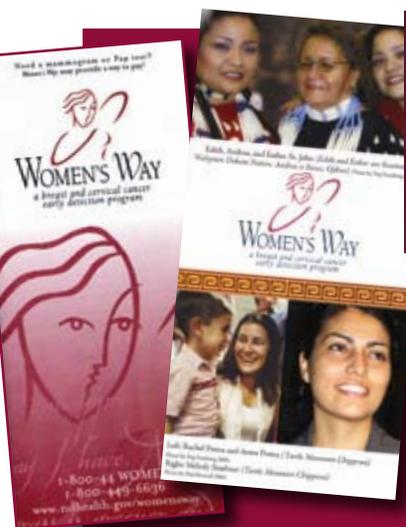
Nancy is ever grateful to *Women's Way* for helping her. "I knew I needed regular mammograms. And it's the mammogram that found my cancer," she said. "I definitely wouldn't have found this cancer on my own at that time because of where it was and the fact that it wasn't a lump yet."

Since Nancy is such a fan, she is eager to spread the word about *Women's Way* to family members and friends. "It's worth it for anyone to see if they are eligible," she said. "The program relieves you of the concern about having to be faced with the bills and lets you concentrate on your health."

That concentration on health, and her annual mammogram, likely saved Nancy from a greater battle with cancer and may well have saved her life.



Nancy Jardine



Women's Way Materials

Available for you

Order your free *Women's Way* resources online at www.ndhealth.gov/womensway. Click For Professionals, Downloads and Patient Education Materials to view the available items and access an order form.

Elaine Emineth – One Busy Lady

Elaine Emineth is one busy lady. She works, goes to school and is consumed by big projects like getting her stucco house scraped and painted. In spite of her busy schedule, Elaine makes sure to take time to get regular Pap tests done.

Elaine has been enrolled with *Women's Way* for at least nine years. A few years ago she began having abnormal Pap test results, which indicated the possibility of cancer forming. She has had several tests done, and so far cancer has been ruled out. She continues to get a Pap test every six months so that the doctors can keep an eye on the progression of the irregular cells.

Elaine originally saw her family practitioner and now sees a gynecologist for her tests. "Since I've been with *Women's Way*, the doctors I've seen have been fantastic," she said. "I'm so glad they found the irregular cells and that we're keeping on top of it."

Elaine is grateful to Theresa Schmidt of Bismarck, her local coordinator for the *Women's Way* Program.

"Theresa is so great! She is wonderful at helping you and pointing you in the right direction," Elaine said. "She tells you exactly what you need to bring to get signed up with the program."

Elaine also pointed out that Theresa helps her reenroll every year and is always available to answer any questions or help fix problems.

Elaine found out about *Women's Way* through a friend and said she does mention it to other people. "A lot of women I know do have insurance, but I've pointed the program out to a few ladies who I think it could help. I'm not sure if they've signed up or not, but hopefully they have," she said.

As busy as her life gets, Elaine makes sure to schedule her regular checkups and is grateful to *Women's Way* for helping her pay for them. "I've been very happy with the program," Elaine said. "Unfortunately, if I had to pay for it out of my pocket, it just wouldn't happen. Now I can keep on top of my doctor visits and not have to worry about the cost."

North Dakota Women's Way Statistics

(September 1997 to April 2010)



By **Ann Lunde**,
Women's Way
Data Manager

Number of women who have received any procedure paid for by the *Women's Way* Program: **10,849**

Number of screening mammograms paid for by *Women's Way*: **17,006**

Percentage of mammograms that are abnormal (40+ years of age):

Among *Women's Way* women: **8.7%**
Among NBCCEDPs nationwide: **10.9%**

Number of Pap tests paid for by *Women's Way*: **24,115**

Percentage of Pap tests that are abnormal (all ages):

Among *Women's Way* women: **2.5%**
Among NBCCEDPs nationwide: **2.2%**

Number of women with breast cancer diagnosed: **189**

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Stage 0: | 58 | Stage 1: | 21 |
| Stage 2: | 42 | Stage 3: | 37 |
| Stage 4: | 8 | Unknown: | 18 |
| Summary Regional: | 1 | Summary Local: | 3 |

Number of women with cervical dysplasias: **242**

CIN I: **14** CIN II: **101** CIN III: **127**

Number of women with invasive cervical carcinomas diagnosed: **17**

Percentage of *Women's Way* clients enrolled since 1999 who indicated they were current smokers: **37%**

Women's Way Pilot Project



By Bobbie Will
Women's Way
Project Coordinator

Women's Way conducted a pilot project from March 2009 through June 2010. The purpose of the project was to enroll and screen program-eligible women ages 40 through 64 at 20 pilot site clinics. An enrollment process was developed, refined and implemented to make the enrollment process quick and easy for each clinic. The pilot site clinics currently have enrolled and served 114 women who may not have received the life-saving breast and cervical cancer screening services without their help.

Enrollment at the clinic benefits both the clinic and the patient. The benefit for the clinic providing clinic enrollment is that if a woman cannot pay for these services, the clinic can verify eligibility and enroll her in *Women's Way* that day, allowing the clinic guaranteed payment for the screening. The benefit for the patient is that she can be enrolled and screened at the same location. She will have the peace of mind of knowing she obtained important screening procedures and knowing that the procedures are paid for.

If your clinic is interested in enrolling women for *Women's Way* services, please contact your *Women's Way* local coordinator at 800.449.6636.



Dr. Louise Murphy
conducts a clinical
breast exam (CBE)
using the vertical
strip method.

Clinical Reminders

Follow-Up of Abnormal Clinical Breast Exams

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to have minimum standards for diagnostic follow-up of abnormal clinical breast examinations (CBEs). Abnormal CBE results include discrete, palpable mass; bloody or serous nipple discharge; nipple or areolar scaliness; and skin dimpling or retraction. A negative mammographic finding or additional views as the only procedure are not adequate diagnostic follow-up for an abnormal CBE. At a minimum, diagnostic follow-up should include one or more of the following: repeat clinical breast exam, ultrasound or biopsy. Whenever a diagnostic work-up is planned, the time from the abnormal screening mammogram or abnormal CBE (whichever occurs first) to the final diagnosis should be no more than 60 days.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Women's Way will reimburse for a liquid-based Pap test every two years or a conventional Pap test every year until there have been three consecutive normal Pap test results. After the three consecutive normal Pap test results, reimbursement will be every three years.

During a year when a woman does not need a Pap test, *Women's Way* will reimburse for an office visit and annual exam that includes a pelvic exam, clinical breast exam and mammogram. If a Pap test is done, the client will be responsible to pay.

Services not reimbursed through *Women's Way* include Pap tests for women with total hysterectomies (i.e., those without a cervix), unless the hysterectomy was due to cervical neoplasia (precursors to cervical cancer) or invasive cervical cancer.

Other items include Hybrid Capture II HPV test as a primary screening test or as an adjunctive screening test to the Pap test. *Women's Way* will reimburse for HPV testing when used as follow-up for an ASC-US result, or for surveillance after one year following an LSIL Pap test and no CIN 2,3 on colposcopy directed biopsy.

Women's Way is not able to pay for services that are not listed on the What's Covered *Women's Way* CPT Code Medicare Part B Rate List.

BCBSND Provider Requirement

Providers must be a Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) provider in order to receive reimbursement for *Women's Way* services.

Cancer Registry Changes Its Name



Marlys Knell

By Marlys Knell,
North Dakota
Statewide Cancer
Registry
Program Director

The North Dakota Cancer Registry has changed its name to the North Dakota Statewide Cancer Registry (NDSCR). It was felt that a change in name would better reflect that the NDSCR is a statewide, population-based cancer registry.

During 2009, 31 data requests were received and completed, including data for the updated state cancer burden plan and a University of North Dakota third-year medical student research project. Staff gathered information for two cancer cluster inquiries: (1) the possibility of eronite in gravel used on roads in the western part of the state, and (2) a possible childhood

leukemia cancer cluster in Grand Forks County, which is still ongoing. Two data links also were completed, one for the *Women's Way* Program and one for a Loma Linda University research project called the Advent Healthy CoHort Study on diet and cancer.

Starting in 2010, there will be many changes in data collection due to the changes in staging and treatment of newly diagnosed cancer patients. Many of the newly required data fields to be collected are for research activities.

The Division of Cancer Prevention and Control hired a cancer epidemiologist to assist with completing data requests, handling cancer cluster inquiries and working with the Comprehensive Cancer Program on its cancer burden plan. Gold registry certification was granted for year 2006 data completeness, timeliness and accuracy by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries. Registry certification for year 2007 data has not yet been received.



Quitline/QuitNet Materials Available

Smoking and spit tobacco are responsible for cancers in many organs throughout the body and can have a direct effect on the development of cervical cancer. The North Dakota Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides help to those wanting to quit tobacco.

Services available include the North Dakota Tobacco Quitline, a telephone-based cessation service, and North Dakota QuitNet, a web-based cessation service. Tobacco users can use one or both services to help them quit. Both services offer counseling, support and free nicotine patches, lozenges or gum to those who qualify. To order posters or brochures, go to the Quitline/QuitNet Materials Order Form at www.ndhealth.gov/tobacco.



Comprehensive Cancer Program Update



By Joyce Saylor,
North Dakota
Comprehensive
Cancer Prevention
and Control Program
Program Director

North Dakota Cancer Coalition

The North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC) was formed in June 2001 and consists of individuals and organizations – public and private sector from across the state – with an interest in cancer prevention and control. The coalition’s goal is to be a statewide network of organizations and people that work together to provide a coordinated approach to reduce cancer diagnoses, death and disability through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, palliation and survivorship. The state’s first five-year cancer control plan was written in 2005-2006 and is the foundation for all coordinated efforts of the coalition. The coalition is in the process of re-authorizing the next five-year plan, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2010. To learn more about the NDCC and the state cancer control plan, visit www.ndcancercoalition.org.

North Dakota Comprehensive Cancer Coalition

The North Dakota Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control program, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides overall support for the NDCC and other partners to implement the North Dakota cancer control plan. The grant is used to fund community grants for grassroots cancer prevention and control work; develop communication mediums, such as the NDCC website and newsletters; provide educational opportunities for members/partners and resources for members to use at the community level for education; create tools to facilitate advocacy work; and provide data/evaluation of all stakeholder efforts.

2009-2011 North Dakota Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative

In addition to supporting the NDCC, the Comprehensive Cancer Control staff provides the program management for the state-funded colorectal cancer screening initiative. Colorectal cancer ranks third in cancer incidence and second in cancer mortality in our state, with 57 percent of all colorectal cancers diagnosed in late stage.

Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable if found when it is in the local or regional state, or by removal of colon polyps. The 2007 legislative assembly appropriated funds to provide colorectal cancer screening in a rural North Dakota site as a pilot project. Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby was the recipient of the competitive grant and is providing colorectal cancer screening in its service area. The first two years of the program showed success by screening those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to receive screening.

In 2009, the legislature increased the funding for the project to continue efforts in the Rugby area and expand to an urban area. MeritCare Hospital in Fargo was awarded the competitive grant funds for the urban component.

This program provides a colonoscopy to eligible North Dakotan men and women who are 50 to 65 years old, who are low income and either uninsured or underinsured. Both facilities are working with the *Women’s Way* local coordinators to recruit women and their spouses or other family members/friends into the program for colorectal cancer screening.

Health-care providers are welcome to encourage their eligible patients to contact either facility by calling Heart of America Medical Center at 701.776.7000, or MeritCare Hospital at 701.234.6208.

If health-care provider staff members are interested in learning more about the North Dakota Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the NDCC, or membership of the NDCC, please call 701.328.2306.

Women's Way Fast Facts

- ▶ In 1990, Congress passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act, which launched funding for the national breast and cervical cancer screening program.
- ▶ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distributes the money and oversees the national program.
- ▶ North Dakota received funding in 1993 for planning and system development.
- ▶ The North Dakota program was named *Women's Way* and began offering screening services in 1997. The program is administered through the North Dakota Department of Health and local public health offices.
- ▶ More than 851 doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants are enrolled as participating providers, making it possible for most clients to receive services through their regular doctor at 287 facilities across North Dakota.
- ▶ CDC estimates that funds awarded to the state can provide screenings for 15 percent of potentially eligible women. North Dakota stretches its funds to screen more than 25 percent of potentially eligible women.
- ▶ In 2001, the North Dakota state legislature passed and Governor Hoeven signed legislation allowing uninsured *Women's Way* clients who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer to access treatment coverage through the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program.

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Ramsey, Benson, Eddy, Pierce, Rolette, Towner counties

Jean Smith, R.N.
Richland County Health Department
Richland, Sargent, Dickey, Ransom counties

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Leah Madler, R.N.
Southwestern District Health Unit
Stark, Adams, Billings, Golden Valley, Bowman, Slope, Dunn, Hettinger counties

Randa Eldred, R.N.
Upper Missouri District Health Unit
Williams, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail counties

Women's Way Materials Ordering 800.280.5512



Michelle Tincher, M.D.
Medcenter One
Women's Way Medical Advisory Board member

"Early detection is so very important to treating breast and cervical cancer. I urge all health-care providers to visit with their patients and suggest Women's Way. There are many women who cannot afford these basic screenings and Women's Way may provide a way to pay."

For more information, contact:
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
North Dakota Department of Health
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800.280.5512
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