

New York State



Cancer Consortium

**Mentor Handbook
September 2009**

What is the NYSCC?

The New York State Cancer Consortium (NYSCC) is a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations to address the cancer burden in New York State. Members represent organizations and individuals, including survivors, caregivers and others affected by cancer, and support the Mission and Vision of NYSCC and the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NYSCCCP). The NYSCC strives to address the cancer burden by implementing goals and strategies listed in the NYSCCCP.

Members adhere to the following:

Mission

The mission of the New York State Cancer Consortium is to reduce the human and economic burden of cancer in New York State.

Vision

People concerned about cancer will work collaboratively to implement the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, while respecting and embracing the cultural, demographic and geographic diversity within New York State.

What is the NYSCCCP?

The NYSCCCP or the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan is the product of a collaboration of organizations and individuals working to coordinate cancer control activities in order to maximize resources and achieve desired outcomes. Ranging from prevention to end-of-life care, early detection to public policy, the Plan identifies concerns and issues throughout the cancer continuum. It offers a collective, statewide vision to advance, accelerate, and focus on the war on cancer.

There are 45 main goals listed as priorities in controlling cancer in New York State. These goals span 9 goal areas and are addressed through a number of recommended strategies. The 9 goal areas include:

- **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention** (addresses environmental and behavioral facts leading to cancer, as well as genetics)
- **Early Detection** (works to increase identification of cancers at an early stage to increase likelihood of successful treatment)
- **Treatment** (focuses on providing effective, high quality, accessible and affordable cancer treatment)
- **Quality of Life** (focuses on improving the lives of individuals with cancer and their families through psychosocial services, self-advocacy, teenage and children's services, etc.)
- **Palliative Care** (focuses on maintaining culturally sensitive and competent care in pain management, symptom control and spiritual care)
- **Health Personnel** (addresses the need for recruiting and maintaining trained and qualified personnel to provide cancer related care)
- **Research** (works to ensure that NYS continues to lead the way in cancer research)
- **Data & Surveillance** (works to strengthen the existing surveillance systems in NYS to support greater collaboration between clinical, public health and research professionals, and to disseminate data relevant to cancer control.
- **Public Policy** (encourages the creation of policies that supports efforts in prevention and response to acute care needs on levels such as family, employer, community and government)

A copy of the plan is available on our website at www.nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer_download. Or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on Cancer Plan in the box on the left.

NYSCC Structure

The NYSCC operates under the direction of a Steering Committee with three Standing Committees that provide the Consortium's infrastructure: Communications, Evaluation and Membership.

Four Program Committees have been created to implement the plan through advocacy, policy and education in their specified field of expertise to ensure access to care. These committees include: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection, Palliative Care, Tobacco Control and Workforce Shortages.

These Program Committees work with the assistance and guidance of the Policy Committee. Using the expertise and recommendations of this group, the Steering Committee and the Cancer Center Leadership, the Consortium prioritizes the goals listed in the NYS Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan and provides members with access to experts in the field of cancer control.

Steering Committee: Responsible for overseeing the implementation and evaluation of the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. All members and officers serve a two-year term

Advisory Groups:

Policy Committee: Develops legislative policy/advocacy agenda for the NYSCC and provides legislative updates. It acts as an advisor to all Program Committees in their efforts to implement the plan through advocacy, policy and education in their specified field of expertise.

Cancer Center Leadership: With the input and expertise of this group, the NYSCC prioritizes goals listed in the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. The Cancer Center Directors also serve as advocates for key cancer control issues.

Communications Committee: Provides statewide oversight of communications, promotional materials, press releases, etc. related to the NYSCC. The committee members work with the objective of informing members of the NYSCC and others interested in cancer control of activities, initiatives, opportunities, and best practices that are occurring throughout New York State.

Evaluation Committee: Provides oversight on measuring progress toward achieving plan goals and to develop a framework for the evaluation of implementation activities within the state. Primary activities of the evaluation committee include identifying and gathering data as well as developing documents to share outcomes with interested stakeholders.

Membership Committee: Reviews all membership applications and disclosure statements sent to the NYSCC and makes recommendations to the Steering Committee for approval of membership.

NYSCC Structure (continued)

Cancer Prevention & Early Detection: Charged with identifying legislative and policy priorities in prevention and early detection and working with the policy committee to develop approaches to address them.

Focused Areas of Interest: Lunchtime Healthy Schools Act, Support the Cancer Services Program, Caloric Posting

Palliative Care: Charged with identifying policy and legislative approaches and proposals related to palliative care and working with the policy committee to respond to them.

Focused Areas of Interest: Provide education for early referral to palliative care, Address barriers to pain management

Tobacco Control: Charged with supporting legislative and policy approaches shown to reduce tobacco use and to work with the Policy Committee to develop appropriate responses.

Focused Areas of Interest: Continue/sustain levels of Tobacco Program funding, Legislation to allow the FDA to regulate tobacco and tobacco products, Enforcement of the tobacco tax on sales of tobacco products on Indian Nation land to non-Native Americans, Eliminate sales of tobacco products in pharmacies

Workforce Shortages: Charged with supporting legislative and policy approaches intended to address health workforce shortages and working with the policy committee to develop appropriate responses.

Focused Areas of Interest: Develop affiliations with other stakeholders to promote careers related to cancer, Develop/strengthen affiliations with allied health professionals and with AHEC

For more information on Committees, go to the website at www.nyscancerconsortium.org/committees/committees_index or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on Committees in the left hand box. You will find information like:

- Committee descriptions
- Committee chairs and members
- Documents
- Important Links
- And information on current projects

NYSCC Information on the Website: What Can You Find?

About Us: To find a listing of members and their organizations as well as a map of member distribution throughout the state, go to http://nyscancerconsortium.org/about/about_index.aspx or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on About Us in the left hand box.

Tools and Resources: In order to better serve our members and all residents of New York State, the NYSCC has compiled many documents, tools and links that can be used to further cancer control efforts throughout the state. From finding cancer information and data, to planning and evaluating programs in cancer control, we have amassed a library of resources to assist in your endeavors.

NYSCC Local Implementation Toolkit: The NYSCC Local Implementation Toolkit is an interactive compilation created to aid those in New York State interested in local implementation efforts.

The toolkit is by no means a comprehensive document, but a starting point based upon the success of similar efforts throughout New York State. Users will be given the steps for planning and implementing Comprehensive Cancer Control in their community. Templates of materials that can be used in this effort will also be made available.

We recognize that each community in NYS is unique and diverse, thus this toolkit is meant to serve as a guide. Sections of this toolkit will need to be modified based upon the implementation area's demographic, cultural and geographic composition and the area's need.

To find these Tools and Resources, go to: http://nyscancerconsortium.org/resources/resources_index.aspx or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on Tools and Resources in the left hand box.

Calendar: We post Committee Meetings, Conferences, Trainings and Miscellaneous Events on the Calendar on the website which can be accessed on the right hand side of the NYSCC homepage. To add your event, go to: http://nyscancerconsortium.org/News/News_Form.aspx or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on News in the left hand box. Then click on Submit Your News or Events in the right hand box.

News: News is posted on our website. These items are often information about members, updates, cancer news, reminders, etc. You can also find copies of the NYSCC Chronicle. To add your News event, go to: http://nyscancerconsortium.org/News/News_Form.aspx or go to www.nyscancerconsortium.org and click on News in the left hand box. Then click on Submit Your News or Events in the right hand box.



Any Other Questions?

If you have any questions, you can email our main office at nyscccp@cancer.org or click **Feedback** through the NYSCC website.

The NYSCC is only as effective as its members. To show your interest in joining a committee, fill out the new membership application online available on the website, by clicking on **Join Today!** at the bottom of the homepage. Let us know about upcoming events or news in your organization. Keep an eye out for **Calls to Action**. With all members remaining active, the NYSCC can be extremely effective in reducing the burden of cancer for all New Yorkers.