

## 2016-2020 West Virginia Cancer Plan Success Story

April 2017

Cancer is the leading cause of death in West Virginia amounting to more than one in five of all deaths. During years one through four of the past project period, cancer mortality was second to heart disease. Information provided by the West Virginia Cancer Registry (WVCR) and West Virginia Health Statistics Center (WVHSC), indicates that more than 4,873 West Virginians died of cancer in 2014. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), West Virginia has the third highest cancer death rate in the nation, and the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (BPH) estimates that there will have been 11,770 new cancer cases in 2016.

The West Virginia Cancer Plan 2016-2020 serves as a framework to provide healthcare practitioners, policymakers, advocates, the public health community, and other stakeholders a common set of objectives and strategies designed to encourage collaboration and consensus building. Key objectives and strategies are identified ranging from prevention, early detection and treatment, to survivorship and end of life. To the extent possible, updated plan strategies draw from existing, evidence-based guidelines and best practices and are linked to specific and measurable objectives. The Plan is a working document and will be revised regularly to reflect changing priorities and available resources in an effort to help us reduce the human and economic impact of cancer in West Virginia.

The cancer plan development process was managed by the West Virginia Statewide Cancer Coalition, (Mountains of Hope) Steering Committee. A group of compassionate, dedicated, and diverse individuals, including the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease staff and content area specialists, devoted their time, expertise, and efforts over a two-year period to develop the 2016-2020 West Virginia Cancer Plan. The West Virginia Cancer Plan 2016-2020 was paid for by the Comprehensive Cancer Program of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources with support from a Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2016-2020 West Virginia Cancer Plan was introduced to the public on April 21, 2016. The new cancer plan includes 25 aims based on the following five overarching goals:

**Goal 1 – Prevent cancer from occurring.**

**Goal 2 – Detect cancer at its earliest stages.**

**Goal 3 – Treat cancer patients with the most appropriate and effective therapy.**

**Goal 4 – Improve the quality of life for every West Virginian affected by cancer.**

**Goal 5 – Achieve health equity across the cancer care continuum.**

West Virginia can significantly change the course of cancer through a coordinated effort of organizations working together in a comprehensive, statewide approach to cancer control. The initiation of this plan is the next step in achieving reductions in cancer rates and improving health outcomes and quality of life for all individuals, families, and communities touched by cancer.

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