American Indian Cancer Foundation News

Mission: To eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian families through education, improved access to prevention, screening, treatment and survivor support.

FEATURED NEWS

Advancing Tribal Health Equity collaborations based in tribal sovereignty for healthy communities

The Tribal Health Equity project, funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield, released its first-phase report today: Working Toward Health Equity: Critical Conversations with American Indian Communities in Minnesota. The first goal of the project was to engage multiple stakeholders to identify cultural norms
and common beliefs around health equity, wellness, positive change, cancer prevention, and tobacco control.

During this first year, the American Indian Cancer Foundation convened regional meetings across the state (northwest, northeast, southern) to foster trust and build relationships, share information, and identify shared responsibilities and ownership around common equity goals and strategies. What we heard again and again was the need for: cultural connectedness; spirituality; practicing tradition to enhance community well-being; education to promote traditional tobacco and prevent commercial tobacco use; and education to promote traditional, healthy Native foods and healthy lifestyles. These themes are guiding us in the next phase of the project.

The focus of the project in 2015 will be on community capacity development through coalition building that supports leadership for innovation and action. More exciting updates will be coming soon! If you have any questions about Tribal Health Equity, please contact Amanda Dionne at AICAF at adionne@aicaf.org or 612-314-4848.

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**CLINICAL CANCER SCREENING NETWORK**

**Clinical Systems Innovations Initiative launches clinic partnerships based on lessons learned from colorectal cancer screening project**

AICAF’s Clinical Cancer Screening Network (CCSN) works with clinics to develop a tailored approach to improve colorectal cancer screening rates. The network provides systems support, educational materials and tools for patients and clinical teams. The approach is based on colorectal cancer screening systems and practices learned from Indian Health Service, Tribal Health and Urban clinics that participated in the Improving Northern Plains American Indian Colorectal Cancer Screening (INPACS) project. The results of this project and best practices are available to the public. If you have any questions about the CCSN, please contact Anne Walaszek at AICAF at awalaszek@aicaf.org or 612-314-4848.

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**IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CANCER PREVENTION**

**New HPV vaccine resources for American Indian**
Last summer, AICAF asked American Indian parents what they needed to know about getting the HPV vaccine for their kids, and they answered. They shared that more knowledge and awareness overall is needed about the vaccine: what it prevents (several types of cancer), who it’s for (boys and girls ages 11-12), and how safe it is (very!). In the coming weeks and months AICAF will be taking these parents’ feedback and developing culturally appropriate resources for American Indian parents, in the hopes that it will make the decision to vaccinate a little easier. Look out for the new materials coming up on our website, at clinics, and out in the community. If you have any questions about the HPV vaccine, please contact Meggan McCann at AICAF at mmccann@aicaf.org or 612-314-4848.

Did you know?

- Cancer is now the leading cause of death for Northern Plains American Indians.
- Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for Northern Plains American Indians.

Did you know?

- Without HPV, it is impossible to get cervical cancer.
- The HPV vaccine prevents cancer in men, too -- including throat, penile, and anal cancers.
- Northern Plains American Indians are 5 times more likely to get cervical cancer than the general population.
- The HPV vaccine protects against 70% of the types of HPV that cause cancer.

Save the Date!

4th Annual Powwow for Hope - Dancing for Life, Love & Hope
Saturday, May 2, 2015

AICAF staff are hard at work planning this wonderful event. We hope you are able to join us. Visit our website for more information about volunteering, teams, and sponsorship. www.powwowforhope.org

Cancer kills more American Indians than any other disease.

The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is hard at work to reverse this devastating trend. AICAF is committed to ending cancer in Indian Country. To do so requires expertise, collaborations and resources. We invite you to become part of the solution. With you, we can raise awareness, increase early detection and build a network to join together in this #1 health priority for American Indian people. Your donation supports our efforts to change the cancer story across Indian Country!

Donate