

News From the Wyoming Department of Health

Monday, February 27, 2006

Statewide Partners Celebrate New Hope in Cancer Fight

CHEYENNE - Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, healthcare providers, and others will gather Thursday at the state capitol to celebrate hope, progress and answers in the fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society, in conjunction with the Wyoming Department of Health, and the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium (WCCCC) are inviting the public to participate in "A New Day of Hope: Celebrating the 2006-2010 Wyoming Cancer Control Plan." The plan was unveiled in October, and focuses on a continuum of care from prevention efforts through early detection and screening, diagnosis and treatment and quality of life issues.

"We are all affected by cancer in one way or another because it is so colossal, with so many components to juggle. Even though there have been amazing advances through clinical research, there are still so many unanswered questions," says Heather Wiggins, a WCCCC member from Wheatland and mother of 3-year-old cancer survivor Haiden Wiggins. "That is why we all need to join in the fight for a cure, whether it be through volunteering, legislative action, advocating for a cancer patient, or helping a friend or family member in need. Wyoming has made great strides in bringing together people who care about this issue and are willing to keep hope alive for all of us."

"In 2003, there were 2,201 new cancer cases diagnosed in Wyoming, and 935 cancer-related deaths," Wyoming Department of Health Director Dr. Brent Sherard said, "My department will continue to support and coordinate efforts to combat cancer within Wyoming."

The Wyoming Department of Health received a cooperative agreement in 2004 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and has continued to maintain CDC funding to complete a statewide plan to decrease the impact of cancer on Wyoming residents. In February, WDH applied for funds to begin implementing priority areas of the statewide plan. Notification regarding the status of that application is expected in July.

A press conference to support the statewide effort to decrease cancer rates is scheduled Thursday in the Capitol Rotunda at 11 a.m. Governor Dave Freudenthal and Dr. Sherard are expected to attend, as well as Haiden and Heather Wiggins. The American Cancer Society is also planning their annual Daffodil Days display at the Capitol Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. to raise funds for cancer education, research and treatment. The daffodils represent the hope of a world free from cancer and gives determination to those who are impacted by cancer.

For more information on participating in Thursday's event or about getting involved with Wyoming's Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, contact Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Coordinator, Kimberly Rogers, at 307.777.8609.

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