What is Comprehensive Cancer Control?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) as a process through which communities and partner organizations pool resources to reduce the burden of cancer. These combined efforts help to:

- Reduce cancer risk
- Find cancers earlier
- Improve treatments
- Increase the number of people surviving cancer

CCC in American Samoa:

American Samoa cancer has remained within the top 3 causes of death for the past 5 years (2007-2012). Throughout those five years efforts were made to implement newer screening projects such as the Men’s Health Clinics for Prostate and Lung Cancer, the “Tai la Ola” Radio Drama, and the Smoke Free Environment Act. These efforts represent the basis of CCC planning and implementation—activities that cover the cancer care continuum in order to make a coordinated and integrated approach to reduce the cancer burden within the territory.

Developing a CCC map is a step-by-step process that ranges from guiding principles to evaluation. The following sections guide you through the process and the decisions that were made accomplishing the ASCCC’s overall mission:

Step 1: Identify Guiding Principles

The CCC map will identify existing efforts and strive not to duplicate those efforts, but rather where appropriate, to build, enhance, and expand. All decisions will be made by the best available data:

- When available, state-of-the-art knowledge, technology, and practices will be the foundation for all strategies and actions.
- Coordination and collaboration is pivotal in the completion of a CCC map.
- The map actively supports the recommendations and strategies found in other territory plans.
- The cancer plan will be a road map of the efforts needed in American Samoa to reduce the cancer burden.
- Cultural competency by health professionals and health systems in American Samoa is key.

For a comprehensive approach, equal access to cancer services must be available to all residents.

Step 2: Develop Goals

The goals are to be “enabling” and open the cancer care continuum. Four of these goals deal with changing cancer rates, while two of these goals enhance the infrastructure from occurring with an emphasis on education and behavior changes—when there are no symptoms and treatment leads to a higher cure rate, as soon as cancer is detected.

- For patients to enjoy a normal life while receiving cancer treatment—ensuring correct decision making.
- Of cancer treatment on patients and their loved ones.

- Maintain and support the current Cancer Survivor’s Support Group (CSSG) on island.
- Ensure that programs and services approach cancer as a chronic disease, rather than an acute disease.
- Educate health care professionals regarding the available quality of life services available on island.
- Educate patients regarding the available quality of life services available on island.
- Maintain a central point for information on quality of life services.
- Coordinate mass media campaign to inform cancer patients.
- Ensure the financial burden using off-island resources.
- Support the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and NCD STEPS.
- Support the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS).
- Develop Global Youth Tobacco survey.
- Support the Cancer Registry and Pacific Region Cancer Registry.
- Evaluate the American Samoa Cancer Registry Act.
- Maintain the ASCCC “What we know about---” data sheet.
- To your core, conduct feasibility study to identify cost effective treatment.
- By your bus, conduct feasibility study to review reimbursement of treatment.

Step 3: Develop Objectives and Strategies

Objectives and Strategies were developed to identify how the ASCCC would like to see the situation improved and what specifically needs to happen to achieve the goals. They were developed with the following criteria:

- Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-based (SMART).
- When possible, Evidenced-Based.
- Will be completed by 2017, unless specified otherwise.
- Will focus on Breast, Cervix, Colon and Prostate Cancer.

Strategies are color coded to match the coinciding goal:

- Decrease illegal tobacco sales to minors.
- Reduce awareness of the effects of tobacco use.
- Develop and support evidence based policies.
- Support the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS).
- Develop and support policies that allow access of access to sell products.
- Maintain support for the territory’s annual wellness fair.
- Continue media campaigns of the Smoke Free Environment Act.
- Maintain and evaluate enforcement protocols and procedures.
- Maintain role within the SBOA Rules-Making Committee.

Coordinate... Integrate...

- Conduct mass media campaigns.
- Develop educational materials for employers.
- Support policies that increase access to screening services.
- Use data to establish baseline.
- Determine a process to adopt screening guidelines.
- Develop a culturally competent curriculum.
- Develop a curriculum focusing on the importance and benefits of early detection screening methods.
- Support efforts within the Pacific Regional CCC Plan.
- Develop policy agenda focusing on strategies for cancer care.
- Provide training through weekly in-service meetings.
- Develop a training schedule to identify resources and availability.
- Maintain a coordinated and central location for treatment resources.
- Continue to include social workers.
- Maintain ASCCC leadership activities.
- Advocate for a full-time Patient Navigator.

Step 4: Get Involved!

Evaluations acts as a compass and provides the direction of where we should focus. Annually, the ASCCC will evaluate it's progress in three important areas:

- Partnership
- Program
- CCC Map

The results of the evaluation will go to it’s members and partners to see if the efforts were successful or not. Either way, we will continue to look out ways to improve to effectively and efficiently help the people of American Samoa. To obtain copies of Evaluation Reports from 2007-2011, visit the ASCCC’s website.

Step 5: Get Involved!

The mission of the ASCCC can only be completed with your help. If you would like to know more information on how you can join or volunteer, contact the ASCCC or CCC Program at 633-4589 or visit the website at www.cancercontrolas.org.

European American Samoa Cancer Control Council

For more information please visit: www.cancercontrolas.org