

AMERICAN SEXUAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER COALITION

In the fall of 2011 the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA) and the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (NCCC) announced a merger between NCCC and ASHA's HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center. The combined programs offer a robust, comprehensive slate of education, advocacy, and support services across the continuum of human papillomavirus (HPV) infections and related diseases.

ASHA launched the National HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center (the "Resource Center") in 2000 to address the lack of nationally available HPV and cervical cancer prevention information and resources. The Resource Center is dedicated to addressing the multiple issues and challenges associated with HPV and cervical cancer prevention in the United States.

NCCC was founded in 1996 as a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to serving women with, or at risk for, cervical cancer and HPV disease. The organization has 6,500 members around the world, and chapters across the U.S. NCCC's sister organization, the Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer, works throughout the developing world as a platform to empower people, communities and societies to reduce the disease burden from HPV and cervical cancers.

ASHA president and CEO Lynn Barclay said "NCCC and ASHA's Resource Center have long been partners, so this merger is a logical step. Together we can leverage our array of resources to offer even better tools and programs for health care providers and patients alike. Also, our combined resources will be a formidable means of engaging policy makers at all levels to ensure that access to life-saving cervical cancer screenings and vaccines remains a priority."

THE FUTURE OF NCCC

NCCC has local chapters operating in more than 20 states. For 2012, we have set a goal of at least doubling the number of local NCCC chapters to bring us to 40 or more. Barclay says it's important that NCCC be accessible to as many women and families as possible: "We want to expand NCCC's footprint to include states in which we don't have a local chapter, but we're also looking at states where we currently have a presence to see if there are more cities we should be reaching. To the best of our ability, we need to meet people where they live."

HPV Resource Center Director Fred Wyand, who coordinates NCCC chapter activities including recruitment and training of new chapter leaders, noted that "Guidance from the chapter leaders – our volunteers on the ground in each community- is critical as we prepare new programs and resources for health care providers, patients, and families. The experiences and wisdom of our chapter leaders will influence everything we do, from the development of educational materials to our policy initiatives."

