

For immediate release

Contact:

## **‘Survivorship Care Plans in Montana: Where do I go from Here?’ Montana Cancer Control Coalition Statewide Meeting**

The state Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and the Montana Cancer Control Coalition (MTCCC) is sponsoring an educational symposium on cancer Survivorship Care Plans in Montana on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009 from 10:00a to 4:30p.

The event is free and open to MTCCC Members, cancer survivors, medical professionals, and individuals from communities around Montana who have an interest in Comprehensive Cancer Control. The symposium will take place at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Helena.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Scott Baker, the director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Survivorship Program, works with pediatric bone marrow transplantation patients at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, who will speak on how to implement survivorship care plans in Montana from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

Additional speakers from around Montana will discuss the components typically included in a survivorship care plan: physical, emotional, practical, and spiritual aspects necessary for a complete cancer survivor care plan, said Carrie Strike Comprehensive Cancer Control Program health education specialist for DPHHS. This symposium is action-oriented and will give participants the necessary tools and information to draft their own survivorship care plans in their own communities.

According to Strike, a survivorship care plan is an important tool for cancer survivors. It is a personalized list of all therapies and medical information that is pertinent to their diagnosis and any possible late effects. The summary of care could include diagnostic tests and results, tumor characteristics, details on treatments, support services provided, contact information for treating institutions and key providers, and usually includes a brief outline of the evidence-based follow up care that an individual will need specific to their disease. It is an essential part of cancer treatment which takes a holistic view to an individual’s cancer treatment needs.

An individual is considered a cancer survivor, as defined by the National Cancer Institute’s Office of Cancer Survivorship “from the time of diagnosis, through the balance of his or her life. Family members, friends, and caregivers are also impacted by the survivorship experience and are therefore included in the definition”.

Free Continuing Education Credits (CEU’s) are pending application approval for Montana nurses, social workers, and certified health education specialists.

For more information call 406-444-6089 or visit [www.mtcancercoalition.org](http://www.mtcancercoalition.org).

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