

## **PARTNERSHIP UNITES PROGRAMS UNDER COMBINED LEADERSHIP**

*Better use of resources, reduced duplication, and improved service delivery are the result*

### **Public Health Problem**

- Alaska faces unique challenges in meeting the needs of its many cultural and ethnic groups for breast and cervical cancer screening, related to distance, weather, resource distribution and tribal-state relations.
- Five different grantees in Alaska receive Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding to provide breast & cervical cancer screening services, making duplication of effort and overlapping services a serious concern.

### **Program**

- Two of Alaska's programs drafted a Memorandum of Agreement outlining basic operating principles related to potential program overlap and eventually all five of Alaska's funded programs signed a more comprehensive version. Each of the grantees in Alaska is unique and targets different cultural and ethnic groups.
- Collective work in breast and cervical cancer screening on recruitment, professional development, surveillance and evaluation, screening/diagnosis and treatment, and quality assurance & improvement is now carried out through an annual face to face meeting, regularly scheduled conference calls and daily communications among the five grantees.

### **Impact**

- Development, production and statewide distribution of new Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines, reflecting the work of a joint committee of clinicians representing each program
- Decreased duplication and overlap of service areas and increased intra-program information sharing
- Expanded referral systems assuring that eligible women are referred to the appropriate program.
- Professional development available statewide, reaching rural practitioners with videoconferencing technology who had no previous access to quality educational programs, and providing more educational programs collectively than any of the programs could provide individually.
- Joint public education messages rather than five individual sets of messages which saves program dollars by combining development, production and distribution costs

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