
Plan focuses on empowering and advancing cancer registry professionals through innovations in education, advocacy, credentialing, and strategic partnerships.

Alexandria, VA, February 28, 2019 – The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) has released a new Strategic Management Plan (SMP) to guide its work for the next five years (2019-2023). Key to the plan is a new vision statement that highlights the role registrars play in curating data that advances outcomes. Its purpose is to help define the future of the cancer registry profession and guide NCRA leadership, volunteers, and staff to meet the needs of its members and partners. Barbara Dearmon, BS, CTR, Chair of NCRA’s Governance Planning and Evaluation Committee (GPEC), noted that “NCRA’s new SMP acknowledges the ever-changing work of the cancer registrar and seeks to focus the association’s programming and services on ways to empower registrars to define their futures and advance the profession.” Read the plan at www.ncra-usa.org/SMP.

To ensure member engagement in the process, NCRA sent a 66-question survey to over 10,000 members and customers. The survey response rate was nearly 20%. In addition to the survey, interviews were conducted with leaders of 10 allied organizations. Lead by GPEC, a working group of 23 former and current NCRA volunteer leaders reviewed the survey results and interview transcripts during a two-day, facilitator-led meeting in August 2018 and continued to work with NCRA staff and its consultants to finalize the plan. Key to developing the new SMP was a detailed discussion on key principles that will impact the future of the cancer registry profession:

- We visualize a future where there will be the increasing demands for more real-time, pertinent curated health data from an ever-growing and evolving matrix of patient information.
- We believe that the integral role of the registrar will require ever-increasing responsibility and skills to oversee, analyze, and construct relevant linkages in the development of data pipelines.
- We believe the role of the registrar will require an increasing need for nimbleness, use of technology, and a voice throughout the continuum of the data pipeline in order to have a positive impact on quality of care.
- We imagine a future with continually increasing survivorship, expanded patient support, and broadened public information networks leading to healthier communities.

Using these principles as a guide, the working group developed six goals to assist NCRA in structuring its programs and services. Those goals include:

- **Goal 1: Education** – Understand ongoing needs and leverage technology to ensure diverse and comprehensive educational programs for registry professionals.
- **Goal 2: Credentialing** – Develop, promote, and administer relevant credentialing to meet current and future needs of the profession.
- **Goal 3: Professional and Career Development** – Create and deliver effective content, programs, products, and services across career phases.
- **Goal 4: Alliances and Advocacy** – Strengthen the profession’s voice by engaging proactively as a powerful advocate to raise awareness, enhance collaborative relationships, and affect change.
Goal 5: Membership – Ensure satisfaction and increased engagement by building membership, anticipating needs, and providing exemplary programs, services, and opportunities.

Goal 6: Organizational Sustainability & Governance – Use best practices in fiduciary responsibilities and management of human resources to ensure the viability and growth of the association.

NCRA’s new Strategic Management Plan was approved by its Board of Directors on February 9, 2019. The plan will guide the association’s work through 2023.

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About the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)
NCRA is a non-profit organization that represents more than 6,000 cancer registry professionals and Certified Tumor Registrars. The mission of NCRA is to promote education, credentialing, and advocacy for cancer registry professionals. Cancer registrars are data information specialists that capture a complete history, diagnosis, treatment, and health status for every cancer patient in the U.S. The data provide essential information to researchers, healthcare providers, and public health officials to better monitor and advance cancer treatments, conduct research, and improve cancer prevention and screening programs. For more information about NCRA, visit www.ncra-usa.org and www.CancerRegistryEducation.org.