

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 7, 2011

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## **EDWARDS ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION BETWEEN VETERAN'S SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR CANCER SERVICES**

**Jamestown:**--Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards announced this afternoon another consolidation of services in Chautauqua County.

Edwards joined by Chautauqua County Department of Health Director Christine Schuyler and Veteran's Services Agency Director Troy Smith announced the Veteran's Services new collaboration with the Health Department's Cancer Services Program to help provide Cancer Services to Veterans.

Since July 2008, Schuyler has been reviewing the Department of Health's operations finding ways to consolidate services and increase efficiency without disrupting the delivery of services.

"She has been aggressively dealing with budget issues," said Edwards, "and in doing so, she has identified a way for her department to coordinate and consolidate with Veteran's Services to increase the delivery of essential services including early detection cancer services and decrease the cost of County Government operations to local taxpayers."

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 40 percent of Americans will develop cancer during their lifetime and half of all these cases could be prevented or detected at an earlier stage.

The Chautauqua County Cancer Services Program (CSP) strives to prevent and detect cancer at its earliest, most treatable stage through the promotion of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings. To ensure everyone is given the opportunity to partake in cancer prevention services, the program provides individuals without health insurance the ability to receive these screenings as well as diagnostic and treatment services at no cost.

The CSP receives funding through the New York State Department of Health and this new partnership will arm Veterans Service Coordinators, who interact frequently with Veterans and their families with important information about Cancer Services that are available to veterans and their spouses who may not be covered through VA benefits or other health insurance programs. This effort will also save the Veteran's Services Agency over \$20,000 in local share.

For more information please call the Cancer Services Program at 1-800-506-9185 or for general questions call 1-800-604-6789.

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