

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Brooke Miller, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

Phone: 952.807.3419

Email: [Brooke@ABreathofHope.org](mailto:Brooke@ABreathofHope.org)

**More than 70 healthcare professionals from 28 organizations gathered today to identify strategies to overcome Minnesota's low lung cancer screening rate.**

September 27, 2019 (WAYZATA, MN) – A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lung cancer knowledge and outcomes among patients, families and caregivers, in partnership with American Cancer Society, hosted the Minnesota Screening Task Force Meeting today. Lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in the U.S. claiming more lives than colon, breast and prostate cancers combined.

Over 70 healthcare advocates from 28 organizations came together at the Embassy Suites in Bloomington to discuss their shared interest in getting more eligible Minnesotans screened for lung cancer. Of the eight million Americans eligible for preventative screening, less than five percent are receiving routine screening. Each healthcare system was invited to attend the meeting and bring up to eight colleagues to participate in this collaborative group.

“Earlier detection of lung cancer is critical to improving the 82% mortality rate. With a collaborative focus on increasing the number of Minnesotans receiving annual low dose CT scans, Minnesota will move the needle on lung cancer morbidity,” said Nancy Torrison, Executive Director of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation. “It is truly inspiring to watch a room full of healthcare professionals share their challenges and successes for the purpose of improving their programs and saving Minnesotans’ lives.”

The *Minnesota Lung Cancer Screening Task Force* is a collaboration of physicians, nurses, screening experts and lung cancer advocacy organizations committed to getting eligible Minnesotans screened annually with low dose CT scans. This group was created in support of the Minnesota Cancer Alliance’s Minnesota Cancer Plan. This group’s work ties directly to objective #4 in the plan: Increase low-dose CT scan screening among persons at high risk for lung cancer. This is the third meeting of the screening task force.

For more information, visit [www.abreathofhope.org](http://www.abreathofhope.org) or  
[www.abreathofhope.org/screening\\_awareness/screening-task-force](http://www.abreathofhope.org/screening_awareness/screening-task-force).

**A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation** is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to defeating lung cancer and bringing hope. A Breath of Hope's Mission is to fight lung cancer by funding innovative research, educating the public for improved disease awareness, and supporting patients and caregivers on the path to survivorship.