



Bi-Lines

February 2014

Bi-State Primary Care Association Newsletter



February 19, 2014

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, Bi-State and its members hosted legislative events in New Hampshire and Vermont. These two annual events are an opportunity to put forth our most pressing public policy priorities for improving access to primary and preventive care. We appreciate the bi-partisan support we receive from our legislators in both states.

In Vermont, Bi-State staff and member executive directors held meetings with the House Health Care Committee, Senate Pro Tempore John Campbell and Claire Ayer, Chair of Senate Health and Welfare, and Speaker of the House Shap Smith. The integrated model of health care practiced by Vermont's Community Health Centers is "the cornerstone of what we need with regard to the Blueprint..." said Senator George Till, Chair, House Health Care Committee. "You are really heroes... this committee has been an enthusiastic supporter of your Health Centers and your work." We held our annual Reception for Vermont Legislators in the State House cafeteria on Feb. 11 following our meetings the same day. You'll find more information in our news release below.

The New Hampshire Community Health Centers and Bi-State hosted a Legislative and Business Breakfast for New Hampshire legislators and business leaders at the Holiday Inn on Feb. 6. Bi-State demonstrated the return on investment the state receives by investing in primary care access and workforce recruitment through a new video "[NH Community Health Centers: A Smart Investment](#)." Guest speaker, Senate President Chuck Morse, said, "Bi-State's commitment to improving the health of New Hampshire's residents is without question. And the successes achieved by our Community Health Centers should provide a model for other facilities in New England and across the nation. As Senate President, it is important to me that we as elected officials are doing what we can to support the outstanding work you are doing." You'll find more information in our news release below.

We look forward to improving access to primary and preventive care for more residents of New Hampshire and Vermont in the year ahead. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

[Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN](#)
President and Chief Executive Officer

Supporting Health Care Reform in Vermont



On Feb. 11, Bi-State Primary Care Association staff and Health Center executives and board members spent the day at the Vermont State House testifying before the House Health Care Committee and attending meetings with Senate Pro Tempore John Campbell and Claire Ayer, Chair of Senate Health and Welfare, and with Speaker of the House Shap Smith (4th from right) shown above.

Bi-State and members spoke about Medicaid as an important payer, the need for infrastructure to build capacity to participate in Health Care Reform, the strategies necessary to recruit and retain Vermont's primary care workforce, and the Community Health Center's integrated model of care that supports Vermont's health reform initiatives. Please read news release, [Vermont Legislative Day](#), for more information.



www.bistatepca.org

525 Clinton Street, Bow, NH 03304

61 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Save the Date!

28th Annual Primary Care Conference

Improving Health Outcomes in the Medical Home

The Medical Home Model and Payment Reform

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lake Morey Resort • Fairlee • Vermont

- Accountable Care Organizations and Payment Reform
- Integrating Oral Health in the Primary Care Setting
- Meeting New Challenges in Health Center Board Governance

Online Registration Opens in March

Bi-State Primary Care Association
www.bistatepca.org

NH Community Health Centers: A Smart Investment



CONCORD, NH (Feb. 6, 2014) -- Legislators, commissioners, and business and health care leaders turned out for Bi-State's Legislative and Business Breakfast in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 6. Bi-State demonstrated the return on investment the state receives through its Community Health Centers through a new video, *Community Health Centers: A Smart Investment*. "Last year, Community Health Centers provided quality preventative care services to over 100,000 New Hampshire residents, including many in underserved regions of our state. Due in large part to their comprehensive approach to care management, New Hampshire's Health Centers lead the nation in the treatment of

chronic disease such as asthma and diabetes, and they do so in a way that makes them one of, if not the most, cost effective providers of care in our state," said Senate President Chuck Morse in his opening remarks. Please read news release, [NH Legislative and Business Breakfast](#), for more information.

Joyce Gallimore - New Director of Vermont Community Health Payment Systems



Bi-State Primary Care Association welcomes Joyce Gallimore, MPH, CPHQ, as its new director of Community Health Payment Systems. Ms. Gallimore will work collaboratively with key stakeholders to review existing, and shape future, strategies in Community Health Center

reimbursement and payment systems and will direct the Medicaid, Medicare, and Commercial Shared Savings Programs through the Community Health Accountable Care, LLC. "Joyce brings more than 30 years' experience in managed care and public health," noted Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, president and chief executive officer of Bi-State. "We are fortunate to have her talent and participation applied to the implementation and evolution of health care reform in Vermont."

Joyce can be reached at (802) 229-0002 x 222 or jqallimore@bistatepca.org.

Please read news release, [Bi-State Welcomes Joyce Gallimore](#), for more information.

Mandi Gingras - New Recruitment and Retention Coordinator



Mandi Gingras joins Bi-State as Recruitment and Retention coordinator for Bi-State Recruitment Center where she will recruit primary care providers including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants for Federally Qualified Health Centers, rural health clinics,

Sharon M. Winn, Esq., New Director of Vermont Public Policy



Bi-State Primary Care Association welcomes Sharon M. Winn, Esq., MPH, as its new director of Vermont Public Policy. "Sharon's experience developing health programs, analyzing health policy, and working with stakeholders will benefit all Vermonters in her role as an advocate for expanding access to affordable, high quality

health care for all," said Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, president and chief executive officer of Bi-State. "She will develop and analyze public policy relative to health access, quality, and payment systems reform to include primary care reimbursement." Ms. Winn will work with Bi-State's 16 Vermont members, including Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Sharon can be reached at (802) 229-0002 x 218 or swinn@bistatepca.org.

Please read news release, [Bi-State Hires Sharon M. Winn](#), for more information.

Community

Health Accountable Care LLC



Transitioning Our Communities
for Better Health

New Accountable Care Organization in Vermont - Providing the Right Care at the Right Time

Community Health Accountable Care LLC (CHAC)

and private and hospital-sponsored physician practices.

"Since 2007, oral health access grants have enabled us to contract with Mandi to develop the oral health division of the Bi-State Recruitment Center. Mandi has developed a pipeline for pre-dental and dental school students and established relationships to assist dental students and practicing dentists meet the future demand for oral health providers in New Hampshire," said Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, president and chief executive officer of Bi-State.

Mandi can be reached at (603) 228-2830 x 116 or mgingras@bistatepca.org.

Please read news release, [Mandi Gingras Joins Bi-State Recruitment Center](#), for more information.

organized in Vermont is comprised of seven Federally Qualified Health Centers and Bi-State. The mission of CHAC is to improve the ability of Health Centers to provide the right health care for their patients based on the medical and social needs of each individual patient. CHAC supports the Patient-Centered Medical Home principles of individualized self-directed treatment plans, an orientation towards whole health, and ongoing relationships between patients and their health care teams.

For more information, contact [Joyce Gallimore](#), Director: (802) 229-0002 x 222

Find A Health Center in Vermont or New Hampshire

Just Enter Your Town or Address!

www.findahealthcenter.org



Bi-State's Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

Bi-State's annual report provides an overview of our projects and outcomes. Learn more about our work with state and federal policymakers, our medical and dental workforce recruitment, and projects in health information technology, quality improvement, improving public health, and community development in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Bi-State's **FY13 Annual Report** is available online at www.bistatepca.org.



[Bi-State Primary Care Association](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed in 1986 to promote access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations in VT and NH. Bi-State works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations and policymakers, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

With offices in Bow, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State provides strategic advocacy, technical assistance, education and training, networking opportunities, and resource and information services.

Contact the Editor: [Susan Noon, MBA, APR - Director of Marketing and Development](#)

[Bi-State Staff Directory](#)

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