



February 2015

Dear Friends,

Bi-State and its members hosted the NH Legislative and Business Breakfast and the Reception for Vermont Legislators this month. Our annual meetings with legislators and policy makers provide an opportunity to share information and update lawmakers on issues related to health care access in each state. We always appreciate the interest and bi-partisan support we receive.

This month, led by Bi-State's Public Policy director, Sharon Winn, MHA, Esq., the directors of Federally Qualified Health Centers, safety net providers, community partners, and the Area Health Education Center held productive meetings on health care policy with Vermont's Lieutenant Governor, the House Health Care Committee, and the Speaker of the House during our annual Legislative Day and Reception for Vermont Legislators.

In New Hampshire, Kristine Stoddard, Esq., Bi-State's director of NH Public Policy and Bi-State's Community Health Center members, hosted the annual NH Legislative and Business Breakfast. We welcomed introductory remarks by Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern, presented our public policy priorities to the 200 legislators and business leaders in the room, and held a "fireside chat" on health care with Sen. Jeanie Forrester and Rep. Neal Kurk.

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 continued support. Please [contact us](#) if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

[Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN](#)

President and Chief Executive Officer

## 2015 Legislative Day and Reception for Vermont Legislators



*Meeting with Governor Shumlin, (L-R) Martha Halnon, Matt Tryhorne, Tess Stack Kuenning, Joyce Gallimore, Gov. Shumlin, Grant Whitmer, and Lori Real.*

mental health care. Meetings were held with Gov. Shumlin, Lt. Gov. Scott, Speaker of the House Smith, and with members of the House Committee on Health Care, House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

MONTPELIER, VT -- On February 10, Bi-State staff, members, and community care partners spent the day at the Vermont State House in scheduled meetings to update and inform lawmakers on the state's primary care infrastructure maintained by Federally Qualified Health Centers, Planned Parenthood of New England, rural clinics, Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured, the Area Health Education Center program, and community partner agencies that provide supporting services.

The collaborative model of care practiced by Federally Qualified Health Centers enables Vermonters to access integrated primary medical, oral, behavioral, and

*"Thank you for sharing all the collaboration going on in the Northeast Kingdom. It makes me very proud to see this and tell you we are doing all of this work in Springfield too. This is the best and most holistic way to serve Vermont,"* Rep. Leigh Dakin, House Health Care Committee.

Following the meetings, Bi-State held its annual Reception for Vermont Legislators from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the State House Cafeteria.

## 2015 New Hampshire Legislative and Business Breakfast

CONCORD, NH - February 4, 2015 -- Two-hundred lawmakers and business leaders attended Bi-State's 2015 Legislative and Business Breakfast on February 4 in Concord. This annual meeting focuses policymakers' attention on the health care needs of their constituents, and the accessibility and affordability of primary health care services. Guest speakers included Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern; Sen. Jeanie Forrester; Rep. Neal Kurk; Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, Bi-State's president and CEO; and opening remarks by Kristine E. Stoddard, Esq., director of NH Public Policy.



Gathering for a photo after the event (L-R), Tess Stack Kuenning, Sen. Morse, Rep. Kurk, Sen. Forrester, and Kristine Stoddard.

Van Ostern spoke of his support of the Community Health Centers and lauded the NH Health Protection Program as a bi-partisan plan that has produced a "tremendous positive change in health care."

"The New Hampshire Health Protection Program gives Granite Staters a hand up, not a hand out," said Tess Stack Kuenning. Kuenning moderated a "fireside chat" with Sen. Forrester, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Neal, chair of House Finance. The legislators said they want "folks to get well" and want to support "programs that work" to improve population health.

The Community Health Center model of care has a proven 50-year track record reporting on patient health outcomes on an annual basis. In December 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognized New Hampshire as the "only state in the country where all of the Community Health Centers rank in the Top 30 percent for high-quality patient health outcomes."



***Learn more about Bi-State's Vision and Mission***

**Bi-State Primary Care Association**

[2014 Annual Report](#)

***Find A Health Center in Vermont or New Hampshire***

[www.findahealthcenter.org](http://www.findahealthcenter.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.

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