



Dear Friends,

This year marks the **50th Anniversary of the Community Health Center Program** – a program designed to offer affordable primary and preventive health care to medically underserved people. Every Administration has supported expansion of this effectual model of integrated health care since the first two health centers were established in 1965. Today, more than 23 million people access primary care through Community Health Centers.

We're grateful for the bipartisan support of lawmakers that enable Community Health Centers to continue to offer integrated primary health care services to all, regardless of ability to pay. We look forward to working with our community partners, supporters, and policymakers in the years ahead to build healthier communities throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

Sincerely,
Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN
President and Chief Executive Officer



Vermont and New Hampshire Health Centers Recognized for Health Care Quality

On August 25, Federally Qualified Health Centers in Vermont and New Hampshire received Quality Awards from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for earning high scores on six measures of health care quality. Awards were based on data collected from health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven U.S. Territories. ***"Today's funding rewards those health centers that are achieving the highest levels of clinical quality performance and improvement,"*** said HRSA Acting Administrator Jim Macrae. ***"The awards will help health centers continue to provide comprehensive primary care to the nation's most vulnerable communities."***

"We're very pleased Community Health Centers have been recognized for their impressive accomplishments. We appreciate the bipartisan Congressional support that makes it possible for them to improve and expand access to health care, especially in underserved areas." - Tess Stack Kuenning, president/CEO, Bi-State Primary Care Association.

(L-R) Tess Stack Kuenning and Jim Macrae with Mary Wakefield, HHS Acting Deputy Secretary.

Vermont Quality Awards
New Hampshire Quality Awards

Top Priority in New Hampshire: Ensuring Access to Health Care



On September 8, Governor Hassan met with Community Health Center leaders and other Bi-State member organizations to discuss matters related to health care access in New Hampshire. Later in the day, Bi-State welcomed New Hampshire House Speaker Shawn Jasper and Senate President Chuck Morse for more discussion. Bi-State and our members voiced support for reauthorization of the New Hampshire Health Protection Program and provided information on the positive impact it has on patients' lives.



Training: Preparing the 2015 UDS Report

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 - Lebanon, New Hampshire

REGISTER HERE



More than 1,100 Community Health Centers serving 23 million people nationwide celebrated **National Health Center Week** August 9-15. New Hampshire and Vermont governors issued official Health Center Week proclamations and health centers hosted patient and public health events. More than 300,000 people access primary medical, oral, behavioral and mental health care, pharmacy services, and substance use disorder treatment at Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont.



On August 11 Tess Stack Kuenning presented Gov. Shumlin's Vermont Health Center Week proclamation to Joshua Dufresne, Springfield Medical Care Systems.



On August 12 Gov. Hassan cut the ribbon at the opening of the new dental clinic at Harbor Homes Health and Wellness Center offering integrated primary medical, dental and behavioral health care in Nashua.

Below: Lamprey Health Care's Annual 5k Community Road Race off to a great start in Newmarket, NH.



In celebration of National Health Center Week, Springfield Medical Care Systems and Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services co-hosted a community event to raise awareness about the impact of toxic stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on individual and community health.



In Memoriam: Hunt Blair

Bi-State staff was deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our former director of Vermont Public Policy, Hunt Blair, on September 1, 2015. Hunt was beloved by those who worked with him and the culture of creativity and teamwork that he modeled permeates our organization today. Bi-State owes a great debt to Hunt and will miss him dearly.



CMS Selects Bi-State for Outreach and Enrollment in NH

Through a competitive grant process, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded Bi-State Primary Care Association a three-year Navigator Program grant to provide public education and enrollment assistance in New Hampshire. Bi-State and its NH Health

Safety Net Coverage Collaborative have a long-standing history of working with uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved populations. "Over the past two years, our trained navigators and certified assisters have educated and assisted over 100,000 Granite Staters," said Tess Stack Kuenning, president and CEO of Bi-State. "We look forward to helping more residents understand the benefits of health insurance and enroll in a Qualified Health Plan or the New Hampshire Health Protection Program."

NH Health Safety Net Coverage Collaborative

Somersworth
Goodwin Community Health
 (603) 749-2346 www.goodwinch.org

Manchester
Manchester Community Health Center and Child Health Services at MCHC
 (603) 626-9500 www.mchc-nh.org

Nashua
Harbor Care Health and Wellness Center, A Program of Harbor Homes
 (603) 882-3616 www.harborhomes.org

Conway
White Mountain Community Health Center
 (603) 447-8900 www.whitemountainhealth.org

Franklin and Laconia
HealthFirst Family Care Center
 (603) 934-1464
www.healthfirstfamily.org

Merrimack County
Bi-State Primary Care Association
 (603) 228-2830 x 160 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 New Hampshire and Vermont.

525 Clinton Street
 Bow, NH 03304
 Voice: 603-228-2830
 Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 Voice: 802-229-0002
 Fax: 802-223-2336

www.bistatepca.org