



## Bi-Lines

April 2012

Bi-State Primary Care Association Newsletter



Tess Stack Kuenning,  
CNS, MS, RN  
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that a Bi-State staff member, Vanessa Santarelli, Director of NH Public Policy, was selected to receive the Geiger/Gibson Emerging Leader Award, presented at a gathering of more than 2,000 in Washington, DC, on March 24. While in Washington, I was joined by Community Health Center members in presenting the NH and VT Congressional Delegations with awards for their demonstrated support of Community Health Centers. Please see below for pictures and more information.

I hope you will attend the 2012 [Primary Care Conference: Improving Quality, Managing Costs, and Increasing Access through Primary Care](#), on Tuesday, May 15, at the [Lake Morey Resort](#) in Fairlee, VT. The Conference will focus on several of the mainstays of health care reform, including payment reform and the demonstration of clinical and financial value through data.

Keynote Speaker, Michelle Proser, MPP, PhD Candidate, Director of Research, Division of Policy and Research, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), will speak to demonstrating value through data, and will be followed by a panel of health policy experts and decision-makers, including Anya Rader Wallack, PhD, President, VT Green Mountain Care Board; Jeanne Ryer, Director of NH Citizens Health Initiative; Kaitlin McColgan, MPH, Director, Federal Affairs, NACHC; and Christie Hager, JD, MPH, Bureau Chief, NE Region, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Three professional workshops will be offered at the Conference: *Preparing for Payment Reform*; *Understanding the Finance Portion of Your Corporate Compliance Program*; and, *ICD10 - What to Expect*. The *Awards Ceremony Luncheon* will recognize recent graduates of Bi-State's Leadership Development Program and honor of those who have made significant contributions toward increasing access to affordable health care in Vermont and New Hampshire.

For the Conference details and to register online, please visit the conference website:

[www.regonline.com/primarycareconference2012](http://www.regonline.com/primarycareconference2012).

I hope to see you there,

Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN  
Executive Director, Bi-State Primary Care Association

### Vanessa Santarelli Receives Emerging Leader Award



Vanessa Santarelli with  
Dr. Geiger

Vanessa Santarelli, Director of NH Public Policy at Bi-State Primary Care Association, was selected by *George Washington University's Geiger Gibson 2012 Emerging Leader Nomination Review Committee* to

receive the 2012 Emerging Leader Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of an "exceptional young leader who has demonstrated professional achievement and

### HRSA's Quality Improvement Grantee Spotlight Selects Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region

Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Quality Improvement Spotlight highlights Vermont's [Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region \(CHCRR\)](#) and describes their use of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care to improve health outcomes and coordinate care for their patients.

CHCRR uses a comprehensive health care team to help its patients avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and to prevent them from receiving fragmented care. This spotlight describes key components of CHCRR's use of the PCMH model and explains how it has transformed their delivery of primary care to patients. The use of health information technology and patient data enables CHCRR to coordinate and deliver high quality patient centered care to better serve their patient population. [Read more...](#)

leadership qualities" while assisting the Primary Care Association and/or Community Health Center in its mission to expand access to culturally competent health care services to underserved populations.

[Read more...](#)

**Pictured:** In Washington, DC, Dr. Jack Geiger, founder of the Community Health Center movement in the United States (1965) and director of the first urban and rural CHC, is on hand to congratulate Vanessa and other award recipients at the *Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award Ceremony*.

### Community Health Centers Achieve High Quality NCOA Designation

Bi-State Primary Care Association is pleased to announce that eight of its [NH Community Health Center members](#) have achieved recognition as Patient Centered Medical Homes™ from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The NCQA recognition includes input from the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Osteopathic Association.

Community Health Centers meet the rigorous standards of care required for NCQA designation. The eight CHCs that have achieved recognition include: Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. serving Grafton and...

[Read more...](#)

### Lori Real Selected for Vermont Green Mountain Care Board Advisory Committee



Lori Real, MPH

Lori Real, MPH, COO of Bi-State Primary Care Association, was selected from a pool of 120 to serve on the 41-member Advisory Committee of the VT Green Mountain

Care Board. GMCB was created by Act 48 of the 2011 Legislative session.

Appointees to the GMCB Advisory Committee represent business, consumers, a variety of traditional and alternative health care practitioners, and health care managers such as hospital administrators and insurance experts.

"We are so pleased with the response we received to our request for Advisory Committee members...all from highly qualified

### VT and NH CHC Leaders Present Congressional Awards on Capitol Hill

During the National Association of Community Health Centers' Policy & Issues Forum in March, directors and staff from [VT and NH Community Health Centers](#), Bi-State Primary Care Association, and the National Association of Community Health Centers presented awards to the VT and NH Congressional Delegations on Capitol Hill in recognition of their support for Community Health Centers.



Congressman Bass receives the CHC Award on Capitol Hill.

[Senator Kelly Ayotte](#), [Rep. Frank Guinta](#), [Rep. Charles Bass](#), and [Senator Jeanne Shaheen](#) from NH; and [Senator Patrick Leahy](#), [Rep. Peter Welch](#), and [Senator Bernie Sanders](#) from VT, received the CHC awards from the Community Health Center leadership, Bi-State, and the National Association of Community Health Centers for their commitment to ensuring all residents, including our most vulnerable populations, have access to comprehensive primary health care services.



Congressman Peter Welch is presented with the CHC Award at his office.

people with a broad range of interests and experience," said Anya Rader Wallack, PhD, President, GMCB.

### Office of Rural Health Policy Selects Melissa Miles for National Training



Melissa Miles, MHP

Bi-State is pleased to announce that Melissa Miles, MPH, VT Special Projects Coordinator, was selected to take part in the Office of Rural Health Policy's *Rural Voices Leadership and Policy Workshop*. The agency selects only a handful of emerging leaders each year from those

organizations that have ORHP grants, so it is an honor for both Melissa and Bi-State to be selected.

Melissa will participate in a 3-day training in Washington DC, in early May, which includes a keynote address from Marcia Brand, PhD, Deputy Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, and several informational and skill-building sessions relevant to rural health leaders.

**Register Now**  
**[2012 Primary Care Conference](#)**  
***Improving Quality, Managing Costs, and Increasing Access through Primary Care***  
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont  
05602



Senator Kelly Ayotte accepts the CHC Award during her Morning Coffee/Open House.



Rep. Frank Guinta meets with the CHC leaders, Bi-State, and NACHC prior to accepting an award for his support of Community Health Centers.



Senators Shaheen, Leahy, and Sanders received awards for supporting access to Community Health Centers.

**[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](#)

Bi-State Primary Care Association  
525 Clinton Street, Bow, NH 03304 and 61 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602  
[www.bistatepca.org](http://www.bistatepca.org)

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