

## Bi-Lines

August 2012

Bi-State Primary Care Association Newsletter

### National Health Center Week in Vermont and New Hampshire

The President of the United States, Governors, and Congress Recognize Value of Community Health Centers During National Health Center Week

[The Presidential Proclamation](#)

#### Secretary Sebelius' National Statement



Secretary Sebelius (R) with Tess Kuenning in Washington, DC

"There are 8,500 health center sites across the country, treating more than 20 million people each year. They are the cornerstones of stronger communities. They also boost local economies, adding more than 25,000 jobs in the last three years. This year, as we celebrate Community Health Center Week and its theme of

"Powering Healthier Communities," we keep in mind that for 45 years, Community Health Centers have served individuals and families whether they have private insurance, insurance through a public program like CHIP or Medicaid, or no insurance at all."

[Read Full Statement...](#)

#### New Benefit for Women under Affordable Care Act Applauded by Nurses

"We have seen there are many women who don't come in for an appointment because of a \$10 to \$25 co-pay," said Margot Kingston, a women's health nurse practitioner who works at the [Families First Health and Support Center](#) in Portsmouth and at Harbour Women's Health. "More women need routine health care but they don't get it because they can't afford the co-payment. No woman should die of cervical cancer because they can't afford a checkup."

[Read newspaper article...](#)

#### Concern for Others Benefits Your Health

Do you know that warm feeling you get when you do something good for somebody? Well, that may be more than just a passing feeling. It may actually be evidence of the physical and mental health benefits of altruism, or the act of giving, with no expectation of getting anything in return. At the Annual Meeting of [Indian Stream Health Center](#), we heard [Michele Dillon, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department at UNH](#), talk about her research. There is growing evidence that indicates concern for others is beneficial to physical and

#### Island Pond Health Center Open House and Tours During Health Center Week



[Northern Counties Health Care](#) was

one of two Federally Qualified Health Centers in Vermont to receive a [federal grant](#)

[through the Affordable Care Act](#) to renovate and expand an existing health center. The grant, along with local fundraising, will cover renovation of the original Island Pond Health Center built in 1977 and a 1,600 sq. ft. addition. The renovation will improve patient flow, make the entire facility wheelchair accessible, and will create two additional exam rooms to make room for another provider. Four additional offices will accommodate behavioral health and chronic care coordination services.

[Read more...](#)

#### Community Health Day in Burlington



[Community Health Centers of Burlington](#) held a Community Day Celebration to launch National Health Center Week and welcomed all community residents to tour their newly

expanded medical facility, meet CHCB providers and staff, and learn more about CHCB's medical, dental, patient counseling and financial assistance services. Free blood pressure and blood sugar checks by CHCB providers; free injury screens provided by a physical therapy cooperative, free dental advice and products, and lots of family-friendly activities took place.

**Rep. Guinta believes Community Health Centers are part of the Solution**



Community Health Advocate Award

mental health.

Well, wasn't that a great topic for our meeting, especially since the evening was partly devoted to celebrating our successful capital campaign! So you see, that's another way that Indian Stream Health Center is contributing to the good health of our region: we gave everyone a wonderful way to show their altruism by making generous (and they were generous) contributions to our facility. All kidding aside, we had a wonderful time giving awards to the staff for customer service and length of service; the Third Annual Community Service Award to the Pittsburg Association of Community Service for their work promoting health and well-being; and the first Community Health Advocate Award to Lynda Gaudette for her work with many organizations and her constant support of our community. Lynda and her granddaughter, Emma Grace Covil, accepted the award to much-deserved applause.

- Shirley Powell, CEO, Indian Stream Health Center

### Vermont Tackles Payment Reform



Al Gobeille (L), who serves on the [Green Mountain Care Board](#), toured [Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley](#)'s dental and behavioral health centers in Morrisville on August 6 with Susan Barrett, VT Public Policy Director (center) and Tess Stack Kuenning, Executive Director (not shown) for Bi-State Primary Care Association, and Kevin Kelley, CEO of CHSLV (R). The group discussed payment reform and how the medical home model of care improves quality of care, helps to contain costs, and provides access to primary medical, dental, and behavioral services to Vermonters statewide.

*"The rising cost of healthcare and complexities of insurance are an enormous challenge for employers. As a Vermont business owner who must meet a payroll every week, I understand how urgently we need to reform all facets of this system."* -Al Gobeille



On a tour of [Health First Family Care Center](#) in Laconia during National Health Center

Week, Rep. Frank Guinta (2nd from L) expressed his strong support for Community Health Centers as part of the "solution" to provide greater access to primary care in New Hampshire and throughout the United States. The Congressman met with Richard Silverberg, CEO of Health First; Glenna Goodwin, HFFCC Board President; Tess Stack Kuenning; and Dr. Fadi Wehbi.

### Northern NH Community Health Centers Raise Awareness Locally

[Ammonoosuc Community Health Services](#)

unveiled a 32 sq. ft.

"National Health Center Week" sign erected in the



middle a busy intersection in downtown Littleton, NH, and set up a booth to raise awareness about the importance of Community Health Centers, locally and nationwide; hosted a well-attended Business After Hours with the Littleton Chamber of Commerce, and had the US Health Resources and Services Administrative on-site filming and interviewing staff participating in the [Patient Safety Pharmacy Collaborative](#), for which ACHS has received national recognition. Edward Shanshala, CEO, explains the ACHS Pharmacy Collaborative work below (2 min):



[Coos County Family Health Services](#) located in Berlin and Gorham, hosted Business After Hours with the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce and opened their door to tours of the health center in Berlin. During the Berlin Farmers Market, the front porch of CCFHS became a health fair booth with lots of information and hand-outs for residents.

[Tess Stack Kuenning, Executive Director of Bi-State Primary Care Association](#), presented

## Community Runs in Lamprey's 5K Race



On August 11, more than 160 residents and visitors to the Newmarket, NH area, from toddlers to a man in his 80's, walked, jogged, road in baby carriages, and ran in [Lamprey Health Care's](#) annual road race promoting good health and well-being.



Locally businesses donated prizes that went to the winners in each age category and included gift certificates and even a flat screen TV!

Governor Lynch's Community Health Center Week Proclamation to Adele Woods, CEO of Coos County Family Health Services in Berlin (pictured: L-R Adele Woods, Tess Stack Kuenning, Alison MacDonald and Chuck Henderson on behalf of Senator Shaheen) and to Ammonoosuc Community Health Services in Littleton. The Proclamation officially recognizes the value of the primary and preventive health care services provided by Community Health Centers throughout New Hampshire.

ACHS and CCFHS presented Senator Shaheen's advisors in attendance at their events with petitions signed by nearly 5,000 NH residents (combined) requesting continued Federal support for Community Health Centers locally and nationwide.



**Quickly Find Your Local  
Community Health Center  
provided by  
Bi-State Primary Care Association**  
[Find a Community Health Center in VT](#)  
[Find a Community Health Center in NH](#)

## Bi-State Congratulates and Applauds Continuing Education

**Kristen Bigelow-Talbert**, Vermont Data Coordinator and Administrative Assistant for Bi-State since 2008, recently earned a **Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Quality Improvement** with a 4.0 GPA through Champlain College. Through her studies she gained greater expertise in *Clinical Systems Management, Health Information Technology Infrastructure: Systems and Solutions, Healthcare Performance and Process, Performance Measurement and Accounting Systems, Strategic Human Resource Management, and Navigating the U.S. Healthcare System.*

Ms. Bigelow-Talbert is enrolled in the **Master of Science in Healthcare Management** program with an anticipated 2013 graduation date.



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## [Bi-State Staff Directory](#)

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