

## Bi-Lines

December 2012  
Bi-State Primary Care Association Newsletter



Dear Friends,

With great hope and enthusiasm, Bi-State is ready to embrace the new year. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our mission to bring greater access to primary and preventive care to all, especially to the most vulnerable populations in New Hampshire and Vermont.

**Give the gift of health this year** by referring your friends and family to their local Community Health Center for access to medical, dental, and behavioral health care. The Community Health Centers are open to all - including those with commercial insurance and those enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare. A sliding fee is available to eligible patients that meet income and residency requirements. To find a Community Health Center near you,

please visit [www.bistatepca.org](http://www.bistatepca.org) and click on "Find a Health Center in New Hampshire or Vermont."

We wish you the most enjoyable holiday season with family and friends!

Sincerely,



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

### SAVE THE DATE!

February 6, 2013 - NH Legislative & Business Breakfast, Concord, NH

February 14, 2013 - VT Legislators Reception, Montpelier, VT

May 14, 2013 - Primary Care Conference, Fairlee, VT

### Electronic Health Records Benefit Patients in Vermont



Vermont's eight Federally Qualified Health Centers all now have operational electronic health records systems, enhancing quality of care for 121,682 Vermonters who receive primary care through the Community Health Centers.

The Health Center activated its electronic records system at the end of October, making it the final Vermont FQHC to convert from paper to computerized patient records. The transition was accomplished with

help from [Vermont Information Technology Leaders](#) and Bi-State Primary Care Association. [Read more.](#)

**Picture:** (L-R) Donna Ransmeier, an implementation specialist with Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc., congratulates Don Grabowski, Dr. John Matthew, Director, and Lauri Snetsinger, RN, of The Health Center on their successful transition to an electronic health record system.



**Burlington** -- The [Community Health Centers of Burlington's Staff Video](#) demonstrates their mission in action, illuminates the Medical Home model of care, and informs their community about the wide-range of services available. It's well worthwhile to take a few minutes to watch - just click on the logo above to open the video.

### Community Health Centers Face the Fiscal Cliff

On November 28, Tess Stack Kuenning met with U.S. Senators from NH and VT in Washington, DC, to discuss the impact across-the-board funding cuts would have on the patients served by Bi-State's Community Health Center members. Although Senator Ayotte was called to the floor for a vote just ahead of their meeting, Tess was able to meet with

Senators Shaheen, Sanders, and Leahy.



"We know our Delegation supports the Community Health Centers

and understand that they provide cost-effective access to primary care, act as economic engines within their communities, and value the local control provided by their community-member and patient directed boards," Tess reported. "And we understand how important it is for them to have a fair and balanced budget deal."



Tess provided information to help the Senators understand that across-the-board cuts would have unintended consequences that could devastate or

### By 18 Percent, Coos County Family Health Center Beats National Average in Hypertension Control

**Berlin** -- Kaiser Health Foundation found that [Coos County Family Health Services](#) successfully manages control of



hypertension ("the silent killer") in 68% of their patient population, compared with a national average of about 50% among all health facilities nationwide.



"When the patient comes in with a high blood pressure reading, we look for a pattern or consistency," said CCFHS Medical Director Mitchell Sullivan, MD. "First we will take a

thorough history so as to assess risk factors... [Read more.](#)

Pictured: Dr. Mitchell Sullivan with a patient.

### Bi-State Hires Kristine Stoddard as Director of NH Public Policy



Bi-State is pleased to announce the hiring of **Kristine Stoddard** as the new director of NH Public Policy. Kristine graduated from the University of NH School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Finance from the University of Arizona. She

served for six years as a legislative research analyst at the Arizona House of Representatives. Kristine's extensive experience working with legislators, lobbyists, and agencies makes her an excellent fit for this position. You may reach Kristine E. Stoddard, JD, at 603-228-2830 x 113 or via email:

[kstoddard@bistatepca.org](mailto:kstoddard@bistatepca.org).

impair the Community Health Centers' ability to serve their communities, especially our more vulnerable populations. The Senators were encouraged to consider the merits, value, and return on investment of each program; and that cannot be done with across-the-board cuts.



We encourage you to weigh-in with your support of a balanced and fair budget that will assure access to services for our

most vulnerable populations, by calling your representatives:

#### **New Hampshire Senators**

Senator Ayotte: 202-224-3324

Senator Shaheen: 202-224-2841

#### **Vermont Senators**

Senator Sanders: 202-224-5141

Senator Leahy: 202-224-4242

Pictured, top to bottom: Tess Stack Kuenning with Senator Leahy, with Senator Shaheen, and with Senator Sanders during recent meetings in Washington, DC.

### **Lori Real Honored with National Patient Advocate Award**



**Lori H. Real, MHA**, chief operating officer of Bi-State Primary Care Association, was awarded the Henry Fiumelli Patient Advocate Award by the [National Association of Community Health](#)

[Centers](#). The award recognizes an outstanding staff member whose work has improved access to quality primary care for vulnerable populations in their state(s). [Read more.](#)

Pictured: Tom Van Coverden, President of NACHC, presents the Fiumelli Patient Advocate Award to Lori Real at the national Primary Care Association conference.

**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)