

## Message from the President & CEO



Dear Friends:

I was pleased to see so many of you at the 2013 Primary Care Conference on May 14 in Fairlee, Vermont. Bi-State and its members remain committed to Building Primary Care Capacity for the Future, the theme of our 27th Annual Primary Care Conference.

This conference again brought into focus the vital part Community Health Center's play in managing costs and improving capacity of primary care in Vermont and New Hampshire. Everything that is happening on a national and state level is being, and in fact, has been addressed for many years by the nonprofit Community Health Centers. Since the first one opened in 1965, the medical home model of care has been in practice. The provider-team approach, with the patient as an active participant in their health care treatment is implemented as a best practice.

Did you know our members have 35 locations throughout New Hampshire, and 84 throughout Vermont? To find the Community Health Center closest to you, visit Bi-State's website and click on "Find a Health Center" - it's that easy!

We wish you a healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN  
President & CEO - Bi-State Primary Care Association

## Building Primary Care Capacity in New Hampshire and Vermont

The 2013 Primary Care Conference in May attracted a capacity crowd to Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont, for Bi-State's 27th annual conference. We appreciate the time our distinguished national and state leaders devoted to making presentations and answering audience questions. Thomas Van Coverden delivered the keynote address, Dr. Michael McKinney and Kara Suter served on a panel with Lori Real on Payment Reform, Attorney Martin Bree taught a session on FTCA Risk Management, Julia Gilbert taught a session on ICD-10 Impact and Transition, and Tess Stack Kuenning with Tom Van Coverden taught a session on the Impact of Federal Health Care Reform on Board Members of Community Health Centers.



### **Keynote Speaker, Thomas Van Coverden, President/CEO of National Association of Community Health Centers**

"I urge all of you to be innovative and creative to ensure we build the capacity to care for more people. I am optimistic, despite the reality of limited funding, that we can continue to create a positive difference in the health care that is available to our communities."



### **Kara Suter, Director of Payment Reform Vermont Department of Health Access**

"Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics can provide leadership in care delivery transformation, in evolving the learning health system, in

collaborative models, and in population based models like Accountable Care Organizations."

[Conference Educational Materials](#)

[Links to Conference Sponsors](#)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Primary Care Conference, May 13, 2014, Fairlee, Vermont.**

## Eight Outstanding Individuals Recognized with Bi-State Awards

At the 2013 Primary Care Conference, Bi-State was pleased to present awards to eight individuals from New Hampshire and Vermont for their outstanding contributions and dedication to improving access to primary health care in their communities.



Rep. Michael Fisher

### The President's Award

*Honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Bi-State's mission of ensuring access to health care for the vulnerable populations.*

**Rep. Michael Fisher**, [Vermont Legislature](#)

**Sandra Pardus, MBA, CFO & CIO**, [Lamprey Health Care](#)



Sandra Pardus, MBA

### The Outstanding Clinician Award

*Honoring primary care clinicians whose exemplary skills and service have made a significant impact on the health of underserved populations and the community in which they serve.*

**Caroline Evans, FNP** - [Little Rivers Health Care](#)

**Nicole Fischler, APRN**, and **Allison Knight, MA**  
[Ammonoosuc Community Health Services](#)



Caroline Evans, FNP

### The Public Service Award

*Honoring individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the area of public health.*

**Hunt Blair, Principal Advisor**, [State HIT-Enabled Care Transformation, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

**Nancy Martin, RDH, MS**, Oral Health Program Manager, [NH Department of Health and Human Services](#)



Nicole Fischler, APRN



Allison Knight, MA



Nancy Martin, RDH, MS



Michael Thompson, MD

### The Community Service Award

*Honoring individuals whose volunteer efforts have made a significant impact on vulnerable populations.*

**Michael Thompson, MD**, [Goodwin Community Health](#)

**Read the stories behind the nominations:**

[New Hampshire Award Recipients](#)

[Vermont Award Recipients](#)

[Bi-State's  
2012 Annual Report Online](#)

**Retiring after 34 years  
devoted to improving  
Community Health**



**Building Healthy Communities  
in  
New Hampshire and Vermont**

**Annual Report 2012**



Ann Peters, CEO of [Lamprey Health Care](#), retired in May after 34 years dedicated to serving the health care needs thousands of people living in Newmarket, Raymond, and Nashua area.

Ann is one of the founding members of Bi-State Primary Care Association, established in 1986. Since the beginning, Ann has actively participated on our board of directors, served on committees, and educated future Community Health Center

Thomas Van Coverden, President & CEO, National Association of Community Health Centers, and Tess Stack Kuenning, President & CEO of Bi-State, with Ann Peters (center) in May.

leaders locally and nationally. Ann has been very instrumental in building greater access to primary care for the people of New Hampshire.

Bi-State and all our members wish Ann a happy retirement and thank her for all she has done to increase access to health care for all.

[Ann Peters Retires After 34 Years - Her Legacy: Excellent, accessible, affordable health care for 21,000 patients](#)

**Bi-State Primary Care Association**, serving Vermont and New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that provide and support community-based primary health care services in medically underserved areas.

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

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