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## Community Health Centers in the Spotlight During Health Center Week

National Health Center Week, held every August, is dedicated to raising awareness of the affordable, high quality and cost-effective primary health care services available at America's Community Health Centers. Community Health Centers currently provide primary health care to 20 million people in 7,000 communities nationwide. The doors are open to all at Community Health Centers, including the insured and uninsured. A sliding-fee scale based on income is available. In 2010, more than 275,000 residents of Vermont and New Hampshire received primary care services at their local Community Health Center.

Bi-State makes it easy to find a Community Health Center in [Vermont](#) or [New Hampshire](#).



### Health and Economy Both Benefit by Revitalization Project

"Our Community Health Centers have a proven record of providing top-rate affordable health care to thousands of Vermonters. For rural Vermonters, Community Health Centers are an integral part of our health care network," said Rep. Peter Welch while touring the former Fellows Gear Shaper building in Springfield, VT, that has become the center of a downtown revitalization project that will house several [Springfield Medical Care Systems](#) practices and other health-related businesses. [Read more about the project.](#)

Pictured: Congressman Peter Welch with Tess Stack Kuenning (L), Executive Director of Bi-State Primary Care Association, and Cheryl Sanctuary, COO, SMCS.

### Great Strides in Access to Dental Care with the Opening of the Ludlow Dental Clinic



U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders attended the ribbon-cutting on August 11 for the new [Ludlow Dental Center](#), an office of [Springfield Medical Care Systems](#). The new 1200 square-foot dental center is staffed by Michael Foster, DDS, and Lisa Watson, RDH, dental hygienist. Contact the Ludlow Dental Center at 802-228-4446 to make an appointment.

Pictured (L-R): Glenn Corder, CEO of Springfield Medical Care Systems (SMCS), Senator Bernie Sanders, Michael Foster, DDS, and Cheryl Sanctuary, COO of SMCS.



### Governor's Proclamation and Tour of Safe Harbor Clinic in Burlington, VT

The [Community Health Centers of Burlington](#) (CHCB) [Safe Harbor Clinic](#), a no-cost medical and dental clinic for adults and families experiencing homelessness, held an Open House immediately following the signing of Governor Peter Shumlin's [Community Health Center Week Proclamation](#). The proclamation was signed in the Governor's office and presented to Jack Donnelly, Executive Director of the Community Health Centers of Burlington.

Pictured with Governor Shumlin (L-R): Bi-State Primary Care Association staff Lori Real, Melissa Miles, Heather Skeels, CHCB Executive Director Jack Donnelly, and Bi-State's Executive Director Tess Stack Kuenning with Denis Barton, Director of VT Public Policy.

### Political Leaders Meet the Board and Tour Manchester Community Health Center



In May, NH Governor John Lynch met with Edward G. George, CEO of [Manchester Community Health Center](#), and his board of directors. Governor Lynch has been a strong supporter of Community Health Centers and their affordable, cost-effective model of care that welcomes all patients, all types of insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare, and offers a sliding fee based on income for the uninsured. [Read the Governor's Community Health Center Week Proclamation.](#)

Pictured: Edward George, CEO (L) with Governor Lynch and several board members from Manchester Community Health Center.

[Manchester Community Health Center](#) (MCHC) serves as a Medical Home for more than 7,000 patients who represent some of the region's most vulnerable populations. During Community Health Center Week, Rep. Frank Guinta toured MCHC and held a round table discussion with Edward George, CEO, board members, stakeholders, and Amanda Pears, Federal and State Affairs Assistant National Advocacy Director from the National Association of Community Health Centers. Rep. Guinta said, "I believe in the Community Health Center model. I saw it work while I was the mayor of Manchester. If this model of care is used effectively, it can reduce emergency room visits and save money. Community Health Centers are an important component in the delivery system." [Read article in NH Insider.](#)



Congressman Guinta listened to advocates of Community Health Centers share their stories during a visit to [Families First Health & Support Center](#) in June ([read article in Seacoast Online](#)) and attended the grand opening of [Goodwin Health Center's](#) newly built facility in Somersworth (formerly Avis Goodwin Community Health Center). Avis Goodwin, 92, the original founder of the Community Health Center, was also present at the grand opening! [Read more about Avis Goodwin](#)

[and the new health center.](#)

Pictured: Families First Dental Director, Dr. Skip Homicz (L) gives Rep. Guinta a tour of the mobile dental van used by Families First to provide services to many of the seacoast's homeless.

## Expanding Services to Veterans and Renovating Health Care Facilities in Colebrook, NH



[Indian Stream Health Center](#) announced the implementation of its Veteran's Administration Telepsychiatry project and the availability of services to veterans during Community Health Center Week. Many veterans attended the event, along with representatives from the offices of Senator Shaheen and Senator Ayotte. A live demonstration of the equipment showed how patients are able to meet and converse with a provider via a two-way monitor at the health center, thus eliminating the need for travel to the nearest VA office, a trip that may be difficult for many to make in rural counties.

Congratulations to Indian Stream Health Center as a grand prize winner in the National Health Center Week Video Contest! [See the video here.](#)

Pictured (L-R): Dr. Fothergill, Medical Director (L) at Indian Stream Health Center, talks with Senator Shaheen's special assistant Chuck Henderson, and Senator Ayotte's special assistant, Neva Foley, during a tour of Indian Stream Health Center's newly expanded facility in Colebrook.

## Senator Sanders Applauds Little Rivers Health Care in East Corinth, VT

by Sarah Brubeck, Valley News Staff Writer

"In the waiting room of the Little Rivers Health Care clinic here, a sign on the freshly painted wall says, "Your federal tax dollars at work." Just in time for a visit by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., a longtime advocate for small, rural clinics such as Little Rivers and two others it operates in the area, open to anyone who walks through their doors. The Little Rivers clinic qualified for \$485,900 in federal stimulus funds to renovate its 100-year-old building. Sanders, who recently voted against the deficit reduction deal because he found it "extremely unfair," said he's worried the funding that helped to refurbish the clinic may no longer be available when lawmakers begin making cuts.

Before the renovation, the clinic's building had no structural foundation and patients shivered in the waiting room because of drafty walls. The nurses' station was so cramped that whenever anyone opened the door, a nurse would hit her head on the wall. "It's a joke now, but it wasn't funny then," said Gail Auclair, CEO of Little Rivers Health Care.

In the United States, 50 million people don't have health insurance, Sanders said. The East Corinth clinic serves about 1,500 patients, while the combined Little Rivers Health Care serves about 8,500, Auclair said." [Read the full article.](#)



## Racing Toward Better Health

[Lamprey Health Care](#) hosted its annual 5K Road Race during Community Health Center Week to promote healthy living - three hundred runners, from 12 to over 70, completed the race, including three providers from Lamprey

Health Care. Three brothers won the race. More than \$7,000 was raised to benefit pediatric



programs at Lamprey Health Care, located in Newmarket, Nashua, and Raymond. [Read Seacoast Online article](#)

[Read Lamprey Health Care Post-Race Press Release](#)

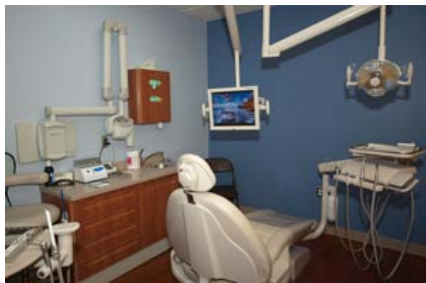
### New Providers and Expanded Services in Coos County



Adele Woods, CEO of [Coos County Family Health Services](#) (pictured) greeted patients, funders, providers, and a group of stakeholders at a public meeting on August 10 to announce the addition of two new providers to her staff and the addition of Veteran Tele-Psychiatry services available now available at Coos County Family Health Services. Senator Jeanne Shaheen sent a letter, read by Chuck Henderson, Special Assistant for Policy and Projects, to express

her congratulations, saying in-part: "I want to recognize the accomplishments of Coos County Family Health Services and its significant contributions to New Hampshire through its service. Since opening its doors over three decades ago, the Coos County Family Health Services has provided quality care for thousands of patients regardless of economic status."

### VT Community Health Center receives \$750,000 Grant



[Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley](#), a Federally Qualified Health Center made up of Stowe Family Practice, Morrisville Family Health Care, the Women's Center, the Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Neurological Clinic and the Community Dental Clinic, has received a huge financial boost. [Read article in The Stowe Reporter.](#)

Pictured: Well-equipped exam room at the new dental clinic in Morrisville.

### ***Health Center Week Proclamations***

[President Barack Obama](#)

[NH Governor John Lynch](#)

[VT Governor Peter Shumlin](#)

NH Community Health Centers 2010 Video

[16 Minutes: Open Doors to Health in New Hampshire](#)

VT Publications Available Online

[Health Care for All in Vermont: Turning the Vision into Reality](#)

[2011-2012 Vermont Health Care Resource Book](#)

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan charitable organization with a broad membership of thirty-four organizations in Vermont and New Hampshire that provide and/or support community-based primary health care services.

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## Special Edition News

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