

BI-STATE VOLUNTEER RECEIVES AWARD FROM VT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



(L-R) Karen Crowley, Tammy McKenzie, Stephanie Pagliuca

MONTPELIER, VT – Tammy McKenzie of Granville, VT, received a Director’s Award from Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (ADAP), on October 1, 2009. She was recognized for “exceptional contributions to the substance abuse field.” In her role as the VT Recruitment & Retention Coordinator for Bi-State Primary Care Association, McKenzie volunteered to serve on the ADAP committee to assist the Health Department over the past 18 months.

Karen Crowley, substance abuse workforce development coordinator for ADAP, credits McKenzie’s expertise in workforce recruitment as a tremendous asset to the committee. McKenzie linked the ADAP to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, a program that is available to health care professionals, including licensed counselors, clinical social workers, and psychologists. Loan repayment programs are one of the most valuable resources in workforce recruitment and retention.

Employed for Bi-State Primary Care Association (BSPCA), McKenzie works with VT community health centers, hospitals and private practices to recruit physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. McKenzie researches and analyzes workforce issues affecting VT clinicians and the practice environment.

The Director’s Award was presented to McKenzie at the 4th Annual Addictions Conference at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT. Speaking to the crowd of more than 100 behavioral health professionals, McKenzie credited her committee colleagues for their enduring commitment to helping those suffering from alcohol and drug abuse recover from addiction. McKenzie said, “As those working in behavioral health are well aware, there is a direct correlation between healthy behavior and good physical health. However, there are many workforce challenges in recruiting, retention, training, and compensation. Some of these challenges are due to fewer resources in shrinking state and federal budgets, coupled with an increasing number of providers nearing retirement age. There is no question that we need more people working in this field. I’m glad to have the opportunity to share my knowledge and contribute my skills to strengthen and support workforce development for Vermont’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program.”

Two of McKenzie’s colleagues from BSPCA, Stephanie Pagliuca, NH/VT Director of Recruitment, and Susan Noon, Director of Marketing and Development, attended the ceremony. With offices in Concord, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.