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THREE VERMONT LEADERS RECEIVE AWARDS AT BI-STATE CONFERENCE

VERMONT - MAY 15, 2012—The Board of Directors of Bi-State Primary Care Association presented three awards to VT residents at the 26th Annual Primary Care Conference held on May 15 at the Lake Morey Resort, in Fairlee, VT.

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" was presented to Mark Larson, Commissioner, VT Department of Health Access. "Mark has a deep understanding of health policy in Vermont, including complex systems like Medicaid, which is central to health planning. Mark has also demonstrated his commitment to the principles behind Act 48, and will be a valuable member of my health care policy team," said Governor Peter Shumlin.

The Public Service Award, presented to Anya Rader Wallack, PhD, Chair of the VT Green Mountain Care Board, "honors individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the area of public health and primary care access." Anya has made significant contributions to health care policy and reform over the past two decades. In January 2011, she joined Governor Shumlin as Special Assistant for Health Reform and was chief architect of Act 48, the Governor's health reform plan.

The Outstanding Clinician Award, presented to Dr. John Matthew, Medical and Executive Director of The Health Center in Plainfield, VT, "honors primary care clinicians whose exemplary skills or service have made a significant impact on the health of underserved patients and/or the community in which they serve." Since 1973, Dr. Matthew has been working to develop The Health Center as a non-profit community organization; starting out as a Rural Health Clinic, and in 2007 achieving designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c) 3 charitable organization. The annual Primary Care Conference features federal, state, and regional speakers and attracts a large audience of primary care executives, clinicians, and senior staff. For more information, review this year's Primary Care Conference Program: www.bistatepca.org.

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