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MEDICAL HOME MODEL IS THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY CARE

VT/NH – Primary care clinicians and administrators from NH, VT, MA, MD, and Washington, DC, attended Bi-State Primary Care Association’s 24th Annual Primary Care Conference at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT, on May 18, 2010.



L-R: Dr. Stevens, Dr. Dusky Watkins, Dr. Hayashi and Heather Staples

Preparing for the Future of Primary Care and expansion of the Medical Home Model were explored in depth by Keynote Speaker David M. Stevens, MD, MA, FAAFM, Associate Medical Director and Director of the Quality Center at the National

Association of Community Health Centers in Washington, DC. Dr. Stevens was joined by a team of panelists, including Lisa Dulsky Watkins, MD, associate director, VT Blueprint for Health, VT Department of Health; A. Seiji Hayashi, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Human Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Heather Staples, MBA, NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice.

The keynote speaker and panel of experts described the Medical Home model as an effective system for ensuring better health outcomes for all patients. Although each presenter had a different perspective based on their local experience, all agreed that the overarching mission is to improve the health of all Americans, including those without health insurance or the ability to pay for services. The Medical Home Model integrates all aspects of patient care, including primary health care, behavioral health care, oral health care, and health education. Social, economic, and community service factors are also taken into consideration. This model of care goes beyond episodic care (treating a patient only after symptoms of disease appear) and moves to planning, coordination and follow-up of all care to better address all the factors effecting the health of an individual.

“As providers of primary health care for the past forty-five years, our Community Health Centers are poised to lead the nation in creating access for all previously underserved Americans,” stated Bi-State’s Executive Director, Tess Stack Kuenning. “Already, several of our health centers in New Hampshire and Vermont have achieved the highest recognition from the National Coalition for Quality Assurance as Patient-Centered Medical Homes.”

Education sessions were offered to the 170 in attendance, including “Obtaining Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition,” “Key Financial Risk Areas for Health Centers,” and “Marketing and Development, including the Role of Social Media.”

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonprofit organization serving the residents of New Hampshire and Vermont. A list of health centers in Vermont and New Hampshire can be found at:

www.bistatepca.org.

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