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BI-STATE AWARDS RECOGNIZE EIGHT EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE FROM NH AND VT

NH/VT -- May 30, 2010 – At the 24th Annual Primary Care Conference, Preparing for the Future of Primary Care, Bi-State Primary Care Association presented the 2010 Awards to eight individuals, four from New Hampshire and four from Vermont, whose work has had significant impact on improving access to primary health care for all. The **President’s Award** recognized Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Peter Welch; the **Public Service Award** honored NH Representative Bob Bridgham and VT State Senator Susan Bartlett; the **Community Service Award** went to Schuyler Sweet and Brad Berryhill, MD; and the **Outstanding Clinician Award** recognized the work of Paul Frederichs, MD, and Hayley Hamilton, LICSW.

Tess Stack Kuenning, executive director Bi-State, presented the **President’s Award** to Senator Jeanne Shaheen (in absentia) who “demonstrated courage and enormous support of the Community Health Centers (CHCs) and safety net providers by voting in favor of the Health Care Reform Bill. This extraordinary bill not only helps to secure access to health care for millions more Americans, it also adds new and guaranteed investments for the CHCs and National Health Service Corps.” Congressman Welch also received the **President’s Award** in absentia, recognizing that “he believes affordable access to quality health care is a fundamental right of all Americans...guided by three key principles: Everybody must be covered; everybody must contribute based upon his or her ability to pay, and coverage need not be related to employment.”

The **Public Service Award** was presented to NH Representative Bob Bridgham of Eaton Center, NH, “to commemorate all of the hard work that Representative Bridgham has done to make a primary care workforce and subsequently primary care health services more accessible to New Hampshire’s struggling citizens, especially those residing in the North

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Country.” VT State Senator Susan Bartlett received the **Presidents Award** as, “a strong supporter of community health centers and safety net providers in Vermont, as well as both the Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) and the Blueprint for Health, since their inception.”

The **Community Service Award** was presented to Schuyler Sweet of Littleton, NH, “for his remarkable volunteer work towards bettering the lives of New Hampshire’s vulnerable populations...and advancing the mission of Community Health Centers and Ammonoosuc Community Health Services.” The **Community Service Award** also recognized Brad Berryhill, MD, of Bomoseen, VT, who serves on the faculty of the Vermont College of Medicine and the Southern VT Area Health Education Center Board of Directors; was commended for “...speaking with great empathy on his patients’ behalf, and on behalf of family practitioners who put the healing arts above all for the betterment of humanity.”

The **Outstanding Clinician Award** to Paul Friedrichs, MD, of Newmarket, NH, recognized that “Paul dedicated himself to the provision of quality care for multiple generations of families. He delivered many of his patients who are now bringing their children and parents in for primary care. Paul is a bright, warm, and caring physician who has committed his career to community medicine and personifies the goal of Lamprey Health Care to provide the best medical care.” As Clinical Director at Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley, Hayley Hamilton, LISCW, of Morrisville, VT, was awarded the **Outstanding Clinical Award** for “promoting the Wellness Center as the “gold standard” of clinical treatment for mental health and substance abuse treatments, using innovative clinical and case management techniques.”

As each person received their award and expressed their appreciation to friends and colleagues, their dedication to ensuring the health and wellness of the people in their communities was unmistakable. Community Health Centers provide access to affordable, high quality health care for all Americans.

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