

525 Clinton Street
Bow, NH 03304
Voice: 603-228-2830
Fax: 603-228-2464



www.bistatepca.org

61 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Voice: 802-229-0002
Fax: 802-223-2336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Susan Noon
603-228-2830 x 144
snoon@bistatepca.org

JOHN OLSON, VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO RECEIVE VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



VERMONT – APRIL 29, 2015 – On May 12, John Olson, M.Ed., Chief, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Vermont Department of Health since 2010, will receive The Vermont Public Service Award from Bi-State Primary Care Association. This annual award “honors individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the area of public health and primary care access.” Olson will receive the award during the Awards Ceremony Luncheon at the 2015 Primary Care Conference in Fairlee, Vermont.

Olson understands the interconnection of organizations and programs that comprise the health care safety net in Vermont and how support at critical junctures will lead to greater efficiencies. Bi-State is recognizing him for his outstanding commitment to the work of small rural hospitals and clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Area Health Education Center, Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Underserved, and Bi-State Primary Care Association. Over the past five years, Olson has used his position to support various projects and workforce training designed to build a stronger primary care infrastructure in Vermont. Funding assistance from his department, so critical in the early stages of development, ultimately led to the establishment of three new Federally Qualified Health Centers. The three centers are now providing primary care services to thousands of Vermonters in underserved rural areas.

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Bi-State’s annual Primary Care Conference features experts in health care policy and practice at the federal, state, and local level and attracts a large audience of primary care administrators, clinicians, and policymakers. For more information, please visit www.bistatepca.org.

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