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VERMONT HEALTH OFFICIAL TO RECEIVE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



VERMONT – May 13, 2016 – On May 24, Georgia Maheras, Esq., Deputy Director of Health Care Reform for Payment and Delivery System Reform and Director of the VT Health Care Innovation Project, 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.” Maheras will receive the award during Bi-State’s Awards Ceremony Luncheon on May 24 at Bi-State’s 2016 Primary Care Conference in Fairlee, Vermont.

To paraphrase Mark Twain, “Everybody talks about bureaucracy but nobody does anything about it.” Georgia Maheras does something about it. Maheras came to Vermont in 2011 and immediately began working to improve Vermont’s health care system and reduce administrative barriers. Through her transparency and common sense approach to bureaucracy, she is able to manage \$45 million in federal investment to the state, funding innovations at all levels including core infrastructure for the Accountable Care Organizations and a substantial investment in Vermont’s Health Information Technology infrastructure.

Maheras has involved herself in the intricacies of Health Information Exchange implementation with the stated goal of providing clinicians with tools (such as event notification) that actually make their work easier.

Prior to relocating to Vermont, and as the Private Market Policy Manager for Health Care for All in Massachusetts, Maheras focused her expertise on increasing health insurance coverage and quality. She championed efforts to reform pharmaceutical companies marketing practices. She served as counsel of record on an Amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in an effort to uphold Vermont’s data mining law and has served as a consumer representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Maheras is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School and holds a master’s degree in Theological Studies from Boston University's School of Theology.

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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