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FIVE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH CARE ACCESS

BOW, NH - MAY 14, 2013 – The board of directors of Bi-State Primary Care Association presented awards to five New Hampshire residents singled out for their outstanding contributions to improving access to high quality health care in New Hampshire at Bi-State’s 2013 Primary Care Conference held in Fairlee, Vermont.

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 Sandra Pardus, Lamprey Health Care’s chief financial officer and chief information officer. In presenting the award, Ann Peters, CEO of LHC said, “Sandy has made outstanding contributions to Bi-State’s mission of assuring access to health care for vulnerable populations in New Hampshire and Vermont. She has tirelessly engaged in activities well beyond the scope of her day-to-day job as CFO and CIO at Lamprey Health Care and the Community Health Access Network. Sandy has been a true mentor to her CFO colleagues and peers across New Hampshire and Vermont for over 25 years, and has been a key contributor to many statewide efforts that effect Federally Qualified Health Center services. She has been an active committee participant, putting in countless hours and days analyzing aggregate financial data, reviewing nonpayment contract provisions, designing and editing a statewide FQHC billing manual, helping to understand and negotiate with the state to increase the types of billable visits/services, and these, believe me, are just to enumerate some of her selfless work.”

The Public Service Award, honoring individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the area of public health, was presented to Nancy Martin, RDH, MS, Oral Health Program manager at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Martin has significantly contributed to improving access to primary care and preventive services statewide. She monitors the performance of 16 contract agencies based in schools, communities, and hospitals, and evaluates activities of a statewide network of oral health programs that serve New Hampshire residents. “Nancy was instrumental in the development of the state’s Oral Health Plan and Oral Health Workforce Strategic Plan in concert with Bi-State, the Community Health Centers, and many other partners. Most recently, she worked with Bi-State to apply for a competitive three-year grant to build the oral health capacity in rural New Hampshire,” said Stephanie Pagliuca, Director of Bi-State’s Recruitment Center. “We are very pleased to report that the grant was awarded and our work has commenced on this project.”

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The Outstanding Clinician Award, honoring primary care clinicians whose exemplary skills and service have made a significant impact on the health of underserved populations and the community in which they serve, was presented to the provider team of Nicole Fischler, APRN, and Allison Knight, MA, from Ammonoosuc Community Health Services in Littleton. Edward Shanshala, CEO, said at the presentation, “Nicole and Allison have consistently demonstrated excellence in patient care and organization leadership as it relates to providing asthma care management, one patient at a time, concurrent with enhancing the organization’s capacity to realize optimal outcomes for the population of asthmatics. Their efforts, and the results they achieved, contributed to Ammonoosuc Community Health Services receiving the highest level recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Patient-Centered Medical Home.”

The Community Service Award, honoring individuals whose volunteer efforts have made a significant impact on vulnerable populations, was presented to Dr. Michael Thompson of Goodwin Community Health in Somersworth. In presenting the award, Janet Atkins, executive director, said, “Dr. Thompson has been with Goodwin Community Health since he left the Medical Residency Program in Concord ten years ago. Although he is a great physician and his patients speak very highly of him, he has done much more than providing excellent medical care to our underserved populations. Dr. Thompson owns a software company and his expertise in this area has helped Federally Qualified Health Centers not only locally, but nationwide. Dr. Thompson works tirelessly with the Community Health Access Network to help create new forms, screens, and to troubleshoot software problems. He has designed templates to help providers become more efficient and incorporate best practices. Any new form he creates, he posts on his computer company website and anyone is allowed to use these - for free. In 2004, we added oral health care to our practice, but our electronic health record program did not have any screens for dental at the time. Dr. Thompson volunteered to create all the screens, including tooth charts and reports. We still use this system today. About five years ago, we had to reduce staff hours due to budget restraints, but Dr. Thompson was concerned that if we reduced nursing coverage, patients wouldn’t receive the care they needed. For a full year, he covered the portion of salaries that were going to be reduced. When we initiated our capital campaign in 2010 for our new facility, Dr. Thompson’s company was the first to donate money toward our new building. Despite all that he has done for our patients, and other FQHCs, Dr. Thompson is soft spoken and humble. He doesn’t like recognition or being the center of attention. Yet, I can’t help but bring his donations and support of the FQHCs to everyone’s attention so that he will receive the recognition he deserves.”

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 and to review this year’s Primary Care Conference Program, please visit: www.bistatepca.org.

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