FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bi-State Honors Senator Ayer and Four Community Leaders for Improving Access to Health Care

VERMONT – MAY 17, 2019 – On Tuesday, May 21st, Bi-State Primary Care Association will recognize five Vermont community leaders and providers for their integrity and outstanding contributions in improving access to health care for Vermonterners.

VT Board Chair Award – Senator Claire Ayer represented Addison County in the Vermont State Senate for 16 years as a visionary on health policy issues. She applied her experience as a registered nurse to her assessment of policy throughout her career. As a Senator, Claire was known for being approachable, pragmatic, and thoughtful.

VT Hunt Blair Award – Bradley Gabree is the Care Coordination Manager at Northern Tier Center for Health (or “NOTCH”). Under Bradley’s leadership, the NOTCH care coordination team has grown from 3 to 9 members. His team strives to ensure that all patients receive the care they need, particularly when those needs are complicated. Like Hunt Blair, Brad encourages innovative and disruptive thinking.

VT Outstanding Clinician Award – Dr. Simone Lessac-Chenen delivers full-spectrum family medical care at Little Rivers Health Care. She was an early supporter of Medication-Assisted Treatment and has expanded the mental health services to Little Rivers’ patients. Her staff is equally impressed by her listening skills, constant support, and willingness to cover for them.

VT Community Service Award – Dr. Carole Cook Freeman has been a leader at the Little Rivers Health Center, providing steadfast belief in the importance of offering community primary care. She is also a founding member of the Board for Partnerships in Literacy and Learning and an educational surrogate for children in the custody of VT Department of Children and Families.

VT Public Servant Award – Tracy Dolan, Deputy Commissioner at the VT Department of Health, has worked in public health for over 18 years, including 10 years in international health, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on HIV/AIDS care and prevention. Her leadership in Vermont prompts consideration of prevention in all health care conversations, and she has encouraged the growth of Accountable Communities for Health, emergency preparedness readiness, and tobacco cessation.

About Bi-State Primary Care Association
Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents New Hampshire and Vermont’s 28 Community Health Centers serving over 315,400 patients at 143 locations across every county in New Hampshire and Vermont. Bi-State works to promote access to quality, affordable primary health care with an emphasis on reaching underserved populations. Bi-State Primary Care Association was founded as a 501(c)3 charitable organization in 1986 with offices in Bow, New Hampshire, and Montpelier, Vermont.

# # #