

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



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

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Susan Noon, MBA, APR  
(603) 866-6020 / [snoon@bistatepca.org](mailto:snoon@bistatepca.org)

### **Eleven Individuals Recognized for Expanding Access to Primary Health Care to Those in Need**

NEW HAMPSHIRE and VERMONT – February 23, 2022 – Eleven individuals, nominated by their peers and selected unanimously by Bi-State Primary Care Association’s Board of Directors, will be recognized for outstanding contributions that support Bi-State’s mission to expand access to primary health care to all those in need. The 2022 Awards Ceremony will be shown during the Bi-State’s Primary Care Conference, May 17, 2022, and posted to Bi-State’s social media channels.

#### **2022 Bi-State Primary Care Association Awards**

Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award: *In 2010, Senator Bernie Sanders and Bi-State Primary Care Association established the Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award for those special occasions when someone deserves recognition for making valuable, significant, and lasting contributions to the Community Health Center movement.*

*Sara Rosenbaum, J.D. is the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy and Founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University.*

The Board Chair Award: *The Board of Directors’ Chair Award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Bi-State’s mission to ensure access to health care for vulnerable populations in Vermont and New Hampshire.*

VT - Senator Patrick Leahy

NH - Mary Bidgood-Wilson, FNP, CNM, Owner and Principle, Meredith Bay Consulting

The Public Service Award: *The Public Service Award honors individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the areas of public health and primary care access in Vermont and New Hampshire.*

VT - Merideth Plumpton, RN, Nurse Program Coordinator and Meghan Knowles, Provider Communications and Training Coordinator, VT Department of Health’s Immunization Program

NH - Regina Blaney, Administrative and Data Coordinator, NH Oral Health Coalition

The Hunt Blair Leadership Award: *The Hunt Blair Leadership Award recognizes the potential every individual has to improve the lives of many people, as demonstrated by the brilliance, tenacity, and vision of Hunt Blair.*

VT - Christopher Towne, Chief Strategy Officer, Northern Counties Health Care

NH - Nina DeMarco, LICSW, MLADC, Manager of Behavioral Health, Amoskeag Health

The Outstanding Clinician Award: *The Outstanding Clinician Award honors primary care clinicians whose exemplary skills and service have made a significant impact on the health of underserved patients and the communities in which they serve.*

VT - Michelle Hollis, RN, Practice Administrator, and Michele Fagnant, RN, Covid Response Nurse, Little Rivers Health Care

NH - Kevin Zent, Medical Director, Greater Seacoast Community Health, Somersworth

About Bi-State Primary Care Association: Bi-State promotes access to affordable primary health care with an emphasis on reaching underserved populations. Bi-State is a nonpartisan nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization with 28 member organizations, including the 22 Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont.

###