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Granite Staters Receive Awards for Improving Primary Care Access for Underserved Residents

NEW HAMPSHIRE – AUGUST 12, 2020 – Bi-State Primary Care Association will recognize four Granite Staters for their significant impact on health care access in New Hampshire at Bi-State's virtual Awards Ceremony on September 2 at 5:00 p.m., on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BiStatePrimaryCareAssociation/>.

Bi-State's Board of Directors' Chair Award: Senator Cindy Rosenwald, State of New Hampshire. "The Bi-State Board 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." Senator Rosenwald has advocated for underserved populations throughout her career at the NH House of Representatives and now the NH Senate. Sen. Rosenwald shepherded the bipartisan effort at the State House to address the state's health care workforce shortage, securing funding for education and loan repayment programs that are key to retaining clinicians in rural and underserved areas. The legislation included across-the-board rate increases to support Medicaid providers, extend telehealth access, and remove childcare and transportation barriers that impede access to health care for many low-income households. Senator Rosenwald was a leading supporter of legislation that would, for the first time, provide dental coverage to adults who have Medicaid insurance.

The Hunt Blair Leadership Award: Tiffaney Burdick, LPN, CRSW, Goodwin Community Health. Bi-State's 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. Ms. Burdick's a rising star who shares many of Hunt Blair's attributes, including humility, audacity, and exceptional leadership. Like Hunt, Tiffaney recognizes the potential of every individual to improve the lives of many. Tiffaney joined Goodwin Community Health as an extern for a medical assistant and transitioned into the Medication Assisted Recovery Program in 2016. Tiffaney displays the positive attitude, ethics, and stewardship of a great leader. She has been a strong alliance for Goodwin's prenatal team, often working alongside other departments to bridge the gap between primary care, obstetrics, and Medication Assisted Recovery.

The Outstanding Clinician Award – Alejandra Martin, MS, PA-C, Goodwin Community Health. "Bi-State's 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." Alejandra is an advanced practitioner who has been practicing at Goodwin Community Health for 12 years. She is compassionate yet firm with her patients and manages a large patient panel. Alejandra believes in the virtue of whole-person, integrated health care. When Alejandra recognized the need for medication-assisted recovery options among her patient panel, she became waived to better treat the whole patient. A passion for Alejandra's is treating patients with Hepatitis C. She has been the Champion at Goodwin to bring Hepatitis C treatment in-house, providing education to staff, and working closely with Goodwin's Hepatitis C nurse to create protocols for the best care.

The Public Service Award – Kelly Perry, DMD, Mid-State Health Center. Bi-State's Public Service Award honors individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions in the area of public health and primary care access in Vermont and New Hampshire. Shortly after opening its Dental Center in Bristol, Mid-State Health Center hired Dr. Perry, who wanted to work in an underserved area. Residents did not have access to routine dental care for the previous seven years. In 2018, she saw an opportunity to advance the skills of the staff and increase the capacity to provide restorative and preventative care. She led a project to incorporate the services of an Expanded Function Dental Auxillary and a Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist, dramatically increasing access to dental care in Bristol and Plymouth. Dr. Perry serves on the HB 4 workgroup that is designing NH's first-ever Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit.

About Bi-State Primary Care Association: Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that represents New Hampshire and Vermont's 28 Community Health Centers serving over 315,400 patients at 143 locations.

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