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LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE

CONCORD, NH & MONTPELIER, VT - Bi-State Primary Care Association's Executive Director, Tess Stack Kuenning, was appointed by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to serve on the Negotiated Rule Making Committee to review and update criteria used to define "medically underserved areas" and "health professional shortage areas" in the United States. The criteria, effecting numerous federal and state programs and billions of public dollars, is used to target resources to areas of need, including the placement of clinicians through the National Health Service Corps, and awarding grants to Community Health Centers to name a few.



*Tess Stack Kuenning
Executive Director*

Ms. Kuenning will join 23 other health care experts from throughout the country. Effort was made to maintain geographic, demographic and expertise representation for this committee. HRSA administrator Dr. Mary Wakefield said "The committee will begin meeting later this year and will be open to the public, in the interest of transparency." Meeting schedules for the committee will be published in the Federal Register with a target date for a draft final proposal in July 2011. Executive Director of Bi-State since 1995, Ms. Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, formerly worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Boston at the U.S. Public Health Service. She was the Principal Public Health Advisor throughout New England for the public health program. Ms. Kuenning has worked in tertiary care and Intensive Care Units (ICU) in hospital and trauma settings, and as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Maternal and Child Health in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Established in 1985, Bi-State Primary Care Association fosters the delivery of primary and preventive health services to the people of Vermont and New Hampshire, with special emphasis on the medically underserved. More information is available online: www.bistatepca.org.

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