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Northeast Delta Dental Grant Helps Bi-State Recruit Dentists



Bi-State members convene experts to address dentist shortage in New Hampshire.

CONCORD, NH – June 2011 - Bi-State Primary Care Association (Bi-State) is pleased to announce a recent grant award from Northeast Delta Dental Foundation to support the recruitment of the future generation of dentists for New Hampshire. Bi-State operates the NH Recruitment Center; the region's only nonprofit focused on recruiting primary care health professionals to New Hampshire.

"The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation has been funding oral health programs in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1995," said Betty Andrews, Delta Dental Foundation's secretary and assistant treasurer. "As the preeminent administrator of dental benefits in

northern New England, Northeast Delta Dental has identified workforce issues as a giving priority in our states, so this investment in the recruitment of future New Hampshire dentists is an important one to our organization." Bi-State's Recruitment Center is the only nonprofit entity in New Hampshire focused on workforce development and recruitment of dentists for the state. Workforce development is a long-term process that includes identifying students interested in careers in dentistry and in being recruited to New Hampshire at some point in the future. The Recruitment Center is uniquely focused on recruiting dentists to rural and federally designated underserved areas of the state where their services are most needed.

According to a 2010 workforce survey completed as part of the State of New Hampshire's Oral Health Workforce Strategic Plan, nearly 40% of dentists who currently practice in New Hampshire expect to leave practice within 10 years. It takes a minimum of four years to complete dental school, after college, to get a dentist through training and into practice. "Conducting workforce development activities on an ongoing basis is critical to preventing a shortage of dentists in the future.

The Recruitment Center acts as a pipeline cultivating the next generation of dentists for New Hampshire," said Stephanie Pagliuca, Director of the Recruitment Center. The Recruitment Center has recruited more than 230 health professionals to New Hampshire since its inception in 1994, including 28 dentists.

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization serving the people of New Hampshire and Vermont.