



BI-STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

2011 Vermont Public Policy Principles, Priorities & Strategies

Public Policy Principles

Bi-State has a steadfast commitment to improving the health status of Vermonters and to ensuring that all individuals have access to appropriate and high-quality primary medical, behavioral, and dental health care, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Efforts to achieve the best value for our investments are essential. We support investments that promote quality in public health and in primary and preventive care to reduce the need for higher cost interventions, as well as investments in strategies to lower prescription drug prices and to create efficiencies in the health care system and improve the quality of care.

Bi-State supports development, implementation and funding of a rational health care delivery system that includes: high quality, accessible primary care, early intervention, wellness, health education, effective patient case management, self-directed chronic disease management, mental health and substance abuse services integrated with primary care, comprehensive preventive and restorative dental services, expanded access to lower cost pharmaceuticals, and access to specialty care.

Public Policy Priorities

Bi-State supports:

- Improving access and coverage for the uninsured.
- Sustaining and strengthening Vermont Medicaid and assuring successful implementation of the Green Mountain Care Programs in extending health care services through coverage of Vermont children and adults.
- Improving access to oral health services for uninsured and Medicaid populations.
- Integration of mental health and substance abuse services in primary care.
- Improve access and funding for telemedicine services and demonstrate the effectiveness of telemedicine through collaborative projects with the University of Vermont School of Medicine, Fletcher Allen Health Care and other partners.
- Sustaining and expanding initiatives to support workforce development.
- Sustaining state funding for the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) network
- Improving the state loan repayment program for health care professionals.
- Improving resources and state funding to sustain the growth of regional free clinics in Vermont.
- Continuing state funding for FQHC development to improve access to care for the uninsured and under-insured.

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Public Policy Strategies:

- Respond to the needs policymakers have identified to strengthen and enhance health care systems, and improve access to, and quality of care through implementation of the Vermont Rural Health Alliance (VRHA).
- Advocate for sustained funding of Vermont’s free clinics
- Advocate state funding for FQHC development to improve geographical access to care for the uninsured and under-insured.
- Advocate for funding of the state loan repayment program for health care professionals with an emphasis on primary care workforce development, including medical, behavioral and oral health care
- Expand access to affordable prescriptions and achieve cost savings for Medicaid through the 340B pharmacy program.
- Collaborate with the Vermont Blueprint for Health, VITL, and VPQHC on the implementation and expansion of the integrated Medical Home and Community Care Team pilots and development of Blueprint and Medical Home “readiness” of other health centers and promoting the Access Across Vermont Plan: Advancing a Medical Home Model.
- Alignment of state, consumer, and health care stakeholders’ efforts to bring about
 - fundamental transformation of the health care delivery and financing “system,” and
 - systemic enhancement of quality of care through improved utilization of health information technology, case management, and disease management.
- Enhance the effectiveness of Outreach & Enrollment in Green Mountain Care programs through a statewide network of partners providing application assistance to eligible, uninsured Vermonters.
- Support the partnership of non-profit organizations and other stakeholders exploring analysis and development of sustainable, equitable tax policy.