



*E-News, December 2009*

### **Blitz to Co-Chair Northern Border Regional Commission**

Sandy Blitz, Hudson, NH, has been nominated as co-chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission, which has now received funding of \$1.5 million. Cong. Paul Hodes urged speedy confirmation by the Senate. Blitz served as regional administrator for the Small Business Administration. The NBRC will invest in infrastructure improvements in the region's northernmost tier of counties and will also invest federal resources in job training, energy generation, and health care. A Federal co-chair will be appointed by the President.

### **Save The Date!**

Friday, Sept. 24, 2010 is the date for the 5th Annual Rural Oral Health Conference, which will take place at the Westford Regency Inn & Convention Center, Westford, MA. If you have attended these meetings in the past, you know what a wealth of information the speakers provide. And the opportunity for networking with colleagues is not to be missed.

### **Round Table Elects New Officers**

Elected at the October Annual Meeting for the 2009-2011 Term:

President - John Gale (ME)

President-Elect - Nancy DuMont (VT)

Secretary - Alisa Butler-Druzba (NH)

Treasurer - Dick Clark (ME)

Member at Large - Mary Winar (CT)

Sharleen Moffat remains on the Board as Immediate Past President (MA)

### **Job Posting - Important**

**Director, Office of Rural Health, Veterans Health Administration, VA Central Office  
Washington, D.C.**

The Director, Office of Rural Health, serves in the Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health and Policy Planning. Under general guidance, the incumbent provides leadership, advice and subject-matter expertise in tasks, projects and assignments related to rural health care policy development, analysis, decision-making, and implementation of activities affecting Veterans in the rural and highly rural areas. The incumbent directs the work of professional and support personnel of the Office of Rural Health.

For questions about this job:  
Pam Robinson  
Phone: (202)461-7392  
Email: pam.robinson@va.gov

### **E-Bulletin from Muskie School**

The Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, where our new president John Gale is a Research Associate, has just sent out its first E-Bulletin. Featured in the E-Bulletin is a new report examining health insurance coverage in rural America. The 68-page chartbook shows that rural residents are more likely to be uninsured or to receive public assistance, especially those living in the most remote areas. [Read the Bulletin](#)

### **Keeping Score: Vermont Still Number 1**

Once again the six NE states rank in the top 10 overall, in the 20th Anniversary Edition of America's Health Rankings™. Vermont ranks 1st when compared to the health of other states. This is the 3rd year in a row that Vermont has been at the top of the rankings issued by the United Health Foundation, the American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention. Massachusetts holds the number 3 position, overall, followed by New Hampshire at number 5, Connecticut at number 7, Maine at number 9 and Rhode Island at number 10. [Visit the website for more information.](#)

### **Franklin Pierce Enrolls First PA Class**

The Franklin Pierce University Physician Assistant Program, located at the University's Lebanon, NH Center, officially opened on November 30th with a full complement of 24 students. Fifteen of the students in the inaugural class are female, and nine are male. Twelve members of the new program are from Vermont. The idea behind the new program is to recruit students from rural areas, with the aim of having them settle in rural communities to practice.

Lisa Southwick is the Program Director. Franklin Pierce University is a private university with its main campus in Rindge, NH.

### **Congratulations, Pam!**

Pamela Smith, (right) Assistant Director for the MA State Office of Rural Health, recently became one of the first graduates of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health's (NOSORH) Leadership Institute. Her mentor was Alisa Butler-Druzba (left). Pam is also an active RoundTable member. Most recently, she contributed significantly to planning for the Symposium. [Read More](#)

### **Mid-State Issues First Annual Report**

"Your Patient Centered Medical Home" is the title of the new annual report from Mid-State Health Center, Plymouth and Bristol, NH. The report states "We are proud of the fact that Mid-State is doing the right things to take us into the future. Our integrated behavioral health and medical home efforts are where health care is moving." In August, Mid-State became one of only four medical practices in NH to achieve the highest level of recognition as a Patient Centered Medical Home from the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

For a copy of the report, contact CEO Sharon Beaty at 603-536-4000.  
[Visit Their Website.](#)

Thanks,

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