



Bluegrass.org News Release

1351 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky 40511 • 859.253.1686 • www.bluegrass.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2016 - Lexington, KY

Contact Bethany Langdon bhlangdon@bluegrass.org

Dr. LaTonia Sweet, CMO at Bluegrass.org, Named Physician of the Year at Tenth Annual MediStar Awards

Dr. LaTonia Sweet, Chief Medical Officer at Bluegrass.org, was named Physician of the Year at the 2016 Medi-Star Awards. Dr. Sweet, along with six other honorees, were recognized for their contributions to excelling the business of healthcare at the tenth annual MediStar Awards on Tuesday, October 25th at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Since 2007, IGE Media, publisher of *Medical News*, has recognized excellence in the business of healthcare at the exclusive MediStar Awards. These awards honor healthcare professionals for their achievements in advocacy, innovation, education, leadership, aging care and nursing.

The Physician of the Year Award is presented to a physician who displays outstanding leadership and vision and leaves a lasting legacy in the workplace. Dr. Sweet provides medical leadership to Bluegrass.org, a large non-profit behavioral health organization serving 25,000 patients in 17 counties of Central Kentucky providing mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disability services. Despite the significant administrative role, Dr. Sweet continues to do what she loves best about medicine which is provide direct care to the underserved in rural Kentucky.

Sweet commented on her recognition by saying, "I am honored to be receiving this award as psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist. To me this signals a change in how the healthcare system views health and health behaviors. The importance of behavioral healthcare to the overall wellbeing of patients and to decreasing escalating costs of healthcare is being seen by all facets of healthcare and society."

In addition, Sweet allows her passion for improving the lives of Kentuckians to guide her career. Currently, she is collaborating with 10 organizations across the country to develop and implement tobacco cessation and cancer prevention protocols for those at high risk. In her free time, Sweet trains healthcare professionals and Kentucky communities on health behaviors and addiction as a Community Connector with the Kentucky Medical Association.

Providing technical assistance to other healthcare providers on projects involving rural health and improving access to addiction services, Sweet works with the AMA and APA on the Transforming Clinical Practice initiative. This initiative is striving to revamp the delivery of psychiatry and addiction services to better serve rural populations.

###

About Bluegrass.org

Bluegrass.org is a non-profit Community Mental Health Center located in Lexington and serving 17 counties including; Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott and Woodford since 1966 in the areas of mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disabilities. For support and appointments call the 24-Hour Help Line at 1.800.928.8000.