

April 2017

## MMW Recognizes Outstanding Members At Annual MMW Summit



*Left to right: Tiffany Solecki, health policy intern at Health & Disability Advocates; Elizabeth Smart, office manager & social media administrator, HDA; Emily Gelber, associate director strategic health initiatives, HDA; Alicia Donegan, health care choice coordinator, AgeOptions; Dave Lecik, Medicare training specialist, SHIP, Illinois Department on Aging; Kelly Rice, program manager, Intensive Community Care Services at Howard Brown Health; Georgia Gerdes, health care choices specialist, AgeOptions; Gaby Montoya, health care choices specialist, AgeOptions; Jason Echols, manager of health care access, AgeOptions.*

The Make Medicare Work (MMW) Coalition recognized two of its outstanding members at the annual MMW Advocacy Summit April 7. Kelly Rice of Howard Brown Health Centers and Dave Lecik of the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Illinois Department on Aging, received the 2017 MMW Member Award for their contributions to the coalition.



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Your Update from AgeOptions

Kelly Rice is program manager of Intensive Community Care Services at Howard Brown Health and an active MMW member. She participates in MMW trainings, advocates for people living with HIV/AIDS and has often shared with MMW leadership how programs like Medicaid Managed Care affect the people she sees every day. Kelly has provided important insight into how MMW can more efficiently and effectively tell the stories of its members and the clients they serve in our advocacy efforts.

Dave Lecik is a Medicare training specialist with SHIP at the Illinois Department on Aging. He has been a valuable bridge between SHIP and MMW, calling or emailing MMW leadership with Medicare news and updates. Dave also shares MMW materials in his trainings, encouraging people new to Medicare counseling to seek out MMW as a resource. The Illinois SHIP program is invaluable to our shared goal of ensuring older adults and people with disabilities have the resources to make informed health care benefit choices and are empowered to do so. We are grateful for the strong and continued collaboration MMW and SHIP share and thank Dave for being an advocate for SHIP counselors and beneficiaries in Illinois.

Kelly and Dave accepted their awards at the annual MMW Advocacy Summit. With the many changes in health care coverage being discussed in Washington and Springfield, the summit was an opportunity for the more than 80 participants to understand the practical and policy meanings of these legislative proposals. Health & Disability Advocates organized the event and invited speakers on a variety of advocacy issues.

MMW promotes access to affordable health care options in Illinois. Led by AgeOptions, Health & Disability Advocates, and Progress Center for Independent Living, MMW provides materials, training, and technical assistance to professionals serving older adults and people with disabilities to enable them to help their clients access health care and prescription drug services and supports. [Click here](#) for more information about MMW and to join the MMW email List.