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Your Update from AgeOptions

April 2017

AgeOptions Was Well-Represented At Aging in America Conference



Several AgeOptions staff and Board of Directors members attended Aging in America, the annual American Society on Aging (ASA) conference, with some making presentations on a variety of topics. Jonathan Lavin, AgeOptions president and CEO, was a co-chair of the conference, which took place March 20-24 in Chicago.

Aging in America, the largest conference on aging in the nation, is an opportunity for professionals to learn from their peers and gain new perspectives, according to Rob Mapes, AgeOptions director of Program and Community Support. “The field of aging is getting more complex by the day,” he said. “We must adapt and respond to changing financial models and an increasing and more diverse older population while using new technology for the best impact.”

AgeOptions Presentations

- Brad Winick, Board vice chair, joined presenters from Kansas City, San Francisco and Evanston in a workshop titled “Political and Financial Sustainability of Age-Friendly Community Initiatives.” They explained that each age-friendly community initiative is unique and place-specific, but all face political and financial sustainability challenges.
- Brad Winick and Kim McCahill, AgeOptions director of Planning, Grants and Program Development, were among presenters representing the planning, aging network and policy research disciplines at the ASA and American Planning Association summit on “Livable



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Communities: Planners and Aging Network Professionals Working Together to Plan Livable Communities for All Ages.”

- In addition to co-chairing the conference, Jon Lavin joined Joyce Gallagher, executive director Senior Services Area Agency on Aging, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, and Joy Paeth, CEO of AgeSmart Community Resources, at a session titled “Welcome to Illinois: Advocating for Older Persons in the Midst of an Extended Stalemate.” They talked about how the state’s aging network demonstrated remarkable resiliency, commitment and patience while fighting to continue services during the continuing state budget impasse.

Jon, who is a board member of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), arranged for Sandy Markwood of n4a to meet with professionals from Area Agencies on Aging across the country in a Peer Session.

- Rob Mapes was a presenter in a workshop on “Paving the Way for Medicare Reimbursement: Learning Collaborative Lessons.” Participants learned about sustainable service systems and a Medicare reimbursement option for chronic disease self-management education programs like AgeOptions’ Take Charge of Your Health.