

May 2018

Diane Slezak Named to Succeed Jonathan Lavin As AgeOptions President and CEO



Diane Slezak

Diane Slezak will succeed Jonathan Lavin as president and chief executive officer of AgeOptions. Diane, who has been with the agency since 1976, will assume her new role on November 1, according to Brad Winick, chairperson of the AgeOptions Board of Directors. "The Board felt that the strongest and best prepared candidate to succeed Jon Lavin already was working at AgeOptions – that person being Diane Slezak, who is currently the vice president and chief operating officer," he said.

Jon has been chief executive officer since 1978 and is retiring at the end of October. He was the recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Leadership national award from n4a, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. He is known for his advocacy and creative program development efforts working with the AgeOptions staff. Jon was a division director for the City of Chicago Department on Aging before joining AgeOptions. Read more about Jon's contributions to AgeOptions and the field of aging in the [March newsletter](#).



Jonathan Lavin

Diane has had a long list of accomplishments during her 42 years with AgeOptions, including:

- Directed the first Senior Companion Program in Illinois
- Was the representative to the south suburban region in the early days of AgeOptions
- Established the first Suburban Cook County Community Care Program

- Authored the “Best Kept Secret” proposal funded by the Chicago Community Trust
- Organized 20 community partner agencies to explore the effectiveness of 21 outreach techniques to reach more than 100,000 older adults in suburban Cook County
- Successfully advocated for state support of the Red Tape Cutters Program, which continued to reach and assist older persons from 1995 to 2011
- Planned, implemented and advocated for the statewide Illinois Adult Protective Services program for older adults
- Established Healthcare Choices, responding to the challenges of newly established managed care health plans in suburban Cook County; it was the beginning of the long-established Medicare and health plan expertise of the Make Medicare Work Coalition

“The Board of Directors of AgeOptions is extraordinarily thankful for Jon’s leadership and commitment to older persons that has allowed the organization to grow and develop over the past 40 years of his service,” Brad said. “We are extremely confident that Diane along with the fabulous AgeOptions staff will maintain AgeOptions’ momentum well into the future.”

Diane lives in Brookfield with her husband Dana Havranek. She received an MBA from Dominican University and BA from Wheaton College. Jon lives in Skokie with his wife, Robin. He received MPA and BA degrees from American University, Washington D.C.