

April 2017

“Don’t Push Your Luck: Medicare Fraud Can Happen to Anybody” Is Theme of St. Pat’s Day Fraud Prevention Fair



From left: Frankie Shine, SMP volunteer, South Suburban Senior Services of Catholic Charities (SSSS); Bailey Huffman, SMP volunteer & benefits access specialist, AgeOptions; Barbara McGill, case manager, SSSS; Rose Langston, SMP volunteer, SSSS.

Luck won’t stop scammers, but individuals can fight fraud by being prepared. That was the message at a St. Patrick’s Day fraud prevention fair hosted by Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at AgeOptions and South Suburban Senior Services of Catholic Charities. The event took place at the Josephine P. Argento Senior Center in Calumet City.

SMP encourages Medicare beneficiaries to prevent fraud by never giving their Medicare number

to strangers who call or come to your door with “free” services, detect fraud by reading your Medicare Summary Notice to look for services you did not actually receive, and report fraud by calling Illinois SMP at AgeOptions at (800)699-9043.

SMP’s popular fraud prevention fairs bring together a variety of consumer protection agencies to provide information on fraud, and are an opportunity for attendees to learn useful tips to prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. Participants can also take old Medicare Summary Notices and other personal documents to be shredded at the fair.

At the St. Patrick's Day event, exhibitors took part in a "Pass the Mic" forum, giving attendees an opportunity to learn about the different organizations and resources available to help them avoid becoming victims of fraud.

Exhibitors included the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Cook County Sheriff's Office, FBI, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), US Postal Inspection Service and the Long Term Care Ombudsman.



AgeOptions staff observed the St. Pat's Day theme. From left: Peggy Tully, health care & fraud information specialist; Gabriela Montoya, health care choices specialist; Jason Echols, manager of health care access; Bailey Huffman, SMP volunteer & benefits access specialist.

[Click here](#) for more information about SMP and fraud prevention.