

June 2016

## Annual MMW Summit Includes Awards and Updates

The annual Make Medicare Work (MMW) Advocacy Summit took place April 11 at Kent College of Law with 115 representatives of agencies and organizations that serve Medicare recipients taking part.

Featured at the Summit was a panel of Illinois Managed Care Organizations discussing care coordination and other client issues. Presentations were provided on the Illinois budget, an update from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services on the Managed Long Term Care and Supports program, and the Balancing Payment Incentive Program (BIP) including the status of the long anticipated Universal Assessment Tool for all citizens in need of help under Medicaid. There were also updates on current legislation in Springfield and the proposed Community Reinvestment Program (offered by Jon Lavin).



*State Representative Jan Schakowsky speaks at the MMW Summit after receiving an award for her leadership on health care for older adults and people with disabilities.*

The Make Medicare Work Coalition (MMW) is led by AgeOptions, Health & Disability Advocates, and Progress Center for Independent Living with the goal of helping older adults and people with disabilities in Illinois gain access to affordable health care, including prescription drugs and home and community

based supports, and use their healthcare benefits effectively. MMW seeks to achieve these goals by providing high quality, accessible training, materials and technical assistance to professionals who work with older adults and people with disabilities, and through effective advocacy with policymakers and other key decision makers involved in health care program oversight.

The highlight of the Summit was MMW awards presented to U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky in recognition of her leadership on health care for older adults and people with disabilities (and her long standing participation in MMW), and to Jen Tayabji, an MMW member from Champaign County Health Care Consumers, who worked with Erin Weir, AgeOptions manager of health care access, to obtain a Medicare Advantage Special Enrollment Period for members in central Illinois. Without their efforts, residents were faced with the loss of doctors and other providers due to changes in the service network by their Advantage Plan.



*Jen Tayabji of Champaign County Health Care Consumers (left) with Erin Weir.*

On April 15, Jen presented AgeOptions (Erin Weir) with the Illinois Disciples Foundation Movement Building Award for efforts in securing the special enrollment period. "We are very grateful to CCHCC," Erin said. "It was an incredibly humbling experience, as the other awardees have done some amazing things."