



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

Larke Recchie
Executive Director

Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on
Aging (o4a)

88 E. Broad St.
Suite 870
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614/481-3511
Fax: 614/481-3566
o4a@ohioaging.org
www.ohioaging.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
88 E. Broad Street, Suite 870
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 481-3511
ohioaging.org

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING UNVEILS 2017 AWARD WINNERS

Ohio AG Elder Justice Initiative Director, Veterans Affairs Medical Director,
Athens County Department of Job and Family Services Are Among Those Celebrated for
Serving Older Ohioans

COLUMBUS, OH (November 16, 2017)—Over the course of the last two days the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) announced the recipients of their 2017 awards at their 28th annual conference. A diverse array of winners have partnered with o4a and Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging to improve the lives of older Ohioans, Ohioans with disabilities, and their families.

- **Elected Official Advocacy Award: Representative Steven Arndt, Chair, House Aging and Long Term Care Committee.** “We honor Representative Arndt for his longstanding dedication to developing a deep understanding of aging issues and his leadership as Chair of the newly created House Aging and Long Term Care Committee,” said Larke Recchie, CEO of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.
- **Elected Official Advocacy Award: Senator Louis Terhar.** “Senator Terhar has been instrumental in making aging issues a priority during this year’s state budget discussions,” Recchie said. “Through his leadership, the Area Agencies on Aging and the people they serve were given a voice in the Senate during a challenging budget.”
- **Outstanding Advocate of the Year: Sylvia Pla-Raith.** “In her role as Director of the Elder Justice Initiative with the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, Sylvia Pla-Raith has motivated and organized state agencies, advocates, judges, and others with a steady and respectful approach to mobilize efforts around elder abuse in Ohio,” said Recchie.

- **Area Agency on Aging Staff Member of the Year Award: Susan Sigmon, Senior Vice President of Long Term Care, Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities.** “Susan has worked tirelessly to assure consumers are treated with respect and receive the best possible support and services to help them remain in their homes and communities,” Recchie said. “She has assisted the Aging Network many times over and has stepped up to lead committees and workgroups charged with developing or responding to policies in our ever changing environment.”
- **Outstanding Area Agency on Aging/Provider Partnership: Cincinnati Area Senior Services.** Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and Cincinnati Area Senior Services have collaborated for 30 years to ensure that the critical needs of Cincinnati’s vulnerable seniors are met, most recently by helping to continue meals and transportation programs when other providers closed or were in danger of closing.
- **Outstanding Area Agency on Aging/Provider Partnership: Master of Occupational Therapy Program, Shawnee State University and the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center.** Area Agency on Aging 7 collaborated with Shawnee State University’s Master of Occupational Therapy Program and Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Program to provide Music and Memory to Ohio’s veterans, their caregivers, and others with cognitive impairment in home and community-based care settings.
- **Outstanding Area Agency on Aging/Provider Partnership: Athens County Department of Job and Family Services.** Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the Athens County Department of Family Services established the grassroots fundraising campaign “\$ponsor a \$enior” program to raise \$5000 to enable more Athens County seniors to participate in the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program.

“Area Agencies on Aging have deep roots in their communities and use those relationships to benefit seniors and people with disabilities and to move public policy,” said Recchie. “These partners represent a sampling of the strong connections the Agencies have in their communities.”

Over 500 participants and more than 30 sponsors joined the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging for two days of education, support and networking.

About the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), a nonprofit organization, is a statewide network of agencies that provide services for the elderly, as well as advocate on behalf of older Ohioans. The Association addresses issues which have an impact on the aging network, provides services to members, and serves as a collective voice for Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging. For more, visit ohioaging.org.

CONTACT Larke Recchie (614) 481-3511 recchie@ohioaging.org