



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

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OHIO ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING UNVEILS 2018 AWARD WINNERS

Representatives LaTourette and Sykes, COHHIO Director Are Among
Those Celebrated for Serving Older Ohioans

COLUMBUS, OH (November 1, 2018)—Today the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) announced the recipients of their 2018 awards at their 29th 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 LaTourette.**
“Representative LaTourette is willing to carefully listen and engage with all of her constituents, and we value her support of older Ohioans,” said Larke Recchie, CEO of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. “Her leadership on HB 527, about rights to visitation for vulnerable adults, recognizes the struggle families sometimes face in supporting their loved ones in difficult times.”
- **Elected Official Advocacy Award: Representative Emilia Sykes.**
“Representative Sykes has been persistent in advocating for improving the quality of care and better health outcomes for all Ohioans, particularly the most vulnerable,” Recchie said. “She provides a seat at the table for those who do not always have a voice.”
- **Outstanding Advocate of the Year: Bill Faith, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO).** “Bill Faith is the consummate advocate for housing and the homeless,” said Recchie. “We are grateful for the bright light COHHIO has shone for so many years on the serious housing issues affecting all Ohioans, particularly older Ohioans and people with disabilities.”

(more)

- **Area Agency on Aging Staff Member of the Year Award: Sharon Fusco, Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio.** “Sharon Fusco’s dedication to the Aging Network and o4a is greatly appreciated,” Recchie said. “She is practical, diplomatic and persistent, all traits needed as she was able to gather our network together to collectively respond to recent changes in policy and practice in our field.”
- **Outstanding Area Agency on Aging/Provider Partnership: Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals of Northwest Ohio.** Area Agency on Aging 3 (headquartered in Lima, Ohio) and Simply EZ collaborated two years ago to provide individually-tailored home delivered meals to individuals who are recently discharged from a nursing home or hospital. Recognizing the limitations of funding, Simply EZ reduced their rate to help stretch the limited dollars available. 100% of participants had no readmission to the hospital or nursing facility within 3 days of receiving the meals.

“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.”

Almost 600 participants, including almost 50 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.

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