



South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

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SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN PREVENTION RECOGNIZES HEALTH LITERACY LEADERS

PLYMOUTH, MA -- South Shore Community Partners in Prevention (SSCPP) held its first ever Health Literacy Awards ceremony on Friday, April 6 at the Plymouth Library to recognize community leaders who are breaking down barriers to effective health communication in the Plymouth region. The six nominees for the inaugural award were acknowledged for programs or projects that support the goals of SSCPP's Health Literacy Initiative, including enhanced communications between providers and consumers, increased education and awareness about different aspects of health and disease, and improving health literacy amongst special or vulnerable populations.

"We are lucky in our region to have so many wonderful individuals and agencies whose missions are to improve health outcomes for local residents," said Michael Jackman, Chair of SSCPP. "We thought this would be a good way to recognize people who are making great strides by identifying obstacles to good health, and using improved communications or education to remove those obstacles."

The ceremony was kicked off with welcoming remarks from State Rep. Matt Muratore, who talked about his experience as a nursing home administrator and as a State Rep. "During over thirty years working in the nursing home industry, I was often struck by how much patients and their families worked to educate themselves about their care," said Muratore. "Now, as an elected official, I rely on my constituents to provide their perspectives when I am considering legislation that may affect their health care."

The winner of the Health Literacy Award was **Sarah Stanley, Site Director for the Department of Mental Health in Plymouth (DPH)**. In her nomination of Ms. Stanley, Sheila Flaherty of NAMI/Plymouth cited her work to "re-invigorate" the local DMH office, by planning and implementing programs like the Community Conversations on Mental Health and the Laugh Out Loud Comedy Nights to benefit Mental Health. In her remarks, Ms. Stanley thanked her staff at DMH, NAMI and the Plymouth Suicide Prevention Coalition, among other partners who have supported these new programs.

Our nominees included:

Janice and Lauren Fender of REACH, Inc. – Nominated by Susan Milliken of REACH Inc., Janice and Lauren had to educate themselves about traumatic brain injury (TBI) after Lauren was in a car accident at the age of 21. At the breakfast, Lauren talked about how her TBI put

her life on hold for a few years, but has also given her so many opportunities to educate the community about TBI, through support groups, educational talks, and a road race she started that will celebrate its second anniversary this fall.

Patti Menzel, Self-Advocate for People with Autism -- In her nomination of Patti, Maureen King of the Department of Developmental Services compared her as a speaker to Temple Grandin – someone who speaks lucidly about life as an autistic and has the power to transform people through her words.

Marlene Clark, Plymouth WIC – Marlene described new apps that WIC provides to participants so they can track their benefits and identify covered products at the touch of a button. WIC also has expanded the number of languages in which it communicates with its clientele for whom English is a second language.

Bobbi Martino of ARC of Greater Plymouth and Donna Rodriguez of PACTV - Bobbi and Donna worked together on a video, “Better Health through better Relationships” to illustrate the health care obstacles faced by many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bobbi and Donna both spoke about how they inspired each other to persist through several delays and challenges in the production of the video, which is available for viewing on SSCPP’s website (www.chna23.org).

For more information about the Health Literacy initiatives go to SSCPP’s website at www.chna23.org.

About South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

SSCPP is a partnership between health care providers, hospitals, boards of health, schools, businesses, concerned citizens and elected officials to improve the health of our community. SSCPP is one of 27 Community Health Network Areas (CHNA) across Massachusetts working towards this same goal. SSCPP’s specific community includes Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, and Rockland.

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