



## Open House Celebrates Our State's New Public Health Advocate

On February 11, 2010, over 60 friends stopped into the HMPRG offices after work to toast Governor Pat Quinn's appointment of Quentin Young's as the Illinois Public Health Advocate - a unique mechanism for including the public's voice in the formation of health policy, and the first such state-level position in the country.

In the next few weeks, Quentin will be meeting with volunteers who have expressed an interest in working to staff this position.

**View Alan Krashesky's ABC 7 Newsviews interview with Quentin discussing his new role.**  
<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/video?id=7290827>



Visit [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org) to hear Quentin's comments and view photos from the evening.

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### Save the Date: March 23, 2010!

We'll be holding a Regional Forum on Health Information Exchange (HIE) from 9am-1pm at the Oak Park Library. We encourage all public health and safety net professionals to attend to ensure the needs of the public health community are included, and increase the accountability of the Illinois HIE planning process.

Have friends or colleagues who follow local, state and national health policy. Forward our e-newsletter and remind them to sign up to receive emails, alerts and invites!

## Schweitzer Matching Grant Will Help Us Sustain the Program by Maximizing Your Donor Dollars!

We are thrilled to announce that a local anonymous funder has awarded Health & Medicine a two year challenge grant for our Chicago Area Schweitzer Program! The funder match amount is \$25,000 per year for both years -- up to \$6,250 per donor per year!

### The Basics:

- For new donors, the funder will match your contribution dollar for dollar
- For recent donors (who have given in 2008 and/or 2009) the funder will match the

dollar increase between last year's gift and your 2010 contribution

- If you make a two year pledge the funder will match your donation for both years
- The funder will match \$25,000 per year (up to \$6,250 per donor per year)

**Visit [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org) to download the Donor Response Form & Instructions**

We hope you will help us leverage this exciting opportunity by donating generously!

**Visit our website to view videos of these two Schweitzer Fellows in action.**



Katherine Garlo



Sara R. Van Koningsveld

Don't forget to take our survey to share your ideas about the Illinois Public Health Advocate's Role:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7TVL6WH>

## Two New Reports Showcase Work of The Center for Long-Term Care

The Center recently researched and produced a report on the **Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)** program -- a federally mandated pre-screening for persons with mental illness prior to nursing home admission.

The Center worked with intern Dana Kelly to produce a report on the history of care of persons with mental illness to reveal why Illinois currently cares for so many persons with mental illness in nursing homes. This report: "**Illinois Nursing Homes as Care Providers for Mentally Ill: How Did We Get Here?**" was submitted to the Illinois Nursing Home Safety Task Force, chaired by Michael Gelder and is circulating widely to the Nursing Home Safety Task Force, Illinois Senators and Representatives, Alderman and City Council members, and more.

The Center continues outreach to organizations in order to reach a broader constituency of supporters for long-term care reform. The Center recently forged a relationship with Casa Central, a social service

agency that primarily serves the Hispanic population. In addition to providing advocacy trainings for Casa Central clients, the Center hopes to strengthen its relationship with the organization and the greater Hispanic population throughout Illinois.

Lastly, the Center has been busy with the Elder Economic Security Initiative (EESI). The EESI steering committee was recently reconstituted, and we committed to an effort to educate a broad spectrum of service providers, elders and families, policy makers, legislators, and other organizations. The Center is the official state partner for Illinois' EESI project through the National organization Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW). EESI will continue to grow in Illinois as the coalition is strengthened through outreach, advocacy and education.

**Visit [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org) to read both of these reports and the EESI Policy Brief on Illinois**

Visit HMPRG's [slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net/HMPRG) page to view recent presentations:

<http://www.slideshare.net/HMPRG>

### CCBHS Update

After much feedback from advocates and community members across the county, the Independent Board of the Health System, the system leadership and consultants have been reworking the strategic plan. They now anticipate that the final plan will be released in June. *Health & Medicine* and the Emergency Network to Save Cook County Health Services have been strong advocates of a clear and comprehensive vision, supported by a robust system of primary, specialty, diagnostic and inpatient services. We believe this system can be a model for public systems across the country.

As part of the Emergency Network, HMPRG is working to develop principles that will guide the development and structure of the independent board after the current board sunsets in 2011.

## Health & Medicine to Partner with Girls Circle

This May, *Health & Medicine's Court Involved Girls Project* is partnering with Girls Circle to bring the Girls Circle Facilitator (Promoting Resiliency in Adolescent Girls) Training to Chicago.)

Participants including staff who work directly with girls detained at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention

Center and in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice will learn to facilitate this female-responsive program for girls ages 9 – 18 years of age. By establishing a safe group experience, this evidenced-based program recognizes and fosters girls' capacities for healthy relationships, empathy, self-expression, the development of meaningful educational,

career, and relationship goals and interpersonal skills. The program is appropriate for people who work with girls in schools, after-school programs and athletics, as well as juvenile justice.

If you are interested in attending the Girls Circle Facilitator Training or for more information, please contact Sarah Schriber: [sschriber@hmprg.org](mailto:sschriber@hmprg.org)

Visit [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org) to donate to *Health & Medicine!* Thank you, in advance for your support of our mission and our work!