



SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP) VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I am a HUD Service Coordinator, working in a senior/ disabled building in Tonawanda NY and an Exempt volunteer firefighter with the Cleveland Hill Fire Department.

As a SMP volunteer, I provide the residents with critical information on how to protect themselves from Medicare scams. Once we are able to meet in person, I plan to discuss Medicare fraud with the local fire department exempt members.

To all the SMP volunteers, keep up the good work! There are many seniors who desperately need the information we share with them.

ARNIE NELSON

SMP VOLUNTEER SINCE 11/2019

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.



VOLUNTEERS

Make a difference in your community—**Hear from SMP Volunteer Sharon Murray-Cohen**

REMINDERS



Join us for the February SMP Volunteer Meeting on MAR. 19th, 11:00 AM

- To join by computer Click [HERE](#).
- To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 533 682 2516#
- If you would like to view our flyers, Click [HERE](#).

Useful resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Vaccine Finder](#)
- [Facts About COVID-19 Flyer](#)



Hello,

Please join us March 19th at 11 AM for our monthly SMP volunteer meeting. Our guest speaker this month is Lera Champagne-Andriani, who is a Unified Program Integrity Contractor (UPIC). Lera is an education specialist/outreach coordinator with Safeguard Services, LLP. Safeguard Services contracts with CMS as Recovery Audit Contractors. Lera will discuss what the UPIC does and how that role interacts with the SMP's.

Our Facebook volunteer recruitment campaign is underway! (photo shown above). Please sign and return your [photo consent forms](#). If you do not want some identifying information with your Facebook post, please write it on the signed consent, we are more than happy to not use your last name or other information you may not want to share.

And remember to like SW on Facebook! Lots of great information to help you stay current on the latest information. The SW website also posts our flyers on the latest scams – to help you stay informed, so share information with your family, friends, and community.

Beth Nelson, Director

NYS Senior Medicare Patrol

Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Latest COVID-19 Scam Information from the SMP Resource Center.

COVID-19 Medicare Card Scams. Caller asks:

- Have you received a new black and white Covid-19 Medicare card? Your current red, white and blue Medicare card will be deactivated in three days.
- During the call, scammer will also ask the beneficiary for his/her Medicare number.

Fraudulent Websites.

- [Website](#) from Moderna Inc., announcing “You may be able to buy a Covid-19 vaccine ahead of time,” & offering doses for \$30 each.

Big Business. Stats as of Feb ‘21

- Homeland Security investigators seized roughly \$33 million in illicit proceeds.
- Analyzed almost 80,000 COVID-19 domain names.

February 28—March 6

National Consumer Protection Week

- **March 4, 1pm EST:** FTC, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and AARP’s Fraud Watch Network—[webinar on Cyber Scams & Older Adults](#).
- **March 4, 7pm EST:** [Facebook Live](#) with Social Security Administration’s Office of the Inspector General. Topic: how to spot and avoid SSA scams. Join LIVE and ask questions.



Meet SMP Volunteer Sharon Murray-Cohen

Sharon Murray-Cohen is a Licensed Masters Level Social Worker. Her background is in Community Organizing, Advocacy, Program Development, Grant Writing and Fund Development.

Sharon has spent her professional career working in Human Services, Health Care, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Higher Education.

Ms. Murray-Cohen has developed & implemented Housing and Support Services programs for Special Needs Populations. She is skilled at matching community needs to funding sources.

She presently is the Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Ulster County, a non-sectarian agency that provides a wide array of services to individuals in the latter half of their lives.

Being an SMP volunteer allows her agency to get the latest information on scams & financial abuse.

Sharon has taught Social Policy and Health Care Policy Courses on both a graduate and undergraduate level at Mount Saint Mary College, Marist, Adelphi, and Fordham. She developed and teaches a very successful Aging course at Marist.

-SMP Volunteer since October 2018



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No government agency will ever call, email, or text to ask you for money, your Social Security, bank account, credit card number, or Medicare number.

STATE WIDE

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