

SMP MONTHLY

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Greetings and Happy Fall!

It is hard to believe that it's Autumn and that the Annual Open Enrollment Period is here! Medicare beneficiaries are particularly vulnerable to Identity Theft as well as the tactics of dishonest brokers during the open enrollment period.

I am sure that many of you are receiving a lot of mail about health insurance plans, so you know how confusing annual open enrollment can be! Just remember that you have time to make the right decision for your health care needs. If you have questions, you can call Statewide at 1-800-333-4374 and speak to a trained, certified counselor who will provide free confidential services to help with your health care plan needs.

A few reminders:

- **Our 2021 Virtual Convention is on Oct 12-14. SMP volunteers can attend the convention for free!**
- **Please report your monthly hours by the 5th of each month, we need your numbers for our report.**

Thank you for all you do and I hope to “see” you at Convention!

Beth Nelson, Director NYS SMP

REMINDERS



Join us for the
SMP Volunteer Meeting
on **Nov 19, 11:00 AM.**
Guest speaker TBA

- To join by computer
Click [HERE](#).
- To join by phone dial
646-558-8656, Meeting
ID: 533 682 2516

SAVE THE DATES

**10/6: Adoption of the
Public Policy Agenda**
(For StateWide members)

**10/12-10/14:
NY StateWide Senior
Action Council's 2021
Virtual Convention**

[REGISTRATION AND
Convention Schedule](#)

**10/15—12/7:
Medicare Open
Enrollment**



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Open Enrollment can be an Open Season for Fraudsters, Watch out for:

COMMON ENROLLMENT FRAUD TACTICS

- Contacting potential enrollees directly without prior permission.
- Pressuring enrollees with false time limits, 'limited time offers' or non-existent early bird discounts.
- Cherry picking – plans only enrolling healthy candidates.
- Offering free gifts of more than \$15 in value or that are given on condition of enrolling in a plan.
- Dishonest brokers enrolling beneficiaries in plans without their knowledge.
Ex: by colluding with nursing home or retirement community administrators.



HOW ENROLLEES CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

- Keep a healthy sense of skepticism.
- Find a trusted source to help you find the best healthcare plan for your needs.
- Don't let anyone pressure you, you have time to make the best decision for you.
- Contact your Senior Medicare Patrol with questions **800-333-4374**.



Meet StateWide Outreach Counselor Tiffany Erhard

Tiffany resides in Western New York and attended college at Jamestown Business

College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing. She has a decade's experience working with seniors one-on-one in a variety of settings. Recently she worked with Senior Life Matters honing her skills assisting seniors with healthcare and other aspects of aging. She is on the committee of Journey to Active Aging and is passionate about helping people in any situation. Tiffany's hobbies include painting and wood-burning/ pyrography when she isn't camping with her husband and two dogs.

Tiffany is a certified HIICAP counselor and you can call her during the Annual Enrollment Period 10/15/-12/7 with any questions you have about your health care plan needs.

StateWide's certified counselors provide FREE personalized, confidential, unbiased information about Medicare options including prescription drug plans.

Call 1-800-333-4374 for more information.

Source: smpresource.org

STATE WIDE

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