

1231 8th Street #236 • West Des Moines, IA 50265

Phone: (515) 223-2805 • Fax: (515) 226-3214

www.iowaCareGivers.org



News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: September 2015

Contact: Di Findley, Executive Director

515 249 0138 cell

di.findley@iowacaregivers.org

Polk County Health Department and Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association Honored

Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association were honored with the Iowa CareGivers *"From the Heart"* recognition during its recent "Passport to Direct Care" conference.

The recognition acknowledges organizations and individuals who have demonstrated support and championed policies or practices that impact those who work in the field of direct care and the Iowans they serve. Those who work in direct care are the front line workers who assist aging and disabled Iowans in their homes, in nursing and assisted living facilities, hospice, hospitals, group homes, and other settings. Totalling about 75,000, they are one of Iowa's largest and fastest growing occupations.

"These two very worthy organizations contribute to the well-being of Iowans every day and what they have and continue to do for those who work in direct care is but one example of the important community service they provide, said Maribel Slinde, Chair, Iowa CareGivers Board.

Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association have joined with Des Moines University Physician Assistant Program, a former From the Heart recipient, the past few years to provide free health and oral health screenings to conference attendees. Together they donate staff time and expertise, and also screening supplies to make this service available. In addition, they provide important education at the time of the screenings, and conduct educational sessions at Iowa CareGivers conferences. "For many who attend our conference this screening is the only preventive care they receive all year so the value can't be overstated," said Slinde.

Receiving on behalf of Polk County Health Department were Rick Kozin, Director; Carmin Hutch, and Kristina Grier. Receiving on behalf of the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association were Sue Hyland, Blanche Riordin, and Carol Van Aernam.

The Iowa CareGivers is an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1992 to ensure that all Iowans have access to good care and support when and where they need it. It does that by focusing on serving the needs of the direct care workforce that provides those services.

For more information about Iowa CareGivers programs and advocacy please call 515 223 2805, email to information@iowacaregivers.org or visit the website at www.iowacaregivers.org