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PRESS RELEASE

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Dept on Aging Announces Agreement for the Nutrition Program in East Central Illinois Communities

Officials nix plan to change from hot meal delivery to frozen meal delivery

SPRINGFIELD - September 4, 2013. Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) Director John K. Holton, Ph.D., today announced an agreement has been reached regarding the nutrition program in 14 counties of the area served by the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging (ECIAAA). IDoA conducted a special review in response to the concerns expressed by so many people in East Central Illinois communities regarding the nutrition program and the plan to change from hot delivered meals to frozen meals.

“Nutrition is a very important service and we want people to know all effort has been expended to assure these services continue without interruption. We appreciate all the input from the nutrition program participants, family members, legislators, home delivered meal volunteers, organizations, and senior center staff about the preference for hot meals,” said Director Holton. “And I want to thank the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging for their cooperation in working with us to resolve this matter.”

Department officials met with ECIAAA Board of Directors and both parties agreed through September 30, 2014, to have the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program continue to provide hot meals to homebound seniors who receive home-delivered meals as well as participants who go to congregate nutrition sites for meals. ECIAAA will conduct an open and competitive multi-year procurement for the delivery of congregate and home-delivered meals in this 14 county service area, in conjunction with its FY 2015-FY 2017 Area Plan (effective starting October 1, 2014).

“ECIAAA is committed to working cooperatively with the Department on Aging, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program, consumers and stakeholders to ensure a continuation of senior nutrition services using the current program design for older adults in a 14 county area, in fiscal year 2014,” said ECIAAA Executive Director Michael O’Donnell.

ECIAAA is one the Area Agencies on Aging that makeup 13 statewide planning and service areas. IDoA works in partnership with these agencies that have the primary task of planning and coordinating services and programs for older adults in their respective areas. The Area Agencies receive funding from IDoA based on a formula that factors the number of older citizens in an area, as well as the number living in poverty, in rural areas, and alone. Area Agencies are not direct service providers, but instead contract with local agencies which provide services to the older people who live in the same community.

ECIAAA handles the planning and services for 16 counties: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLean, *Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and *Vermilion counties.

*Editor’s Note: Peace Meal does not handle senior nutrition programs in Macon and Vermilion counties.

For more information about programs and services for older adults and caregivers, visit www.state.il.us/aging or, on weekdays, call the Senior HelpLine at 800-252-8966, or 888-206-1327 for the hearing impaired.

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