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**NEWS RELEASE:**

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**Aging Care Connections Director of Social Services to be Honored**

La Grange, IL--Louise Starmann, of Burr Ridge, director of social services at Aging Care Connections, La Grange, will be honored by the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG), Chicago, on Thursday, October 11. Ms. Starmann was named the honoree in the health category of the HMPRG awards recognizing members of the public health and policy communities for vision, leadership and work that serves as an embodiment of, or testament to, public health and social justice, vision and values. The awards program will be held at Prairie Production, 1314 W. Randolph, Chicago (street parking; ADA-accessible) at 5:30-8:30pm (program begins promptly at 6:30pm). General tickets are \$75 and may be secured by calling 312-372-4292 or visiting [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org).

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Ms. Starmann has been the director of social services at Aging Care Connections, a community-based organization dedicated to working with older adults, for 13 years. Previously, she supervised elder abuse and case management programs after joining the organization in 1980. She has worked in the field of aging for more than thirty years providing community-based assessments, elder abuse investigation and case work, information and referral, and family resources to caregivers of older adults. Ms. Starmann earned her master of social work degree at Jane Addams School of Social Work in 1990.

Starmann has been a field work instructor for Dominican University, the University of Chicago and Jane Addams School of Social Work, and a guest lecturer on topics related to aging at the University of Chicago, Life Services Network and in the community. At Aging Care Connections, she is responsible for the overall management and integrity of eight State and federally-funded programs and services. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Molina Healthcare.

Most recently, Ms. Starmann has been involved in the development and implementation of the Bridge Model, a nationally-replicated transitional care model. The model was created in partnership with the Illinois Transitional Care Consortium. This fall, Ms. Starmann will teach a course on aging at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

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For 30 years, Health & Medicine has operated as an independent, freestanding, non-profit center driven by a singular mission: formulating health policy, advocacy and health systems to enhance the health of the public.

Aging Care Connections is a non-profit organization which is the connection to the most comprehensive, expert information, programs and services enabling older adults to remain independent and their families to make the best, most informed decisions regarding needed care in their lives. Serving 22 communities in Lyons, Riverside and South Proviso Townships and an additional ten communities in Leyden and Norwood Park Townships for elder abuse investigation, Aging Care Connections' programs and services are made possible by community support and donations, and, in part, by the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA), AgeOptions, Community Memorial Foundation and local United Ways. To learn more, visit [www.agingcareconnections.org](http://www.agingcareconnections.org).