



Senior Summit 2019

On May 17, 2019, Summit County Probate Court along with its committee partners held the second annual Senior Summit. This conference provided CEU/CLE-level sessions with an agenda featuring an in-depth look at area services to seniors and a deep dive into the subject of Advance Directives and End-of-Life care. Session provided each attendee with a toolkit of resources to use in their work to better support clients, patients, and communities as well as self-care for caregivers.

The morning examined gettingwiser.org a collaborative tool to provide services for seniors county-wide who are not adequately served by other public and private systems led by [Direction Home: Akron Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities](#).

In addition, the myths, legends, and developments in long-term care, social security, and Medicare/Medicaid were discussed. Area experts Francine Chuchanis, Managed Care Ombudsman, Direction Home, SSI – Robert Fenn, Social Security Administration, Medicaid – Loren Anthes, [Center for Community Solutions](#) talked about the beliefs that many in Northeast Ohio, including caregivers have about these services that may be untrue or incomplete.

AARP Ohio provided [AARP Policy Institute](#) speaker John Mastrojohn III who discussed national trends in hospice and palliative care. Mastrojohn is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#).

The afternoon sessions featured analysis of the differences between hospice and palliative care and the important part they play in end-of-life services and caregiving. Discussion focused on the impact on caregivers and the challenges they face. [Dr. Steven, “Skip,” Radwany, MD](#), Specializing in Geriatric and Internal Medicine and Jeannine Marks, Executive Director of [Stewart’s Caring Place Cancer Wellness Center](#), shared personal journeys as well as their professional experience.

Finally, David Hassler of the nationally renowned [Wick Poetry Center of Kent State University](#) taught caregivers innovative and proven methods for helping clients or family members find comfort during their end-of-life journeys. This will give guardians, social workers and care-team members' self-care skills to identify and prevent compassion fatigue and burnout.

One Hundred lucky conference attendees received a copy of the latest poetry selection from The Wick Poetry Center called, *Speak a Powerful Magic: Ten Years of the Traveling Stanzas Poetry Project*. A group poem will be the result of the work that afternoon coming soon!

Next year will mark the return of the TWO day Senior Summit. **Senior Summit 2020** will be held May 8 and May 9. The professional conference will return to St George's on Friday May 8 with the expo on Saturday, May 9 at Woodridge Elementary School featuring services for seniors and those who love them.

