



IACP CEO and Relentless Advocate of the Year Awards 2024 Announced

Coralville, Iowa – May 8, 2024: IACP recognized Dave Comstock as the IACP Executive of the Year 2024, Julie Smith as the IACP Relentless Advocate of the Year, and Gary Jones as the IACP Relentless Advocate of the Year.

Each year, IACP awards standout individuals who go beyond the confines of their job descriptions to better the lives of everyone they encounter, especially the lives of vulnerable Iowans. Continue reading on each of the awardees below to see what IACP CEO, Ben Shuberg, had to say about each.

Dave Comstock as the IACP Executive of the Year 2024, Ben Shuberg stated, “Dave Comstock is the CEO of ChildServe. He has dedicated much of his time this past year to assisting the association during the transition of executive leadership. He put in many hours behind the scenes assuring that this process not only smooth, but successful for all involved. Dave also regularly contributes to complex conversations with the state and advocating for positive systems change. He represents ChildServe well on a statewide basis and always is willing to assist other provider organizations with seeking excellence in service delivery. Dave sets the standard for positive leadership.”

Julie Smith as IACP Relentless Advocate of the Year 2024, Ben Shuberg remarked, “Julie has represented IACP at the Capitol for many years and has continually advocated on behalf of IACP and all providers during her tenure as a lobbyist at the capitol. She chose to go out with a bang this year by delivering a very successful session for providers in the way of funding increases for many. Julie has always been committed to community providers and has demonstrated this many times over. Her knowledge and expertise in our field is unmatched and we are certainly going to miss her!”

Gary Jones as IACP Relentless Advocate of the Year 2024, Ben Shuberg said, “Gary has been around provider organizations for many years. He is a friend to many, a confidant to most, and a fierce advocate to all of our provider organizations. Our industry turns to him when we need advice in carrying out challenging operational activities or advice on navigating growth and change within our businesses. Gary continually shows up for all providers and we believe our industry as a whole in Iowa is better because of him.”

About IACP

IACP has been relentlessly advocating on behalf of mental health and disability service providers for more than 35 years. We partner with around 130 community-based organizations to provide a wide range of resources to ensure that provider needs are being met. Our services impact organizations located in all 99 counties that annually contribute \$1.3 billion to Iowa’s economy.