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Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Missouri Association Of Area Agencies Announces 2011 Show Me Summit On Aging And Health**

**Jefferson City, Mo.** -- The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) today announced details of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Me Summit on Aging and Health that will be held in St. Louis, Missouri on September 26 – 28, 2011. The Show Me Summit is the largest forum on aging in the State of Missouri, attracting more than 450 participants, sponsors and exhibitors each year.

The Summit is designed to serve as a unique forum for civic leaders, nonprofit providers, members of the business community, caregivers and interested citizens to meet and discuss the challenges facing Missouri's aging population.

According to Mary Schaefer, president of MA4, the Summit has added new features this year that will provide participants with more in-depth training opportunities. Specifically, the Summit will feature a series of workshops and presentations focused on the issue of elder abuse and exploitation, an issue that has become the focus of national attention.

Elder abuse training sessions will be led by Candace Heisler, J.D., a former District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco with support from Harry Morgan, M.D., President of The Center for Geriatric and Family Psychiatry, Inc.; Tim Huegen, Lead Investigator for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; and Judy Gibbs, Assistant Prosecutor in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Summit will also feature specific training tracks relating to mobility issues, geriatric health, nutrition and exercise, professional development and care transition topics. AIRS Certification and testing will be offered during the Summit, and continuing education credits and certifications will be offered for law enforcement officers, nursing home administrators and attorneys specializing in senior law.

The three-day event will kick-off with a keynote address from Marilyn Rantz, Ph.D, RN, University Hospital Professor of Nursing at the University of Missouri, affiliated with the MU Sinclair School of Nursing since 1992. Rantz will explore the topic of aging in place. Margaret Donnelly, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is also expected to address the conference.

Workshops will continue throughout the conference and will conclude with a Salute to Joplin program which will feature special presentations and participation by invited guests.

The Show Me Summit on Aging and Health will be held at the St. Louis Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet Hotel, September 26 – 28, 2011. Pre-registration for the conference can be completed online at [www.ma4web.org](http://www.ma4web.org). The opening session of the Summit is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Monday, September 26, 2011.

A complete program and list of events is available at <http://www.ma4web.org/missouri-summit/about-the-conference/schedule>. General information about the entire conference , including registration and sponsorship information is available at <http://www.ma4web.org/missouri-summit> or by email at [cedwards@ma4web.org](mailto:cedwards@ma4web.org).

## **About The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4)**

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) was founded in 1973 to serve as a statewide advocate and resource for older Missourians. MA4 is comprised of the state's 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), which were created under the 1973 amendments to the Older American's Act of 1965. For more than 35 years, these local agencies have been providing vital services, programs and information to millions of Missourians and their caregivers, including legal services, home-delivered meals, disease prevention and health promotion, transportation, public benefits counseling, senior center services and activities and in-home services. The 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide a coordinated network of care in implementing statewide initiatives, which are designed to help older Missourians maintain their independence and give them a voice in articulating their concerns and changing needs.

As the official statewide association of these agencies, MA4 is dedicated to carrying out its mission of service, information and advocacy to improve the lives of older Missourians and to plan for the changes that will take place as the aging population grows in number and importance in the next decade.

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