

MA4 Summit

November 3, 2026

RESPONDING TO THE UNEXPECTED

Lessons for the future

Anneliese Stoever, MSW

Samantha Ferguson Knight, MSW

AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS

From Response to Readiness: Lessons Learned

1. Know where older adults live
2. Connect disaster response with mental and physical health providers
3. Plan for the full recovery timeline
4. Shelter, homelessness, and complex recovery
5. Regional emergency supply network

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTIONS

FROM RESPONSE TO READINESS AND BACK AGAIN



Lesson 1: Know where older adults live



Lesson 1:

- Functional Needs Registry
- Senior Building Registry
- Everyone else…
- Understanding the responsibilities of individual properties





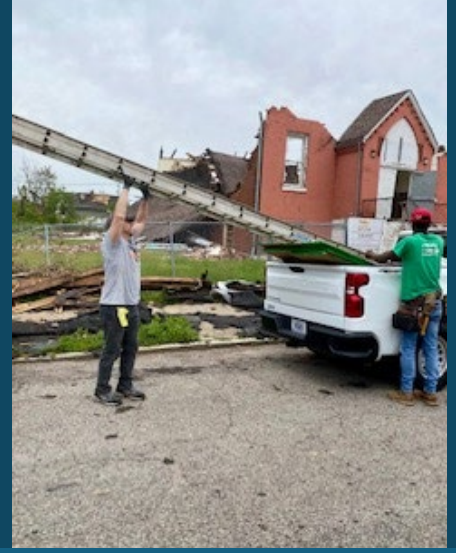
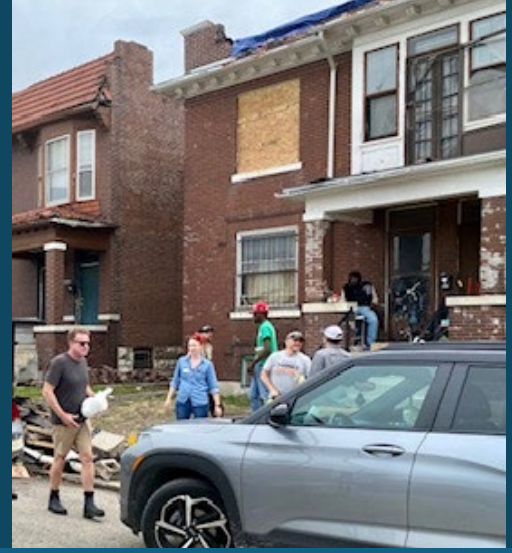
Lesson 2: Connect disaster response with mental and physical health providers



Lesson 2:



- Establish provider outreach
- Continuity of care
- Coordinated pathway to crisis counseling
- Where else do older adults access mental health care services in your community?


Lesson 3: Plan for the full recovery timeline



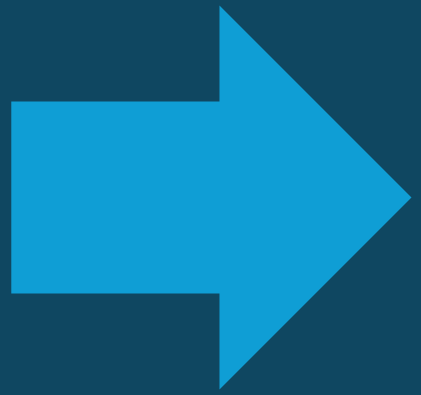


Lesson 3:

- Short-term plans
- Intermediary plans
- Long-term plans
- Building disaster plans into Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs)
- Pre-developed Request for Proposals (RFP)



Time-Limited Support for Immediate Crisis Needs



Specialized Recovery Support



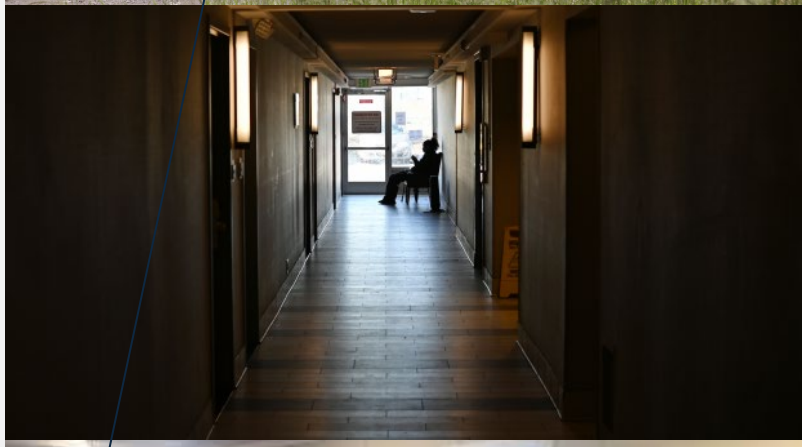
Lesson 4: Shelter and complex recovery



Lesson 4:

- Non-congregate sheltering
- Housing instability
- Realistic expectations for older adults with complex needs
- Short-term respite placement









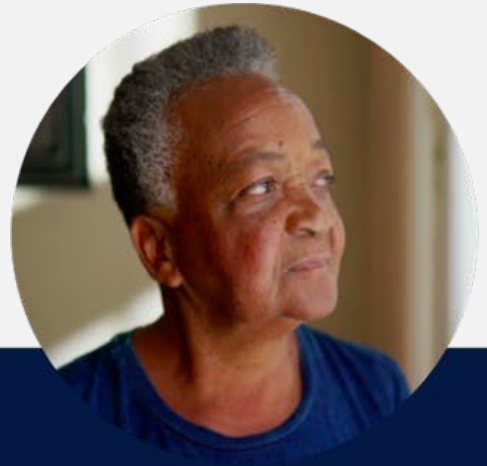
Lesson 5: Build a regional emergency supply network



Lesson 5:

- Partnerships with suppliers
- Provider partnerships
- Distribution hubs
- Transportation
- Volunteer management

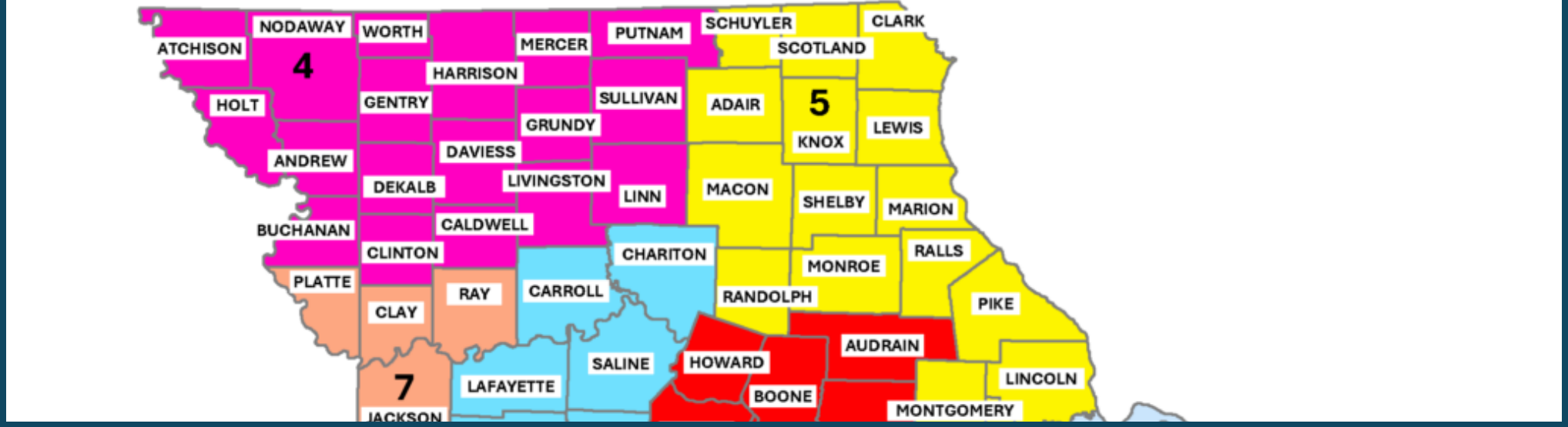




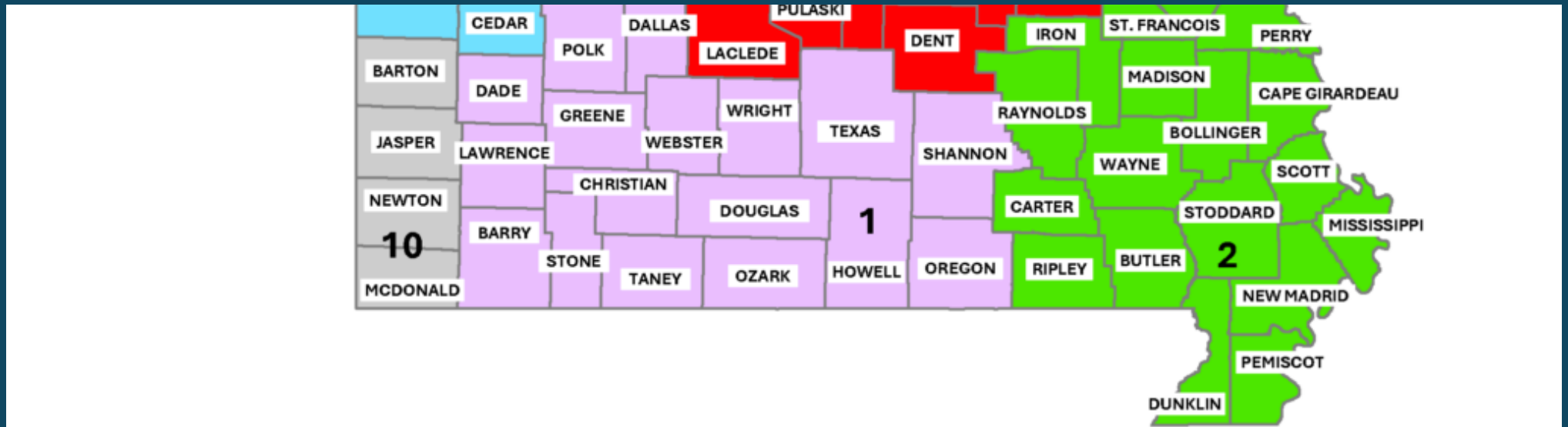
Specialized Recovery Support for Older Adults

- Multi-Agency Senior Support Team
- Full-time Disaster Case Managers Dedicated to Older Adults
- Financial Assistance
- Connections to Other Aging Network Services

- St. Louis City Long-term Recovery Office & Long-term Recovery Group
- Other Organizations & Specialized Partners
- Shared Data System
- Additional Financial Assistance & Resources



Discussion: What is working in your community?



PLANNING FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY - AGENCIES

- Plan trainings and drills that engage agencies that are not typically active in disaster response
- Create pre-planned agreements and proposals for space and other resources
- Integrate screenings for disaster readiness into general assessments in clinics, home visits, etc.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY – OLDER ADULTS

- Ask clients to review their preparations annually and after any significant life event (change in mobility, change in housing, loss in family, etc).
- Offer preparedness classes at community sites.
- From the start, encourage survivors to begin gathering all identifying documents in a safe, accessible space (IDs, birth certificate, proof of income, etc).

CONTACT US

Anneliese Stoever
St. Louis Area Agency on Aging
stoevera@stlouis-mo.gov

Samantha Ferguson Knight
LifeWise STL
sknight@lifewisestl.org

View Heritage House Report