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### **Senior Nutrition Contractors in Seven County Metro Area Announced**

The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (MAAA) officially announced today the agencies of record that are contracted to provide Title III-funded senior nutrition services in 2011 to residents of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties. After an extensive review and competitive bid process, MAAA has finalized contracts with *Volunteers of America-Minnesota*, *Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency*, and *Presbyterian Homes and Services*.

“The environment has changed and older adults have more options today. These providers will improve senior nutrition services by offering expanded choice, improving food quality and using technology for service efficiency” states MAAA Executive Director Dawn Simonson. “All persons eligible for Title III-funded meals who are currently served will continue to receive meals with NO BREAK in service at any time because the first priority is, and will continue to be, that older adults receive healthy, nutritious meals.” Simonson says the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging is working carefully to advance service delivery models. “We have an emphasis on consumer choice, greater program efficiency and effective services to low income seniors.” MAAA's Chair, Jan McCulloch, commented that "expanding options for consumers in alignment with efficient service delivery models is a win for the future."

MAAA projects that more than 247,000 Title-III funded home-delivered meals will be served to area homebound older adults and just under 404,000 meals will be served in group settings in 2011. Congregate dining and home-delivered meals help seniors meet their basic need for healthy food. Good nutrition is critical to overall health status and is important for helping older adults to maintain their ability to live at home as they age.

MAAA is committed to ensure that older adults receive nutritious meals through efficient and effective service delivery models operated by providers whose priorities include being consumer-centered and focused on quality.

MAAA is the designated Area Agency on Aging for Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties. In partnership with public and private organizations, MAAA helps older adults age successfully by building community capacity, advocating for aging issues, maximizing service effectiveness and linking people with information.

For information about meals, transportation, chore services, caregiver support and housing options call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.