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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAAA Executive Director Elected National Association
of Area Agencies on Aging President**

Dawn Simonson, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, North St. Paul, MN was elected by the membership as the new President of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Her term will run from July 2010 until July 2012.

Simonson has more than fifteen years experience in the field of aging. Currently, she directs the area agency on aging serving Minnesota residents in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging manages the Older Americans Act funding program; provides Senior LinkAge Line® information and assistance services; hosts the Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project; and develops innovative services for older adults including evidence-based health promotion and chronic disease management.

In her remarks to the n4a membership at the annual meeting held July 21 in St. Louis, Missouri Simonson commented on the importance of reauthorizing the Older Americans Act in 2011 to assure modernization of the federal legislation that authorizes critical home and community-based services across the country for older adults and their family caregivers. Simonson also stressed the key relationship between health care services and long-term services and supports to help frail older adults live successfully at home.

Simonson serves on the boards of directors for the Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care and the Minnesota Gerontological Society. In 2005, she helped found the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging.

Simonson holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute.