

Minnesota Health Action Group



**SPECIAL EDITION**

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'John F. Kennedy' is overlaid on a background image of a crowd of people.

## **Carolyn Pare to Retire September 30; Executive Search Underway**

***With an eye toward paving the way for the future, Carolyn Pare, long-time Action Group president and CEO, announced her retirement at the August 9, 2019, member meeting. See the press release [here](#).***

"Strategic planning for my retirement and for the bright future that lies ahead for The Action Group began in October of 2017," says Carolyn. "It is so exciting to start this new chapter in my life, knowing the groundwork is laid for employers to continue driving toward innovative, high-quality, affordable health care solutions."

Carolyn began her career in occupational health and safety, moved into risk management, and then to group health and benefits, first with Liberty Mutual, then with SUPERVALU, T.J.Maxx, and Dayton Hudson/Target. She became Board chair of the Minnesota Health Action Group (formerly the Buyers Health Care Action Group) as members comprised of the largest employers in the state were creating, implementing and managing the Choice Plus program.

This groundbreaking benefit plan helped define a future that includes accountable care organizations (ACOs), consumer directed health plans (CDHPs), and transparent pricing. When The Action Group sold Choice Plus to a private entity in 2000, those core tenets were embedded and applied to the organization's ongoing work.

During her time with The Action Group, Carolyn has led the development of key initiatives that have established Minnesota as a leading force in health care in the areas of payment reform and pay-for-performance; health plan performance measurement; cost and quality transparency; and hospital safety. Initiatives created, implemented and



With over two decades of successful service to the Minnesota Health Action Group, Carolyn Pare has set the stage for continued success and trailblazing in the years ahead. Carolyn will retire September 30, 2019.

**A search for Carolyn's replacement is underway. Please contact professional recruiter [Cynthia Chandler](#) (or 602-652-8611) to learn more or to apply.**

launched during Carolyn's tenure include:

- The State of Minnesota's first **Chartered Value Exchange**, a multi-stakeholder group working together to identify joint opportunities to improve care delivery, public accountability, and payment reform.
- **Minnesota Bridges to Excellence**, the first pay-for-performance program that brought Medicaid and commercial payers together to recognize and reward care providers for exceptional care delivery and optimal health outcomes for patients with high-cost, complex conditions.
- The **National Data Cooperative** that allowed employers to meaningfully leverage data to build evidence-informed initiatives aimed at reducing waste and improving value.
- **Adverse events reporting** in Minnesota.
- The **Smart Buy Alliance**, a collaborative initiative of **public and private sector** purchasers that identified and implemented common standards for health care purchasing across the marketplace.

"Bringing in the public sector was important because health care complexities and challenges affect everyone, not just big employers," says Carolyn. "Including the public sector and now employers of all types and sizes in The Action Group has helped amplify our voice and accelerate change in meaningful ways."

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***"Board members and our strategic business advisors share Carolyn's enthusiasm about future directions for The Action Group. Carolyn leaves us with a legacy of driving innovation in pay-for-performance programs, health plan measurement, cost and quality transparency, and hospital safety, among other things. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and service!"***

***Ken Horstman, Board Chair and  
University of Minnesota Senior Director of Total Compensation***

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## **Moving Ahead with Focus, Optimism and Confidence**

As part of The Action Group's strategic planning process, a Blue Ribbon Council was formed. The group, comprised of an external consultant and seven community leaders not directly involved in health care, worked tirelessly to bring forth recommendations for Board Approval and action. The Board then created an operational action plan consisting of two tracks: **Continue to offer high-value services** and **identify partners in market innovation**.

Informed by the experience of the Blue Ribbon Council; recent legislation that encourages employers to work together to find efficiencies of scale; recent data from reputable sources; and a review of industry recognized press sources, six themes for the future have been identified and will be rolled out in the coming months. The incoming president and CEO will execute on the accompanying strategy.



### **Vision Statement**

*The Minnesota Health Action Group will be a **beacon** to employers demanding innovative, high-quality, **affordable** health care solutions today and in the future.*



## THOUGHT for the Week

**"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."**

*Fred Rogers*



The Minnesota Health Action Group is a coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. Action Group members collaborate with community stakeholders to drive innovations that support high quality health care, create engaged consumers, and ensure the economic vitality of all Minnesota communities. Based in Bloomington, MN, the Minnesota Health Action Group was formed in 1988 as the Buyers Health Care Action Group. To learn more, visit [www.mnhealthactiongroup.org](http://www.mnhealthactiongroup.org). Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter: @actiongroupmn