



NEWS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

Minnesota Health Action Group CEO, Carolyn Pare, to retire

After leading the organization for 20 years, Pare leaves a legacy of innovation in payment reform, health plan performance, cost and quality transparency, and hospital safety

BLOOMINGTON, MN (August 13, 2019) – The [Minnesota Health Action Group](#) (The Action Group) announced today that long-time President and CEO Carolyn Pare will retire at the end of September 2019. Pare has led the nonprofit health care coalition since 1999, driving collaboration between health care providers, health plans, legislators, and health care quality organizations to improve cost and quality for employer purchasers and patients across the state.

“We are extremely grateful to Carolyn for her many years of leadership,” said Ken Horstman, chairman of the board for The Action Group and senior director of total compensation for the University of Minnesota. “Carolyn has never shied away from the tough issues or conversations and has a keen eye for collaboration that truly matters to employers, their employees, and people in all corners of our state. She has set the organization up for continued success and trailblazing in the years to come.”

According to Horstman, The Action Group has been conducting strategic planning activities in preparation for Carolyn’s retirement since January and a formal search is underway for a replacement for Pare. Candidates who are interested in applying for the position can submit their resume to Cindy Chandler at CChandler@TowerHunter.com.

During her time with The Action Group, Pare has developed 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. Key initiatives launched during Pare’s tenure include:

- Direction of 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.
- Co-creation of 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. Results were publicly reported to help all Minnesota employers select high quality service providers.
- Creation of 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.

- Creation of the National Data Cooperative that allowed employers to meaningfully leverage data to build evidence-informed initiatives aimed at reducing waste and improving value.
- Assisted in the creation and implementation of adverse events reporting in Minnesota.

“I am immensely proud to have been a part of The Action Group during so many crucial moments for our state and our health care system,” said Pare. “I’m confident that The Action Group team, our board of directors, member organizations, and industry partners will continue the tradition of commitment to change and collaboration, and that The Action Group will remain a vibrant organization that represents the collective voice of those who pay the bill for health care in our state.”

Prior to joining The Action Group, Pare was director of human resources, responsible for benefits, risk management, and human resource information systems for Dayton Hudson/Target. She holds a B.S. in Environmental and Public Health from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and has over 35 years of experience in occupational health and safety, risk management, and health care.

In addition to her leadership with The Action Group, Pare serves on the Board of Directors for the National Quality Forum (NQF) and its Finance and Audit Committee. She also participates as a member of the National Advisory Council to the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP), is past Chair of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, and served on the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Standards Committee for eight years.

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About the Minnesota Health Action Group

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. Follow on [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information:

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