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UCare Board appoints Mark Traynor as Interim President and CEO

National search for new leader commences

MINNEAPOLIS, April 14, 2017 – UCare’s Board Chair, Macaran Baird, M.D., announced today that Mark Traynor, Senior Vice President of Provider Relations and Chief Legal Officer at UCare, will lead the organization until a permanent President and CEO is appointed. Dr. Baird announced the appointment following Jim Eppel’s resignation. The Board’s Executive Search Committee is conducting a national search for a permanent successor.



Traynor has worked for the not-for-profit health plan for 18 years. He served as UCare’s chief legal counsel, leading the legal team and setting direction for strategic planning, compliance and provider contracting. Traynor provided oversight for the antifraud, internal audit and compliance functions for the organization. He also served as Secretary on the Board. Before joining UCare, he was an attorney at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Assistant Attorney General for the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office. In 2015, Traynor received the Minnesota Law Review Distinguished Alumni Award for his achievements in health care.

UCare, Minnesota’s fourth largest health plan, is in a strong position. The organization is expected to double enrollment in May, when it expands state public program service to thousands of members in counties where Medica exited. The expansion strengthens UCare’s product portfolio, competitive position and investments in products, services and infrastructure.

“UCare’s Board has full confidence in UCare’s senior leadership team – including Mark – to lead UCare in the coming months,” said Dr. Baird. “During Mark’s long tenure at UCare, he has consistently exemplified UCare’s mission and vision. Mark brings a deep understanding of UCare’s unique role in the community and opportunities for growth. He will carry on the member-focused services and quality that distinguish UCare.

“We wish Jim well in his future endeavors and are grateful for his steadfast leadership during times of change at UCare. Under Jim’s leadership, the health plan retained its honors as a Top Workplace and turned the corner to earn back state program business.”

Since joining UCare in 2015, Eppel made significant contributions to the health plan’s vision and direction, solidifying its important role serving Medicare, state program, and individual and family marketplace members. Traynor will carry forward that work.

About [UCare](#)

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, not-for-profit health plan providing health care and administrative services to members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties and community organizations to create and deliver:

- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-[accredited plans](#) for Minnesotans shopping on [MNSure](#).
- Plans for [adults with disabilities who have Medical Assistance](#) and who have [both Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).
- [Medicare plans](#) with an “Excellent” NCQA rating, and a [partnership](#) with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota.
- [Programs for older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance or with both Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).
- Income-based [Medicaid](#) and [MinnesotaCare](#) coverage for Olmsted County residents.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for seven consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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