



NEWS RELEASE

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Upper Peninsula Health Plan Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

[MARQUETTE]—The **Upper Peninsula Health Plan** (UPHP) is celebrating its tenth anniversary. UPHP opened its doors for business on August 1, 1998, managing the health care of 1,900 Upper Peninsula residents. The health plan’s partners were a combined 300 hospitals, clinics, and medical providers throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Since then, the health plan has grown significantly. Enrollment has increased to more than 25,000 members who get benefits from Michigan Medicaid or MICHild. UPHP serves as the *medical home* for those members. The provider network has also grown, now including more than 800 hospitals, offices, and individual providers.

In 1998, the health plan had a handful of employees. Today, UPHP has a staff of 56 for customer service; disease, quality, and pharmacy management; credentialing; finance; information systems; business development; and other operations. Beyond managed care, UPHP contributes to the region by providing employment, wages, and benefits for this talented staff. In turn, staff members regularly contribute time and resources to community and charitable events.

Chief Executive Officer Dennis H. Smith said that sound business practices and dedicated directors and staff are key to UPHP’s ongoing success. Smith added that the health plan’s growth would not be possible without “a decade of consistent support from Upper Peninsula physicians, hospitals, health departments, and volunteers.”

