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Julie Brunner to retire from [Minnesota Council of Health Plans](#); Health plan trade group launches search for new executive leadership

St. Paul, Minn.—Julie Brunner, executive director of the [Minnesota Council of Health Plans](#) (MCHP), has notified the MCHP Board of Directors that she is retiring.

MCHP is an association of Minnesota’s licensed nonprofit health care organizations providing coverage to more than 4.4 million individuals. MCHP is active in community health and prevention, health care reform and public policy, and promotes the delivery of high-quality, affordable health care. Brunner has led MCHP for 12 years, serving as a trusted resource for policymakers, government agencies, media representatives and community leaders.

Under Brunner’s leadership, Minnesota’s nonprofit health plans gained national recognition for working with partners to improve the health of Minnesotans and create a more efficient health care system. Brunner’s colleagues in other states often asked her for advice as they work to create a Minnesota-like environment where competing health plan, physician and hospital groups work together to reach common goals. [MN Community Measurement \(MNCM\)](#), the leading health care quality public reporting organization in Minnesota, is an example of this work. Launched by MCHP and Minnesota Medical Association, MNCM is driving improvement in health care quality. Today the Minnesota Hospital Association and the state of Minnesota are also MNCM partners.

“Julie is a strong advocate for the industry and consumers alike. Her calm voice and exceptional leadership have been instrumental in our state’s ability to navigate the last decade of great change,” said Mary Brainerd, MCHP board chair, and president and CEO, [HealthPartners](#). “Julie’s clear and direct communication, sense of humor, and willingness to share expertise and mentor others have earned her respect not only in Minnesota, but nationally as well.”

To facilitate the transition and assist in locating a new executive director, the board of directors has partnered with Furst Group. Furst Group is a national leader in executive search and succession planning with experience working with health plans in Minnesota and across the country.

Before joining MCHP as executive director in January 2003, Brunner served as the deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health. Her 40-year career in public policy includes work as administrator of St. Louis County, director of child support enforcement for the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office, assistant commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Human Services and lawyer with the Office of Senate Counsel.

Brunner serves on the board of directors for several higher education and community organizations, including Hamline University Health Law Institute Advisory Council, Hearth Connection, Portico Healthnet, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, The Center for Victims of Torture, St. Thomas University Masters in Business Administration Health Care Advisory Council and MN Community Measurement. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School.

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