A Successful County-Based Model
Strengthening Rural Health

What is County-Based Purchasing?

- **In 1997, the Minnesota Legislature passed into law County-Based Purchasing (CBP)** to help address unique rural health needs for people enrolling in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). Minnesota Statutes 256B.692.

- **CBP basically allows counties that elect to do so**, and can meet stringent requirements in close partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), to provide comprehensive health care services for MHCP enrollees.

- **The first CBP plan was Itasca Medical Care** – a single-county model that has succeeded without interruption for more than 20 years.

- **Minnesota currently has three CBP plans** delivering dependable, accountable access to high quality, cost-effective care for more than 93,000 public program enrollees across 26 counties.
What is County-Based Purchasing?

- **This is a Minnesota solution!** MACHP members are unique in Minnesota’s delivery of health care to Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) enrollees.

- **Local accountability; local responsiveness:** As county governments operating under Joint Power Agreements administered by county commissioners, they work to strengthen the rural health care delivery system in member counties.

- **20+ years of success:** MACHP has been active in Minnesota health care reform for more than two decades. Its successful model of partnering and integrating with local social services and local public health is an important innovation for serving the health and health care needs of rural Minnesota.

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What is County-Based Purchasing?

- **Itasca Medical Care** ([www.imcare.org](http://www.imcare.org)), headquartered in Grand Rapids, serves Itasca County residents;

- **PrimeWest Health** ([www.primewest.org](http://www.primewest.org)) headquartered in Alexandria, serves about 45,000 enrollees in 13 rural counties. An additional 10 counties from western and southwestern Minnesota are in the process of joining PrimeWest; and

- **South Country Health Alliance** ([https://mnscha.org/](https://mnscha.org/)), headquartered in Owatonna, serves over 41,000 enrollees in 7 different state and federal health care programs in 12 counties.

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Strong Local and State Accountability

• **Locally elected County Commissioners** – Local governance, delivery and oversight, including close coordination with local public health and social services.

• **Stringent Risk-bearing, Fiscal, Access, Quality and Reporting Requirements** – The Minnesota Departments of Human Services (DHS), Health (MDH) and Commerce (MDC) must approve the creation and continuation of CBP plans.

• **State contracts** – CBP plans only deliver services under MHCP contracts with DHS. Those contracts detail what is required, including stringent oversight and reporting.

• **State Legislature** – Minnesota lawmakers have direct oversight of CBP through legislation; CBP is a Minnesota model enacted by the State Legislature.

AMC Supports County-Based Solutions

**Current AMC Policy:**

• **AMC supports expanding county-based health care purchasing** to additional populations and geographic areas through either a single plan approach or a model where competition is required by federal law, by following federal requirements whereby county-based purchasing competes with only one additional health plan for counties that fall within Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

• **AMC supports default assignment of enrollees to the county-based purchasing plan** if an enrollee does not make a choice of health plan.

• **AMC supports the formation of locally controlled health plans** to serve as an alternative to large statewide and national health insurance plans to give consumers and employers additional health plan choices.
AMC Supports County-Based Solutions

Proposed Updated AMC Policy:

• AMC supports re-shaping the state-county relationship related to County-Based Purchasing (CBP) consistent with AMC’s policy position for Joint Powers Agreements.

• AMC supports creating a new chapter of state law for County-Based Purchasing (CBP) recognizing County-Based Purchasing as an alternative model for delivery of Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

• AMC supports fully empowering counties that elect County-Based Purchasing (CBP) for delivery of Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) as provided for in state law (256B.692) through direct procurement arrangements with the MN Department of Human Services (DHS).

• AMC supports federal legislative changes or waivers necessary to allow for direct procurement and full implementation of state CBP laws (256B.692).

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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