



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UCare hires Nancy Houlton as Behavioral Health Services Director**

*Houlton comes to UCare from Ramsey County Human Services*

MINNEAPOLIS, June 20, 2011 – [UCare](#) has hired Nancy Houlton as the organization's Behavioral Health Services Director. Houlton previously was Manager of Long Term Care, Adult Protective Services, and Managed Care at Ramsey County Human. In that role, Houlton oversaw managed care services, home and community programs supporting the elderly and people with disabilities, foster care licensing, and adult protective services.

In her new position, Houlton is responsible for the clinical quality, operational efficiency, strategic planning, and fiscal management of UCare's behavioral health services. She oversees UCare's compliance with regulatory requirements from UCare's oversight agencies, including the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Houlton also is responsible for UCare's business relationships with contracted and delegated behavioral service entities.

Houlton reports to Russel Kuzel, M.D., M.M.M., Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, UCare. Her director role is a new position at UCare.

“We created the new Director of Behavioral Health Services position to help us strengthen our integration of medical and behavioral services at UCare,” says Dr. Kuzel. “Nancy has extensive management experience in both the treatment and administrative aspects of mental health care in county and nonprofit agency settings. She will be a great asset to our efforts to provide high-quality behavioral health services to members of UCare's state public programs and Medicare plans.”

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Prior to joining Ramsey County Human Services, Houlton was manager of the [Ramsey County Mental Health Center](#) in St. Paul for 14 years. She was responsible for the daily operations of the comprehensive clinic that served more than 3,000 clients annually. She also led efforts to integrate primary and behavioral health care, and provided oversight for the development of benchmarks to track and reduce disparities in client access to behavioral health services based on race.

Her experience also includes service as Treatment Director, and earlier as the FRIENDS Program Supervisor at [Mental Health Resources, Inc.](#), also in St. Paul.

Houlton earned her master's degree in social work (M.S.S.W.) in 1983 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minn.

Professional affiliations include serving as a representative with the Minnesota Association for Community Mental Health Programs, and the Ramsey County Mental Health Advisory Board. She is a member of the Women's Health Leadership Trust-Minnesota.

Houlton and her family live in the Como Park neighborhood in St. Paul, Minn.

### **About UCare**

UCare ([www.ucare.org](http://www.ucare.org)) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 225,000 members. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver innovative health coverage products for:

- Individuals and families enrolled in income-based Minnesota Health Care Programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Prepaid Medical Assistance Program.
- Adults with disabilities and Medicare beneficiaries with chronic health conditions.
- Minnesotans dually eligible for Medical Assistance and Medicare.
- Medicare-eligible individuals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives. The health plan received a Top Workplaces 2011 honor from the *Star Tribune*.