

# **MNsire Health Industry Advisory Committee**

## **June 2021 Recommendations**

### **Background:**

The MNsure Health Industry Advisory Committee has held meetings throughout 2021 to develop recommendations to present to the MNsure Board of Directors. The discussion has been very thoughtful and brought in experiences of the committee members and the consumers who utilize MNsure. A goal of the committee has been to ensure any committee recommendations to the MNsure board and staff are achievable and in scope. Much of the dialogue has centered around what meaningful steps can be taken to build upon the progress made in previous years with respect to reducing the uninsured rate and addressing health disparities in Minnesota.

The recommendations below reflect the committee's discussion over recent months and received unanimous support. It should be noted that some of these ideas are not new and some ideas have already been implemented by the MNsure board and/or staff. Our purpose for these recommendations is to measuring the effectiveness of MNsure's work and using that data to drive future initiatives.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **MNsire Health Equity Assessment**

In preparation for the 2023 open enrollment cycle, the committee recommends that MNsure hire a non-partisan independent organization to conduct a health and racial equity assessment/audit for the purpose of evaluating its effectiveness in serving all Minnesotans, and identifying any gaps in carrying out its mission. The committee would recommend that MNsure work toward full implementation of this recommendation by 2024.

The committee recommends an independent organization use existing marketplace health equity assessment tools such as the M-HEAT developed by Texas Health Institute and produce a report detailing its findings and recommendations to the MNsure board. The health assessment tool will specifically review and measure MNsure's effectiveness in executing the following areas, which include some of the committee's 2020 recommendations to the board:

- **Organizational commitment to health equity**
- **Plan management and health equity**
- **Community engagement and collaboration**

- **Navigator and In-person Assisters**
- **Marketing and communication**
- **Marketplace outcomes**

### **Post-Peacetime Emergency Considerations**

MNSure should take active steps to maintain open lines of communication with other state agencies as Minnesota and our country continue to unwind those special measures taken to address the pandemic. In carrying out these steps, the committee specifically recommends:

- Utilizing its platform to reach out to Minnesotans about the importance of getting vaccinated as well as continuing prevention and well care visits.
- Helping educate members and stakeholders with respect to how they may be affected by the end of the peacetime emergency, as appropriate.
- Educating members on the impact that the transition may have on their premiums, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the state's reinsurance program as well as the potential expiration of the ARPA subsidies. This education should include context with respect to how APTC credits affect their premiums, in a manner that consumers will understand.
- Ensure MNSure is taking active steps to ensure that any enrollees whose eligibility for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare changes receives the assistance needed to transition to enrollment into their next chapter of coverage, whether that coverage is within the private sector or another form of public assistance.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these recommendations in further detail with the board.

MNSure Health Industry Advisory Committee