



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July , X 2021

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## Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Appoints Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services Board Member to Commission on Services to the Aging

*Dennis Smith, former president and CEO of the Upper Peninsula Health Plan, will represent Independents*

**LANSING, Mich.** – Governor Gretchen Whitmer has appointed Dennis H. Smith of Marquette, Michigan to the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). Smith sits on the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (MiHIN) Board of Directors and is the former president and CEO of the Upper Peninsula Health Plan.

The CSA advises the Governor, Michigan Legislature, and the Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) on matters relating to policies and programs for older adults in Michigan.

“I am honored to have been appointed to the Commission by Gov. Whitmer,” said Smith. “Ensuring that aging Michiganders are taken care of and have a voice is a matter of utmost importance. I look forward to advising the Governor and the Legislature on state and federal programs and the nature and magnitude of aging priorities.”

The CSA, a 15-member body appointed by the Governor, also reviews and approves grants received by AASA and participates in the development of the state plan and budget as required by the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. CSA meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Commission meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

“Dennis has dedicated his life to improving healthcare and health outcomes for the people of Northern Michigan,” said Tim Pletcher, DHA, Executive Director of the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services. “In addition to having had a long and successful career, Dennis has continued to serve on a number of different boards during his retirement. He will bring a plethora of experience and invaluable insight to the Commission.”

In addition to serving on the MiHIN Board of Directors, Smith is also a member of the Marquette County Board of Health and Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health Advisory Council. Mr. Smith is the current president of the Economic Club of Marquette County and a member-at-large and past president of the Michigan Association of Health Plans Executive Committee. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (located in Washington, D.C.) and the United Way of Marquette County, for which he also serves on the Finance Committee.



In 2009, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Smith to serve on the state’s Controlled Substances Advisory Committee. Before joining the Upper Peninsula Health Plan, Smith was the senior director for insurance services at the Michigan Health and Hospital Association in Lansing and a principal in the MHA Investments Corporation. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Eastern Michigan University and attended graduate school at Eastern and Western Michigan Universities.

Smith was appointed to the Commission on June 22, 2021. His term commences on July 29, 2021 and expires July 28, 2024. He succeeds Peter Lichtenberg whose term expires July 28, 2021.

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### **About Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services**

The Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (MiHIN) is Michigan’s state-designated entity to improve healthcare quality, efficiency, and patient safety by sharing electronic health information statewide, helping reduce costs for patients, providers, and payers. MiHIN is a nonprofit, public-private collaboration that includes stakeholders from the State of Michigan, Health Information Exchanges serving Michigan, health systems and providers, health plans/payers, pharmacies, and the Governor’s Health Information Technology Commission. For more information, visit <https://mihin.org>.

