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## **MHPA Announces New State Affairs Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) announced the appointments of **Stephen Cozzo**, Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs/Public Policy at AmeriHealth Caritas as the new Chair of the MHPA State Affairs Committee and **Nicole Stewart**, Government Programs Liaison at Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP) as the new Vice Chair.

“MHPA is excited to have Steve and Nicole as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the State Affairs Committee” said **Stephanie Myers, MHPA’s Director of State Affairs**. “Their combined wealth of Medicaid expertise has made them invaluable to the critical advocacy and strategic public policy work being done by the State Affairs Committee. Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and state Medicaid agencies across the country will benefit from their insight, health care sector experience, and passion to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to quality, affordable, and effective health care and that the nation’s public health safety net remains strong.”

MHPA’s State Affairs Committee is responsible for the identification, development, and management of key Medicaid and managed care issues at the state level, as well as strategic relationships with state health plan associations, with the purpose of advancing the priorities of MHPA. Stephen and Nicole will work closely with Myers in relation to activities and initiatives that directly impact state Medicaid programs and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

As Vice President for Government Relations and External Affairs/Public Policy at AmeriHealth Caritas, Cozzo leads a team of public policy experts with a focus on the identification of political and economic contingencies, evidence-based policy research, policy thought-leadership, and future trends in public health care. Prior to this, Stephen worked with the First Judicial District of Philadelphia, serving at-risk youth.

Stewart joined UPHP in 2017 and has nearly 10 years of Medicaid managed care experience. Prior to joining the Government Programs department, Nicole worked in compliance, ensuring UPHP was providing the best possible care for their members. She earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

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**About MHPA**

Founded in 1995, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) is the only national association that solely represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry. Through its advocacy and research work, MHPA supports innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 150+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve more than 48 million Medicaid enrollees in 40 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. MHPA's members include for-profit and non-profit national, regional, and single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. Visit [medicaidplans.org](https://www.medicaidplans.org) for more information.