



## **Upper Peninsula Healthcare Roundtable Convenes to Address Future Industry Needs**

Upper Peninsula Healthcare Roundtable members from across the Upper Peninsula recently convened in Marquette to begin their strategic planning for the next five years. The Roundtable has been in operation since 2002 and has seen enormous success in the reduction of job vacancies, especially in the area of nursing. Its overall mission is to create a workforce to meet the Upper Peninsula health care industry needs by attracting and retaining a high-quality workforce. The roundtable also launches strategies aimed at improving the collective competitive viability of the full healthcare system across the peninsula. “We have certainly enjoyed many successes over the last 5 years,” stated Al Hendra, Chair of the Healthcare Roundtable and Assistant Administrator at Marquette General Health Systems. “We now need to move forward with our new plan to meet future demands.”

Topics reviewed at the event addressed long term workforce needs in the areas of recruitment and departure, occupational shortages, training, professional recruitment and human resource sharing. The roundtable also addressed the development of a website, a review of the impact of global challenges and public policy issues. “We are also excited about the potential for an Upper Peninsula Healthcare Summit which was one of the key strategies we looked at during the planning event,” stated Hendra. “The collective efforts of this group are to be commended.”

“There was considerable input from the group when it came to public policy and the need to promote healthcare in the Upper Peninsula,” noted Peter Jennings, CEO, of OSF St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba. The most significant economic impact by the health care industry is in direct jobs, salaries and wages. The purchasing power of this industry and its employees has tremendous impact on local economies. Healthcare spending creates thousands of additional indirect and induced jobs. The taxes paid by this industry support schools, police, fire departments, culture and arts and other amenities that makes the Upper Peninsula a great place to live. A strong health care industry improves the quality of life and assists economic developers to attract and retain businesses and jobs. We are proud that our healthcare industry’s contribution to the UP economy reflects a total annual economic impact of \$1,127,124,196.”