FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Wendy Wicks
612-676-3567 w
612-306-3698 c
wwicks@ucare.org

UCare hires Jennifer J. Garber, LICSW, to lead its Behavioral Health Services

Health plan expands behavioral health and substance use disorder services

MINNEAPOLIS, July 27, 2019 — UCare, an independent, nonprofit health plan, has appointed Jennifer J. Garber as Associate Vice President of Behavioral Health Services. Garber will lead this newly invigorated department in attainment of UCare's behavioral health strategic goals for all Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family Plan members. She will drive the organization's vision to be a leader in ensuring behavioral health equity – especially for members of our Special Needs Plans.

Jennifer brings more than 29 years of behavioral clinical experience including 17 years of management experience within health plan behavioral programs. Most recently she was Director of Clinical Operations and Community Initiatives and Government Programs at Optum Health Behavioral Health Solutions with oversight of the Medica Behavioral Health Care Advocacy Center. Garber is a results-oriented leader with years of experience collaborating with behavioral providers, and advocating for members. She also has significant experience working within federal and state regulatory environments.

"Jennifer is an outstanding addition to our leadership team," said Julia Joseph-Di Caprio, MD, UCare's Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. "Her extensive experience in the field and genuine care for people who live with mental illness and/or substance use disorder are an asset to UCare and our members. She understands community needs to address gaps in mental health care and knows how to enact changes organization-wide."

Garber joined UCare on June 24, 2019, and reports to Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio. She works with a team of Medical Directors, including a psychiatrist, to better integrate medical, behavioral health and substance use services for members. Garber also manages UCare's expanded behavioral health case management and substance use disorder reform to improve treatment delivery. These efforts include peer recovery support, treatment coordination and comprehensive assessments and withdrawal management.

About UCare
UCare is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 430,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for ten consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.