

Health Care Policy Analysis

For the Cities of Long Prairie, Little Falls, Walker, Brainerd, and Wadena

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Region Five Photos at <http://s1184.photobucket.com/home/mnregionfive>

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Introduction

The following document analyzes Long Prairie, Little Falls, Walker, Brainerd, and Wadena city policies relating to healthcare. This document is one piece of a larger analysis that addresses the five cities' policies regarding topics of land use, transportation, housing, economic development, parks, trails, open space, and recreation, water and natural resources, intergovernmental coordination, and healthcare. To ensure clarity, each topic is analyzed separately in its own document. Research and analysis was undertaken to provide the Region Five Development Consortium with a clearer understanding of how current policies relate and differ from each other across the cities. The following analysis will be helpful for workgroups to develop regional policies and recommendations, which will be adopted by the full consortium to guide the future growth and development of Region Five in a sustainable manner.

Methodology

The following policies were taken from the most recent comprehensive plans from the cities of Long Prairie, Little Falls, Walker, Brainerd, and Wadena. This document addresses the similarities, differences, and potential conflicts between city policies regarding healthcare. Due to the uniqueness of each plan, not all cities addressed similar issues around the topic at hand. For this reason, policies were only included if at least two of the five cities addressed the issue. Additionally, each city's policies are written at a different level of specificity making it difficult to compare/contrast a detailed policy with a vague policy. For the purpose of this analysis, policies were considered similar to each other even when they differ on the level of detail.

For this analysis, sub-topics were created to guide the reader throughout the document. For example, this document contains the sub-topic of promoting health care. Under each sub-topic, similarities, differences, and conflicts between city policies on an issue were analyzed and grouped into categories. Categories are listed as follows: Very Similar, Similar, Somewhat Similar, Unique/Potentially Conflicting, and Unique. Policies in the Very Similar category are ones that relate to each other at a clear level of specificity; policies under the Similar category are ones that relate in vision but not in detail; policies under the Somewhat Similar category relate to each other more similarly than uniquely; policies under Unique/Potentially Conflicting category are in potential disagreement with other policies pertaining to the same issue; and policies that are considered unique have some relationship to the issue at hand but are not similar to each other. Due to policies relating to more than one sub-topic, it is possible that the same policy will be included across sub-topics and categories. It is also possible that not all categories were used in this document, depending on how city policies relate to each other.

To make it clear to understand, each policy has been assigned a color that corresponds with a city. The county color code can be seen in the footer of each page. Additionally, text that is bolded and highlighted signifies the relationship between policies under a category. Furthermore, a sources list is included below in this methodology section to provide readers with links to each county's most updated comprehensive plan.

Sources

1) Long Prairie 1999 Comprehensive Plan:

<https://r5dcscrp.basecamphq.com/projects/7032816/file/100569548/Long%20Prairie%20Comprehensive%20Plan.pdf>

2) Little Falls Comprehensive Plan 2006-2020

<https://r5dcscrp.basecamphq.com/projects/7032816/file/101701381/Little%20Falls%20Comp%20Plan0001.pdf>

3) Walker Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2010)

http://www.communitygrowth.com/asset/ldkjz5/Walker-Plan_Final_050310.pdf

4) Brainerd Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2004)

<http://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/planning/docs/compplan.pdf>

5) City of Wadena Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1986)

<https://r5dcscrp.basecamphq.com/projects/7032816/file/101701382/Wadena%20Comp%20Plan.pdf>

Findings

It is important to note that the topic of health care was not addressed in many of the cities' comprehensive plans. In fact, Long Prairie, Little Falls, and Brainerd were the only cities that addressed the topic of health care. However, the cities that did address the topic did not cover it in depth. We do expect that future comprehensive plans for the region will address this important issue due to an increasing elderly population.

I. Promoting Health Care

Both Little Falls' and Brainerd's comprehensive plans include similar policies seeking to promote health care in the communities. Little Falls' policy specifically states that the city seeks to promote and enhance their status for full service quality health care, while Brainerd's policy differs in terminology, but seeks to maximize the city's potential as a thriving center for health care. The policies are similar in that they seek to make health care a focus in the community.

The city of Long Prairie includes a policy similar to those mentioned above, stating that the city should promote for adequate expansion of health care facilities. This policy similarly addresses

the sub-topic of promoting health care, but has a unique quality in that it focuses specifically on health care facilities, which are not mentioned in the Brainerd or Little Falls policies.

Policy Analysis

I. Promoting Health Care

A. Promoting Health Care

1. Similar

- a) **Promote and enhance Little Falls' status for full service quality health care**
- b) **Maximize Brainerd's potential as a thriving center for** business, **health care**, industry, education and recreation, while maintaining and enhancing its livability.

2. Similar to Above (IA1)

- a) **Promote for adequate future expansion of the health care facilities**