

# Health Care Policy Analysis

## For Todd, Morrison, Cass, Crow Wing, and Wadena Counties

Prepared by  
Michael Dorfman  
University of Minnesota  
Regional Sustainable Development Partnership



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

Prepared for the  
Central Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Project

September 18, 2011

# Introduction

The following document analyzes Todd, Morrison, Cass, Crow Wing, and Wadena County policies relating to healthcare. This document is one piece of a larger analysis that addresses the five counties' 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 counties. 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 Todd, Morrison, Cass, Crow Wing, and Wadena County's most recent Comprehensive Plans. This document addresses the similarities, differences, and potential conflicts between county policies regarding healthcare. Due to the uniqueness of each plan, not all counties addressed similar issues around the topic at hand. For this reason, policies were only included if at least two of the five counties addressed the issue. To see what county policies were included or dismissed in this analysis please refer to Appendix C (separate document). Additionally, each county'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 sub-topics of senior citizen care and resident well being. Under each sub-topic, similarities, differences, and conflicts between county 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 county policies relate to each other.

To make it clear to understand, each policy has been assigned a color that corresponds with a county. 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) Todd County 2030 Comprehensive Plan:

[http://www.co.todd.mn.us/HTML\\_Files/Departments/Documentation/ToddCounty2030ComprehensivePlan.pdf](http://www.co.todd.mn.us/HTML_Files/Departments/Documentation/ToddCounty2030ComprehensivePlan.pdf)

### 2) Morrison County Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2005):

<http://morrisonmn.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7BC8FCCAFF-AECD-45DC-91B1-016A998EB4A8%7D/uploads/%7B77B3A859-82C4-4E06-AC2D-04350EE16357%7D.PDF>

### 3) Cass County Comprehensive Plan (2008-2012):

[http://www.co.cass.mn.us/esd/pdfs/comp\\_plan.pdf](http://www.co.cass.mn.us/esd/pdfs/comp_plan.pdf)

### 4) Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan (2003-2023):

[http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/planning\\_zoning/ordinances/docs/2004\\_COMPREHENSIVE\\_PLAN.pdf](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/planning_zoning/ordinances/docs/2004_COMPREHENSIVE_PLAN.pdf)

### 5) Wadena County Comprehensive Plan (1999):

<https://r5dscrp.basecamphq.com/projects/7032816/file/85211367/WadenaCountyComPlan.pdf>

# Findings

It is important to note that the topic of healthcare was not addressed in many of the counties' comprehensive plans. In fact, Todd and Cass County were the only counties that addressed the topic of healthcare. However, the counties 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 in detail.

## I. Senior Citizen Care

Both Todd and Cass County have somewhat similar policies regarding senior citizen care. They both encourage additional options and services to be available for the elderly. Todd County encourages the development or expansion of services for the increasing elderly population. Cass County encourages additional long-term care options and alternative settings in communities for the elderly. For more information regarding this issue please refer to IA1 below.

## II. Resident Wellbeing

Both Todd and Cass County have somewhat similar policies regarding resident wellbeing. They both encourage health and wellbeing for residents in their county. Todd County's policy is slightly more detailed, stating that individuals and families should have the programs and services to provide for their essential social and economic wellbeing, while Cass County simply states that the promotion of wellness in the county should be enhanced. For more information regarding this issue please refer to IIA1 below.

# Policy Analysis

## I. Senior Citizen Care

### A. Senior Citizen Care

#### 1. Somewhat Similar

- a) **Encourage the development or expansion of services for the increasing elderly population** that will enable them to live in their own homes or least restrictive environment.
- b) **Additional long-term care options/alternative settings in communities for the Elderly** (board & care, foster care, assisted living, etc.).

## II. Resident Wellbeing

### A. Resident Wellbeing

#### 1. Somewhat Similar

- a) **Ensure individuals and families have the programs and services to provide for their essential social and economic well-being.**
- b) **Provide for protection of the public health.**
- c) **To enhance the promotion of wellness in the county.**