

Insure Montana Board Meeting 5-7-2013

Board Members Present: Erin McGowan Fincham, Carol Roy, Susan Witte, Dave Kendall (phone), and Katherine Buckley-Patton

Interested Parties: Kim Weisert and Ginger MacDonald

Insure Montana Staff: Jill Sark, James Oster, Helena Breidenbach, Nancy Lightner, Ecko Edwards, and Renee Little

- I. Call to Order – 1:06 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes for the March 5, 2013 meeting were discussed, Susan Witte pointed out three grammatical errors which have been fixed. David Kendall voted to approve March 5, 2013 meeting notes and Susan Witte seconded the motion, no public comment, and the vote was passed unanimously.
 - b. Board Member Terms – Amanda Harrow has removed herself from the Board due to a job change. Betty Beverly and Katherine Buckley-Patton's terms were up as of January 2013. Jill has contacted the Governor's office as these are all appointments by his office and is waiting to hear back on who will be appointed. Jill mentioned that according to the rules (per Stacey from the Governor's office), a Board member stays active until they are reappointed or replaced. Betty Beverly does not want to be on the Insure Montana Board any longer. Katherine Buckley-Patton said she is willing to remain on the Board as long as the Governor's office authorizes the re-appointment. Erin McGowan Fincham's term is up on June 30, 2013 and she stated that she would remain on the board while a replacement is found for her.
- III. Legislative Report - Monica Lindeen the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance gave the board members a brief overview of the legislative session.
 - a. HB2-Funding for the Insure Montana program was approved thru June 30, 2015. Funding is no longer provided through the special revenue fund as it had been, but that \$5,000,000 was in place to ensure the program was funded through the end of 2013, then \$6,000,000 will come from the State Auditor's licensing fee account that has been accumulating for several years, and another \$8,400,000 will come from general fund
 - b. HB48- Passed and was signed by the Governor. This was the housekeeping bill for Insure Montana, removing the restriction for transferring money between the two programs, removing the restriction that Insure Montana can only spend 95% of the budget, removing the 24 month uninsured status to be eligible, and also eliminates the \$75,000 in wages for an employee rule to restricting and only subsidizing employees earning under 400% of the current federal poverty limits.
 - c. Monica also mentioned that other bills pertaining to the CSI were passed, including changing the name from the Montana State Auditor's office to the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance to eliminate the confusion it creates for consumers. This will be on the ballot in two years for voters to vote on, so the CSI will continue to educate the public and she hopes it will pass as it is a change to the Montana Constitution. Another bill also passed that gives the Commissioner rate review authority over health insurance premium increases. She also stated that there is a lot of uncertainty in regards to the future of Insure Montana, however; if it is to continue after the next session that new funding sources will need to be found. She is looking for ideas on this and is willing to hear any. David Kendall said he would contact her as he is interested in giving some input on this topic prior to the next session.

- IV. Financial Report
 - a. Current Budget – Jill Sark gave a brief report on the current budget. She anticipates that we will spend the 95% that Insure Montana is authorized to spend by June 2013.
 - b. Enrollment Report – Jill gave a brief explanation that currently the Purchasing Pool has 742 businesses participating, with 3,762 lives covered under those contracts. The Tax Credit program has 654 businesses that are currently participating. There is a total of 7,457 lives covered between the two Insure Montana programs. The Insure Montana staff will start tracking the reasons for the groups terminating their participation with the program.
- V. Vision Contract Update – Jill provided a handout. In summary to date the subscribers have utilized 52% of the budget.
- VI. Continue Vision Exam Contract - Jill stated that if the contract expires June 30, 2013, there would be \$35,335 left in reserve funds and if the contract was extended thru December 31, 2013 the estimated reserve funds left would be around \$20,000. David Kendall made a motion to extend the contract thru December 31, 2013, Katherine and Susan both seconded the motion, no public comment, and the motion passed unanimously.
- VII. ACA Changes to Plans –
 - a. Ginger MacDonald from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana discussed briefly the deadlines for plans to be submitted to the Federal Government. Qualified Plans need to be submitted by the middle of May. The Government has until July 31, 2013 to review all plans submitted and rates will be approved and posted for the exchange by October 1, 2013.
 - b. RSR – Ginger also gave the Board a handout regarding the RSR agreement. It is anticipated that after the 2012 run out of claims that roughly \$2,000,000 will be available to Insure Montana. This will be the last year for the RSR as the way rates are calculating is changing for 2014.
- VIII. Database Report – Jill and Ecko discussed that due to changes with the ACA and legislature that the Insure Montana database will need to change to be in compliance with these changes. Ecko provided a handout explained to the board the timeline for the changes that are happening to the Insure Montana database to be in compliance with the passage of House Bill 48. She explained that Insure Montana sent out a “Custom Renewal” notice and that all employees that participate will have to log in and complete questions regarding their income and household size. In preparation for changes in January 2014, data is also be collected regarding the zip code of all household members, their tobacco usage, as well as if they are covered under the policy.
- IX. Audit Schedule – Helena Breidenbach explained she has been working on re- verifying income that was verified and then changed through the online renewal process. She is also working on contribution audits to make sure that the percentage of contribution that the business reports is what is accurately being paid toward their employees’ health premiums. Helena also stated that the future audits will be focused on re-verifying income information once the Custom Renewal process has been completed. James mentioned he has been working on getting more businesses and employees to utilize Electronic Funds Transfers for their monthly payments to save money on postage.
- X. Future Planning Discussion – Jill discussed future agenda items will include progress with HB48 changes to the Insure Montana database, another follow up on the RSR and how Insure Montana can use the funds available to them, what the benefits and premiums will be in the future, and how subsidies will need to be calculated for January 2014.
- XI. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 13, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- XII. Adjourn - Meeting Adjourned at 2:41 p.m.