**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**montana reinsurance Association**

March 21st, 2025; 1:30 to 2:00 MST

Virtual Meeting

**Board Members Present**

* Blair (Mountain Health Co-op)
* Andrew (Drew) Cziok (BCBSMT)
* Tony Pfaff (Cypress Health)
* Beau Larson (Allegiance/Cigna)

**Board Members Not Present**

* Erik Wood (PacificSource)

**Others Present**

* Raelynn Williams (MRA Executive Director)
* Dave Sedlock (MRA Director of IT Operations)
* CSI (Erin Snyder, Amber Thorvilson, Kate Ellis, Ashley Perez)
* Bruce Spencer (Mountain Health Co-op, Spencer Law Offices)

1. **Welcome and Call to Order - Drew Cziok, Chair, 1:32 pm**
2. **Changes to the Agenda**

No changes were noted

1. **Procurement Policy**

Drew reminded the board that we need to vote on a new legal contract as Sean Slanger now works for BCBSMT. He noted that the MRA did a limited solicitation instead of a formal RFP as this is allowed under the procurement policy. The board binder includes a copy of the procurement policy and responses. The MRA solicited responses from a number of firms in town but only received two responses. Some firms noted they did not have experience and declined to respond.

Drew asked the Board to review the procurement policy and noted that it typically requires 3 responses and we only received two. The State’s policy strongly suggests 3 responses but if you cannot get them, there is not a requirement to obtain them. Drew is a little concerned about the way the policy is written right now and would like to suggest that we amend the policy to say must ‘solicit’ instead of ‘obtain’ responses. Over the summer Drew would like to have another conversation about the policy and bring it more in line with the State’s policy. There were no concerns with this change to the policy.

*A motion to change the word ‘obtain’ to ‘solicit’ in the small purchases section of the procurement policy was made by Blair Fjeseth and was seconded by Tony Pfaff. Motion carried.*

1. **Legal Support**

The board binder shows two proposals from local firms. The first is from Stefan Wall who has done some ad hoc work under the micro purchases section of our procurement policy since Sean Slanger left. In his proposal Stafan lists rates for himself and his associate. Silverman Law also responded and their responses can be found starting on page 14, including their fee structure. Drew appreciates the response from Silverman Law and noted that their experience in federal regulations and the healthcare industry is missing. Wall, McLean & Gallagher, specifically Stefan Wall, has extensive insurance industry experience and we have had positive previous experience with him. It was also noted that his rates are lower than Silverman Law and he appears to be better suited based on his experience. Blair and Beau agreed with Drew’s assessment and Tony noted a willingness to work with either firm, noting no bad experiences with the firms.

The firms that were solicited include; Jackson, Murdo and Grant, Silverman Law, Wall, McLean & Gallagher, Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, P.C, and Crowley Fleck.

*A motion to adopt the proposal from Wall, McLean & Gallaher and extend a contract based on the terms provided was made by Beau Larson and seconded by Tony Pfaff. Motion carried.*

1. **Financial Update and Statutory Appropriation**

Amber noted that HB3 will have the 3rd reading today. As soon as it passes the MRA will get payments out to carriers.

1. **Open Forum**

No discussion

1. **Public Comments**

No public comments

1. **Wrap-up and Adjourn**

*Beau Larson made a motion to adjourn, Tony Pfaff seconded the motion.*

*Drew Cziok* *adjourned the meeting at 1:49 pm.*