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Submitted by Tanya Ask, MCHA Chair

The Montana Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) received approval of its termination plan required by Section 33-22-1504, MCA, September 16, 2013 from Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Monica Lindeen. The required notice of termination was sent to all covered individuals by October 1, 2013, with coverage ending December 31, 2013.

Enrollment in the MCHA plans dropped from almost 3000 in July 2013 to just under 2600 December 1, 2013. The Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI) and the staff of the MCHA lead carrier, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, worked diligently to assist all MCHA members in their search for new coverage. Because individuals do not have to report where or whether they secure other coverage to CSI or to MCHA, we are unable to report on the specifics of who may have received new coverage where, or for how much.

**Assistance provided:** Mailed notices together with Montana toll-free numbers for CSI and MCHA/Blue Cross; web addresses; in-person assistance by CSI and others; follow-up phone calls; and dedicated staff for MCHA member assistance.

**MCHA Wind-down Operations:** MCHA continues to process claims. Montana allows claim submission up to one year after a service is received, although most medical providers and individuals submit them much more quickly.

Individuals and providers also have an opportunity to appeal a claim decision, and we have allowed an additional 180 days for potential appeals. While we may have active claims into mid or even late 2015, we anticipate most of the MCHA processing should be complete by July 2015.

**Other Questions:**

- 1) Potential timeline for future MCHA assessments of disability (health) insurers doing business in Montana. MCHA current anticipated experience is caveated by “we don’t know what we don’t know.” With three months of current runout, we anticipate funds assessed in 2013, together with current reserves will be sufficient to cover all claims and administrative expenses, and that no further assessments will be necessary.
- 2) The MCHA premium subsidy program for lower-income MCHA members receives funding from a portion of the Tobacco Settlement Funds. Will MCHA need all the funds currently allocated? Again, caveated by “we don’t know what we don’t know”, at this point, we anticipate some of those funds will revert back to the state.

MCHA will be providing its 2013-2014 annual report to the Montana Legislature and Governor Bullock. Our fiscal year ends June 30. Last year’s report was submitted October 18, 2013. We anticipate a final report should be ready by October 2015, once all audits have been completed and final approvals given.

The MCHA Board and Lead Carrier will continue to work with the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance to finalize the business of MCHA. Thank you.

