

## **PEBP BOARD MEETING MAY 24 2018**

### **TERRI LAIRD'S NOTES**

After two meetings where the atmosphere was less than cordial, the Public Employees' Benefits Board met without much fanfare May 24. There were two meetings at the end of April that led to standing room only when a pilot program PEBP had been hoping to roll out before Open Enrollment that included "choice" for state employees in the program allowing St. Mary's in Reno and Carson Tahoe in Carson City to join Renown/Hometown Health as PEBP vendors. Unfortunately Renown executives came in force to protest the proposal citing their exclusive contract they'd had with PEBP since 2013.

In the end, the pilot program was abandoned for the current two year plan period, but the board agreed in April to reconsider the concept at their next meeting that was held May 24. During public comment on the concept of moving forward Renown CEO Ty Winfeldt told the board that due to all the controversy surrounding the April meetings, Renown wanted to terminate their existing contract with PEBP in June 2019, and said they'd be willing to be a part of the new RFP (Request for Proposal) plan going forward. He said based on the April public testimony that was quite acrimonious he didn't think PEBP wanted to continue with an exclusive contract. PEBP Executive Officer Damon Haycock apologized to Renown upon hearing about their intent to terminate their existing contract. He said it was never PEBP's intent for that to occur. In the end at the May 24 meeting, the board agreed to develop a strategy for employee and retiree choice for healthcare providers on both PEBP's Consumer Driven Health Plan and the new, proposed Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO). Initially they will start with a Request for Information along with a membership survey to see exactly what participants want. The motion was carried unanimously.

The board also passed a motion regarding the proposed framework for development of the Agency Budget Request for the 2020-21 Biennium, due to the Governor's office by the end of August. PEBP staff presented four items they want to see put in the proposal including hiring an In-House F/T General Counsel; raising Executive Staff salaries by at least 5%; reclassification of PEBP's Financial Analyst position and technology investment notices. Haycock said PEBP's current general counsel is on loan from the Attorney General's office and also works for three other agencies. Regarding the Executive Staff salary discussion, several members of the board felt 5% wasn't enough and should be much higher to make the state more competitive when key staffers leave their jobs...and must be replaced.

In other business of note, at the start of the meeting Board Chair Patrick Cates announced the May 24 meeting would be the last for two members of the Board, Dr. Chris Cochran, an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Care Administration and Policy at the College of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Ana Andrews. Appointed to the PEBP Board in June of 2014, Ana M. Andrews is the Risk Manager for the Risk Management Division of the State of Nevada's Department of Administration, a position she's held since February of 2012 (having worked as the division's deputy since June of 2009). Her state career started in March of 1991 at the Attorney General's Office where she worked for over 10 years. Both thanked the rest of the board for their hard work, and also thanked PEBP staff for their support through the years.