

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
1:00 pm

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director
Michael Barber, General Counsel
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS
Maureen Usifer
Jessica Holmes, PhD
Tom Pelham

Executive Director's Report

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced that there is no Board meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 and reminded the public to please sign in upon entering the Board meetings. The March 2020 Board meeting schedule is posted [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from February 19, 2020.

Hospital Operating Performance FY19 Year-End Report

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB
Lori Perry, Health Finance Analytics Director, GMCB
Agatha Kessler, Health Policy Director, GMCB

Patrick Rooney noted why there is some missing information from hospitals for the FY19 Year-End Report and reviewed the summary assessment, the system profile, the Net Patient Revenue/Fixed Prospective Payment (NPR/FPP) results, and the operating expenses. Agatha Kessler reviewed the payer mix and revenues. Patrick Rooney presented the operating margin and total margin trends of the hospitals and the system. Agatha Kessler discussed the increasing reliance on other operating revenue and the categories of other operating revenue. Lori Perry and Agatha Kessler discussed the drivers of operating expenses, including rising drugs costs, workforce issues, and leadership turnover. Patrick Rooney reviewed the FY 19 actual-to-actual growth, which is below target, and the FY 19 budget-to-actual variance. The Board Members discussed specialty pharmacy revenue, the concern with the total margin trend, the helpfulness of slide 16 explaining other operating revenue, cost shift, and payer mix with the presenters.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the budget-to-actual variance, actual-to-actual growth, operating margin, NPR/FPP, actual-to-actual utilizations, and days cash on hand for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Copley Hospital, and Gifford Medical Center.

Agatha Kessler reviewed the budget-to-actual variance, actual-to-actual growth, operating margin, NPR/FPP, actual-to-actual utilizations, and days cash on hand for Grace Cottage Hospital, Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, North Country Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, and Northwestern Vermont Medical Center. Lori Perry reviewed the budget-to-actual variance, actual-to-actual growth, operating margin, NPR/FPP, actual-to-actual utilizations, and days cash on hand for Porter Medical Center, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Springfield Hospital, and University of Vermont Medical Center. Agatha Kessler reviewed the appendixes. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members had a discussion with the presenters.

Public Comment

Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, VT Developmental Disabilities Council
Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network
Bob Bick, CEO, Howard Center

All-Payer Model Updates: 2018 Annual Total Cost of Care Report and APM Agreement Technical Changes

Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB
Michele Degree, Health Policy Advisor, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg presented the conclusions of the 2018 Annual All-Payer Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Report and reminded the Board and public that the results reflect statewide performance. There are two main lenses for data analysis, one is by resident (used with All-Payer TCOC) and one is by provider (used for Vermont hospital budgets). Sarah Lindberg compared the All-Payer (APM) TCOC results to the data involved with the Board's other regulatory activities (hospital budgets, insurance rate review, and ACO budgets). The 2018 All-Payer TCOC represented about half (48%) of the total spending on behalf of Vermont residents, and OneCare Vermont's TCOC represented 10% of the total spending on behalf of Vermont residents. The APM TCOC growth for Year 1 was 4.1%, and while the growth in PY1 exceeded the target of 3.5%, the State is considered "on track" if average growth over the five performance years is 4.3% or less. Sarah Lindberg reviewed the All-Payer TCOC by payer type and population. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with Sarah Lindberg.

Michele Degree explained the GMCB, the Agency of Human Services (AHS), and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) have been working to update three key areas in the quality framework of the Agreement: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP), and timelines. Michele Degree reviewed the suggested technical changes and the 2020 timelines. The changes are technical in nature and do not change the measures themselves. The Board is accepting public comment on the technical changes through March 10, 2020 and there will be a potential vote on March 11, 2020. The presentations can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Public Comment

Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, VT Developmental Disabilities Council

Overview of Sustainability Plans

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Alena Berube, Director of Value Based Programs & ACO Regulation, GMCB

Alena Berube discussed the National hospital closures and Patrick Rooney discussed the current financials of the Vermont hospitals. Alena Berube discussed the GMCB panel held in April 2019 on rural hospitals, the Rural Health Services Task Force created by Act 26, the sustainability plan requirement in the FY 2020 hospital budget orders, and the goals of the sustainability planning. The sustainability plan framework includes discussion of hospital's financial health, ensuring provision of essential services, and sustainability of other services. Patrick Rooney reviewed the financial profiles of the sustainability plan. Alena Berube reviewed ensuring provision of essential services, the sustainability of other services, other important questions for the hospitals, and next steps. There is a special public comment period through March 11, 2020 on the sustainability plans. The presentation can be seen [here](#), and the sustainability plan framework can be seen [here](#), on the GMCB website. The Board Members discussed preventative health services, payer mix, cost shift, concern about the negative operating margin of half of the hospitals in FY19, payment models, and that this process will take time.

Public Comment

Jeff Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network

Hamilton Davis, Health Care Advocate

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:25 pm.