

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 29, 2020  
10:00 am

**Attendance**

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

**Northwestern Medical Center 2020 Budget Amendment Request – Potential Vote**

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB  
Robyn Alvis, Chief Financial Officer, Northwestern Medical Center  
Stephanie Breault, Director of Finance, Northwestern Medical Center

The Court Reporter swore in Robyn Alvis, Stephanie Breault, Devin Bachelder, Dawn Bugbee, Jerry Barbini, Janet McCarthy, and Dr. Gregory Brophy from Northwestern Medical Center (NMC).

Patrick Rooney reviewed the request received from NMC for a budget modification on April 1, 2020. The request was for a 14.9% increase [in addition to the approved 5.9% change in charge (rate)] effective May 1, 2020. Patrick Rooney explained the impact on NPR/FPP, the reason for the request (offset negative impact of reduced physician practices and related ancillary volume due to EMR and increased cost of patient care staff), the additional information asked for from NMC, that this is a pre-COVID request, how the hospital laid out the financial impact on their income statement, the year to date hospital performance, the change in charge summary, and the effect of alternative change in charge options. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Robyn Alvis, Chair Kevin Mullin, Stephanie Breault, and Board Member Robin Lunge discussed NMC's notification to commercial payers about the requested increased rate and their contract language.

Robyn Alvis spoke to the current COVID-19 challenges. The budget amendment request does not consider the impacts of the pandemic. The two primary reasons for the request are: the Meditech implementation to achieve a single Electronic Medical Record (EMR) across the organization has taken longer than anticipated and is affecting topline revenue and the four levels of inpatient care requiring the use of traveler nurses to staff (ICU). Stephanie Breault presented the FY 2020 financial overview, the projected operating margin, days cash on hand, historical compliance with budget orders, and NMC's annual increase and price compared to other

hospitals. Robyn Alvis reviewed the cost containment efforts already implemented by NMC. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with NMC's representatives about the timeline of NMC's financial narratives, if the current EMR and ICU traveler expense issues will continue, the impact of ACO reserves on NMC's balance sheet, the ICU and telehealth contract with Dartmouth-Hitchcock, the metrics of days cash on hand, the details of the increase in travelers nurses, the funding for RiseVT, service lines, physician FTEs, and if NMC has considered other avenues of funding.

### **Public Comment**

Sara Teachout, Director, Government and Media Relations, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont

Julia Shaw, Health Policy Analyst, Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

Chair Kevin Mullin recessed the meeting until 10:00 am on Monday, May 4, 2020.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 29, 2020  
1:00 pm

**Attendance**

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

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the May 2020 Board Meeting schedule is posted on the [GMCB website](#).

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from April 22, 2020.

**COVID-19 Response Updates from Health Insurers**

Michael Pieciak, Commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation  
Don George, President and CEO, BCBSVT  
Dr. Kate McIntosh, MD, MBA, FAAP, Senior Medical Director and Director of Quality, BCBSVT  
Dr. Kim Kilby, Senior Leader Medical Affairs, MVP Health Care  
Richard Odorizzi, Senior Leader and Controller, MVP Health Care  
Anthony Cali, VP Network Management, Cigna  
Dr. Tiffany Lingenfelter Pierce, Medical Director, Cigna  
Christine Cooney, State Government Affairs Manager, Cigna

Commissioner Michael Pieciak gave an overview of the actions taken by the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial impacts of the pandemic on health insurers. The financial impacts include COVID-19 claims for testing and treatment, investment portfolio performance, emergency regulations, an eventual COVID-19 vaccine being considered a “preventative service”, serological tests with no cost share, and a reduction in non-COVID-19 claims. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members had a discussion with Commissioner Michael Pieciak about ERISA plans, the financial impact on health insurers, the effect on rate review duties of the Board, and if any actions made by DFR will become permanent.

Don George reviewed BCBSVT's guiding principles, response to COVID-19, and rapid response teams. Dr. Kate McIntosh presented the details of BCBSVT's response to COVID-19 and Don George reviewed the challenges expected in the future. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members had a discussion with the representatives from BCBSVT about engaging with independent physicians and hospitals, telehealth expansion, and enrollment changes.

Dr. Kim Kilby reviewed the changes at MVP in response to COVID-19 and Richard Odorizzi gave MVP's financial update. The Provider COVID-19 Updates can be seen [here](#) on the MVP Health Care website. The Board Members had a discussion with the representatives from MVP about reaching out to more susceptible populations, the Medicare membership in Vermont, the self-insured population, ERISA plans, and data for Vermont.

Anthony Cali reviewed the changes at Cigna in response to COVID-19. Cigna's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center can be seen [here](#) on the Cigna website. The Board Members had a discussion with the representatives from Cigna about the number of members in Vermont, the self-insured employers, the All-Payer ACO Model, and elective procedures.

### **Public Comment**

Kathy Mahoney, MD, MBA, GMCB General Advisory Committee Member  
Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:35 pm.