

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 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 hospital budget guidance will be continued on May 20, 2020 at the 1:00 pm Board Meeting. On the same day there will be a Primary Care Advisory Group meeting at 5:00 pm. Both meetings are via conference call/Skype and the May schedule can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board received the proposed 2021 Vermont Health Connect Rates on Friday, May 8, 2020. The press release can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. [A special comment period on the draft FY21 hospital budget guidance](#) was opened on May 12, 2020 and ends on May 19, 2020 at 10:00 am.

National Trends in State Affordability and Sustainability Strategies

Michael Bailit, President, Bailit Health

Sarah Kinsler introduced Michael Bailit and the work done by Bailit Health assisting States with health policy to maximize health system performance. Michael Bailit discussed what affordability means in the economic view and purchaser view, health care affordability over time, wages, fringe benefits, and financial stability. State strategies that are used to improve affordability and promote sustainability include payment-based models (includes growth caps, global budgets, prospective payment, and rate setting), cost growth targets, and public option. Michael Bailit reviewed how individual states use the models and the opportunities for Vermont. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with Michael Bailit about growth caps for hospitals and ACOs, regulatory capture, balancing the affordability for consumers and the sustainability for providers, integrating payment-based models and cost growth targets, how states decide reimbursement, and the justification of medical provider rates.

Public Comment

Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Kathy Mahoney, MD, MBA, GMCB General Advisory Committee Member
Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network

Updated Hospital Budget Guidance

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed what was discussed and decided at the March 18, 2020 Board Meeting, the abbreviated guidance staff recommendations, and the draft FY21 hospital budget guidance. There is [a special comment period](#) on the draft guidance until May 19, 2020 at 10:00 am. The presentation can be seen [here](#), the draft guidance can be seen [here](#), and the sample FY21 budget analysis can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members discussed penalties, utilization, the NPR growth target, change in charge guidance, risk and opportunities, the timeline of presentations, and the fiscal sustainability of the Vermont health care system.

Public Comment

Jeff Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS
Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network

Discussion on whether the GMCB shall establish a Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(e)(2)

Christina McLaughlin, Health Policy Analyst, GMCB
Jeff Hochberg, President, Vermont Retail Druggists

Christina McLaughlin reviewed the proposed Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group language presented to the House Health Care Committee on March 12, 2020 and how the Board has the authority to establish additional advisory groups as needed under 18 V.S.A § 9374(e)(2). Jeff Hochberg discussed the value of the proposed technical advisory group to the State of Vermont and how data could be better utilized. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members discussed the importance of starting such a group and the limitations of having a staff shortage.

Public Comment

Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont
Nancy Hogue, Executive Director of Pharmacy Services, AHS
Kathy Mahoney, MD, MBA, GMCB General Advisory Committee Member

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 4:05 pm.