

**Rural Health Services Task Force  
Unapproved Meeting Notes  
January 7, 2020**

**Members Present (also by phone):**

Robin Lunge, Member, GMCB  
Mike Fisher, Office of the Health Care Advocate  
Steve Gordon, President and CEO, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital  
Dan Bennet, CEO, Gifford Medical Center  
Laura Pelosi, Vermont Health Care Association  
Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services;  
Steve Maier (designee for Tony Morgan, Executive Director, The Rutland Free Clinic)  
Dillon Burns, Director, Mental Health Services of Vermont Care Partners  
Dr. Melissa Volansky, MD, Stowe Family Practice, Executive Medical Director, CHSLV;  
Jill Olson, Executive Director, VNAs of Vermont; Dan Bennett, Present & CEO, Gifford Medical Center  
Kate Burkholder, LADC, Treatment Associates, Inc  
John Olson, Chief, State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care, VT Dept. of Health  
Dr. Rick Barnett, Licensed Psychologist-Doctorate, Licensed Alcohol/Drug Counselor

**Absent Members:**

Dr. Paul Parker, Richmond Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine

**Public Present:**

Members of the public were present, however, sign in was not required.

**I. Finalize Report**

The Task Force discussed final edits to the report. The Group agreed to remove the following language from the financial data and reporting slide:

The State of Vermont does not have a multi-sector systemwide look at financial sustainability of the health care system. Without a systemwide look, the State cannot effectively prioritize limited resources.

The Group voted 12-0-2 to approve the report. Robin Lunge abstained from the vote and Dr. Paul Parker was absent.

**II. Next Steps**

The Report will be presented to the Green Mountain Care Board on January 8, 2020. After final edits, the report will be submitted to the Legislature by the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Note: The Task Force ceased to exist on January 15, 2020. Given this timeframe, the minutes from January 7, 2020 were reviewed by the Task Force but not officially approved.