GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
GMCB Data Governance Council
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
2:00 pm

Attendance (Voting Members)
Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Pat Jones, Director of Health System Finances, GMCB *(absent)*
Tom Pelham, Board Member, GMCB
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Andrew Laing, Chief Data Officer, Agency of Digital Services
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC
Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Services Researcher, Blueprint for Health

Others Present
Kate O'Neill, Chief Data Steward, GMCB
Lynn Combs, Associate General Counsel, GMCB
David Glavin, Data & Reporting Coordinator, GMCB
Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher
Eric Schultheis, HCA
Mike Del Trecco, VAHHS
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT

Call to Order, Chair's Report
Susan called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. Susan reviewed recently approved VUHDDS applications and updated the Council on the VHCURES 3.0 data collection vendor RFP bid contract negotiation process.

Approve December Meeting Minutes
The Council voted (7-0) to approve the minutes from December 4, 2018.

DGC Principles and Policies Revision
Kate O'Neill walked through recommended changes to the data stewardship Principles and Policies. There are now four principles instead of the original seven, which align with the four key areas of focus for the GMCB data governance and stewardship program, and under those principles there are now seven policies. The language is broadened to encompass all of GMCBs data assets. The council provided detailed comments and feedback on the draft document. The council discussed definitions and assumptions, such as what is included in state-entity and what is not, how we define best practice and ensure adherence to it, how we define research entity, and how we ensure transparency. Council members agreed that we want to use language that supports use of the data without discouraging entities that might otherwise make good use of our data to support health reform efforts in Vermont and that there is a clear process for anyone requesting data release, regardless of the type of entity. Kate will re-draft an update to the Principles and Polices with these suggestions and will present a close-to-final draft at an upcoming meeting.

Data Submission and Release Rules Draft
Lynn Combs provided a high-level overview of her approach to revise the two draft Rules that are meant to replace BISHCA Regulation H-2008-01. She stated that she intends to share a detailed draft of the Rules at the next meeting. The new rules will be numbered as Rule 8 and Rule 9. The goal is to incorporate language in the release Rule to improve consistency across data sets, to ensure clear direction/instruction, and improve transparency so everyone knows what information we have, what information we release, how and when we release it. Lynn spoke about the submission piece; she is focusing on the rule for VHCURES and the proposed changes like, procedural and technical changes. This can be difficult for stakeholders. The changes proposed are intended to give notice to stakeholders and an opportunity for public comment. This council could hold a hearing if necessary and a potential vote. There would be a 90-day implementation period after approval. Cathy Fulton asked if there's any thought on having a technical user group or a design users group to be an informal network to disseminate information. Sarah Lindberg said an annual process with stakeholders could be a good idea.

Public Comment
Mike Del Trecco supports the idea of a tiered system for data release and would like to see the council take into consideration the reason data is being requested and its intended use. Eric Schultheis said there are actors like VAHHS who do not know where they fall in the categories of release and wants to encourage their access the data if requested. Eric raised the issue of Vermont's data release for research that results in a product only accessible behind a paywall. Mary Kate said that while she wants to see more information out there, research organization and journal publication protocols can make that problematic. Eric said that this should be looked into for the interest of Vermonters. Michael Durkin from BCBSVT said he is comfortable with the current language in the draft document.

Public comment:
Michael Durkin addressed the impact of data submission changes to submitters. He would support the proposed timeline for advance notice and the implementation period with the allowance for flexibility. Mike Del Trecco mentioned he would want to see some sort of nimble response time.

New Business
None

Adjourn
The Council voted (6-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:25 pm.