

Name: Jack Lindley
Affiliation, if applicable: Board Chair, VPQHC, Inc
February 26, 2018

Dear GMCB Chair Kevin Mullin;

On behalf of the [VPQHC] Board of Directors and Staff, we would like to commend the efforts of the GMCB to re-invigorate the Data Governance Committee (DGC) and its work to establish a unified health care data system.

This integrated data set provides a foundation for analysis that will benefit the entire health care delivery system across the continuum of services in Vermont.

This data set is essential to provide analysis of performance related to utilization, quality, safety and variation across the system.

Demonstration of best practice, which in turn bends the cost curve, all types of providers need to see and understand their relative performance against established, reliable benchmarks to reduce variation and consistently deliver best practice. The GMCB data system will provide the foundation for VPQHC to deliver on its mission to “study the system and make it better” and to improve service delivery for all Vermonters, as directed by the 9410 statute.

As a named entity in the 9410 statute, VPQHC has inspired motivation to ensure that a high quality system be established by the GMCB DGC to support decision-making, research and general performance analysis responsibility.

The GMCB data enclave needs to become a single-source for integrated, timely, complete data enabling accurate and relevant analysis.

Additionally, a process establishing validation for data output and performance is essential to ensure both accuracy and transparency for concerned stakeholders and concerned public as well. The GMCB DGC should be empowered to establish practices and procedures that affirms analysis by two independent sources to ensure bias-free analysis and reporting. Policies and procedures supporting a “chain of custody” for requests, acquisition, output and discontinuation procedures are essential to maintain the highest levels of HIPPA compliance in handling Vermont’s critical health care utilization data.

Finally, VPQHC would like to recommend our Executive Director, Catherine Fulton, for consideration as a voting member on the GMCB DGC. She brings three decades of quality system experience supporting change management in a variety of delivery settings, including large academic medical, psychiatric, large community hospital and health care association initiatives. She has implemented innovative system design to capture, analyze and present data for multiple purposes, including public presentation and access. These quality systems have validated performance data for large constituencies in a highly competitive regional market. This visionary thinking would bring diverse expertise from a output-oriented, quality perspective that can connect more directly to the patient-experience perspective. As a quality leader, the patient perspective and “voice of the customer” are guiding principles that overlay and influence her leadership in systems and change management thinking.

Ms. Fulton was a 2012 Health Information Management Systems Society nominee for the Health Information Technology (H.I.T.) Man & Woman of the Year for the Innovation in Care category, as honor among peers providing health information services. Ms. Fulton’s experience and perspective would provide depth and expertise as this DGC forms its re-energized mission and vision.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendation for Ms. Fulton’s membership as a voting member of the GMCB’s Data Governance Council.

Sincerely,

Jack Lindley
Chair, Board of Directors
Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.