

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

PCAG Member Attendees	Tim Tanner, Robert Penney, Kate McIntosh, Leigh LoPresti, Norm Ward, Allan Ramsay, Sean Uiterwyk, Katie Marvin, Fay Homan, Dana Kraus
GMCB Attendees	Board Member Jessica Holmes, Board Member Tom Pelham, Susan Barrett, Christina McLaughlin
Other Attendees	Jennifer Kaulius, Helen Labun, Jill Sudhoff-Guerin, Stephanie Winters

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Brief introductions of everyone in attendance.

2. GMCB Updates
 - a. The Board shared updates with the group relating to rate review and the legislative session.

3. Discussion
 - a. The group started the discussion with telehealth and telemedicine. Allan Ramsay said there has been a lot of value with telemedicine during the pandemic but noted he is sometimes less likely to refer a patient through telemedicine. He believes telemedicine should be well funded for primary care providers. He also mentioned that Vermont has had an increase in food and shelter insecurity which connects to the social determinants of health. Additionally, Vermont is likely to see an increase in the uninsured population due to COVID-19 and the grace periods that carriers are currently providing will not last. Katie Marvin is worried about the furloughed employees but said one positive that came out of this pandemic is that more people are going to their primary doctors first instead of a specialist, which is saving the system money. She agrees that primary care doctors should be compensated fairly for telephone-only services since many Vermonters have little to no internet access. Robert Penney brought up the issue of practices are closing or on the brink of shutting down due to revenue losses. Fay Homan mentioned that there may be a shift of private practices going to FQHCs to stay afloat.