

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 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 April 2020 Board Meeting schedule and details on remote Board Meetings are available [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the minutes from March 25, 2020.

FY 2020 Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Budget

Alena Berube, Director of Value Based Programs & ACO Regulation, GMCB

Alena Berube explained the goals of the presentation and the [letter received from OneCare Vermont](#) requesting operational relief with the FY20 Budget Order given the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns around hospital solvency.

Alena Berube reviewed the request from OneCare Vermont regarding the Value Based Incentive Fund (VBIF). Board Member Robin Lunge moved to amend OneCare Vermont's 2020 Budget by reducing the total VBIF amount by the projected Medicare withhold, provided that OneCare Vermont releases any funds already withheld back to hospitals as expeditiously as possible. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

Alena Berube reviewed OneCare Vermont's requests for additional data from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) and to extend certain deadlines required per the 2020 Budget Order. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to revise condition #17 to replace April 30, 2020 with September 30, 2020 and revise condition #19 to replace July 31, 2020 with September 30, 2020 in the 2020 Budget Order. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

Alena Berube reviewed OneCare Vermont's request to amend 2020 Budget Order language and the staff recommendation to keep the existing language. The Board discussed that the language for the workplan is flexible enough to take into account the issues raised by OneCare Vermont.

Alena Berube reviewed OneCare Vermont's request to extend certain deadlines required per the 2020 Budget Order. The Board discussed realistic deadlines and the different options of deciding them. Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to revise condition #8 to replace April 15, 2020 with June 3, 2020, revise condition #9 to replace March 31, 2020 with May 15, 2020, and revise condition #13 to replace March 31, 2020 with May 15, 2020 in the 2020 Budget Order, and to delegate the authority to Chair Kevin Mullin to extend the deadlines due to COVID-19 related issues. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

Alena Berube presented the discussion on whether to have OneCare Vermont present the final budget on April 15, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the GMCB staff recommendation to ask for estimated information. The Board discussed the role of OneCare Vermont in the pandemic, the value of a status check-in, the importance of supporting independent providers, and confidentiality concerns. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to add condition #22 that no later than April 22, 2020, OneCare Vermont must present to the Board on its role and response to COVID-19, including information available about programs, program changes, or potential revisions to their budget. Board Member Maureen Usifer seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

Alena Berube discussed next steps. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Public Comment

Vicki Loner, CEO, OneCare Vermont

Julia Shaw, Health Policy Analyst, Vermont Legal Aid – HCA

Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate

Old Business

Board Member Robin Lunge announced that Bill H.742 was signed by Governor Scott on March 30, 2020. The Board discussed posting a special comment period regarding whether to issue one or more time-limited waivers of the need to obtain a certificate of need for new health care projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Business

Board Member Robin Lunge announced that Bill H.681 was also signed by Governor Scott on March 30, 2020 which updates open meeting law during the pandemic.

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to adjourn at approximately 2:15 pm.