

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 27, 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*)

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

COVID-19 Response and Updates from the Agency of Human Services

Mike Smith, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont

Secretary Mike Smith spoke about the need to stabilize the Vermont health care system and that assistance with data from the GMCB would help the Agency of Human Services (AHS) when working with the legislature. The five major programs implemented thus far by AHS are: financial assistance for the Brattleboro Retreat and Springfield Hospital, a retainer payment program for non-hospitals (such as independent doctors and EMS), a DA and SSA enhanced payment program, a prospective Medicaid payment program, and a nursing home extra ordinary relief program. AHS also extended the Health Connect enrollment period to June 15, 2020 and will probably extend that further. AHS is currently working on a program to stabilize the Vermont health care system, taking into consideration health care reforms efforts, and is presenting the \$300 million financial aid package to the legislature in mid-June. Secretary Mike Smith expressed his desire that minimizing rate increases would be extended to payers.

Chair Kevin Mullin expressed gratitude for AHS's work, offered the assistance of the GMCB's analytics and hospital finance teams, and reminded the Board that they are currently in open rate cases and cannot speak in detail about them. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with Secretary Mike Smith about the timing of funds, coordinating efforts, why hospitals did not take advantage of the prospective Medicaid payment program as much as AHS expected, fixed prospective payments and the All-Payer Model, the outline of the prospective Medicaid payment program, payer mix and cost shift, the amount of money currently being lost in the hospital system due to utilization, and the application process for funds.

Public Comment

Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network
Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Jessa Barnard, Executive Director, Vermont Medical Society

Executive Director's Report

Susan Barrett announced the June 2020 Board Meeting schedule will be posted [here](#) on the GMCB website within the next couple days. On June 2, 2020 there will be a Data Governance Council meeting and on June 8, 2020 there will be a General Advisory Committee meeting.

Updated Hospital Budget Guidance – Potential Vote

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the minor changes to the abbreviated guidance staff recommendations, what the Board discussed at the May 20, 2020 meeting, the pieces of the guidance that still require discussion, and next steps. The presentation can be seen [here](#), the draft FY21 hospital budget guidance can be seen [here](#), the draft Appendix 1 can be seen [here](#), and the draft Appendix 5 can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. Board Members Maureen Usifer and Jessica Holmes asked Patrick Rooney specific questions about the guidance.

The Board Members discussed the proposed COVID-related alterations to the Verification Under Oath Form. Board Member Jessica Holmes made a motion to approve appendix 7(a) with the amended language “3. Given the uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief the information contained in the Budget Submission is the most accurate prediction and does not omit material facts necessary to provide a full and complete understanding of the Hospital’s financial standing” and to approve appendix 7(b) with the amended language “5. I have in good faith relied upon representations by one or more officers or employees of the Hospital who are reliable and competent on this subject matter as permitted under 11B V.S.A. § 8.30(b) that the information contained in the Budget Submission is the most accurate prediction and does not omit...” Board Member Robin Lunge seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously to carry the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to approve the two-part approach in the current hospital budget guidance draft related to changes in charge. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously to carry the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to approve the NPR/FPP in the hospital budget guidance that establishes a maximum NPR/FPP growth limit of 3.5% for FY21 (over each hospital’s FY20 budget) and the Board will consider an additional, temporary NPR/FPP adjustment to compensate for FY20 utilization that was not realized due to COVID-19. Board Member Tom Pelham seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously to carry the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to waive enforcement for FY 2020 due to uncertainty from the pandemic. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board discussed the details of enforcement. The Board voted (4-1) by roll call to approve the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to adopt a budget performance policy for FY 2021 enforcement which would allow for adjustments based on FY 2021 and historical performance. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board Members discussed the details of the enforcement. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

The Board discussed the timeline of the guidance. Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to modify the timeline for submission of the data related to OneCare Vermont to be no later than September 1, 2020. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously to carry the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion to approve the abbreviated FY21 hospital budget guidance as amended at the May 27, 2020 meeting. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

Public Comment

Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:35 pm.