

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 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 Qualified Health Plan (QHP) decisions will be released August 14, 2020. Hospital Budget submissions have been received by the Board and the hearings will be held August 18, 2020 through August 28, 2020. The hearings calendar can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. Public comment was received regarding the sustainability plans and can be seen [here](#). The GMCB is soliciting public comment on discussion drafts of two white papers on GMCB regulatory alignment. Information on the white papers and how to submit public comment can be seen [here](#).

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from July 29, 2020.

GMCB Geographic Reporting: The Use and Cost of Health Care Services for Vermonters and Access Patterns for VT Hospitals

Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB
Kathryn O'Neill, Director of Data Management Analysis and Data Integrity, GMCB
Jessica Mendizabal, Director of Data Management Analysis and Data Integrity, GMCB
David Glavin, M.S., Data & Reporting Project Manager, GMCB
Lindsay Kill, Healthcare Data and Statistical Analyst, GMCB
Geoffrey Battista, PhD, Data Analytics Information Chief, GMCB

Kathryn O'Neill gave a summary and update of the Data Governance Council, which has statutory stewardship of the Vermont Healthcare Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) and the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data System (VUHDDS). The data management responsibilities of the council include risk management, data quality, program sustainability, and data release, and Kathryn O'Neill reviewed the current issues being considered by the council.

Sarah Lindberg reviewed health care data analyses by the GMCB Data Team. The two main lenses for analysis are resident (care delivered to Vermont residents, in and outside of Vermont) and provider (care delivered in Vermont to Vermont and non-Vermont residents). Sarah Lindberg compared the expenditure measures. There are four interactive reports that Data Team is currently working on: patient origin, patient migration, All-Payer Model Total Cost of Care (APM TCOC), and VT hospital system financial report.

Geoffrey Battista presented the patient origin dashboard, including the objective, data source, demo, and discussion. Lindsay Kill presented the patient migration dashboard, including the purpose, a sample data structure, data cleaning steps, static views of what will be in the interactive visualization, next steps, and phase two. Jessica Mendizabal presented the APM TCOC dashboard, including the interactive visualization. David Glavin presented the VT hospital system financial report and gave a review on how to use Tableau public. It is important to pay attention to the methodology and the background of the data when using the interactive reports. The data analysis and reports can be seen [here](#) and the presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with the GMCB staff about the limitations to data sets, data use files, engaging self-insured groups after the Gobeille decision, why patients under 18 were excluded from the patient migration dashboard, how to use the data analysis, and the APM TCOC data specifics.

Public Comment

Eric Schultheis, Attorney, Health Care Advocate – Vermont Legal Aid

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

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

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Activist

Hospital Sustainability Plans – Potential Vote

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

Alena Berube reviewed the background of the hospital sustainability plans, the effects of COVID, the FY21 hospital budget change in charge requests, the statutory duties of the GMCB and the hospitals, and the goals of the sustainability planning framework. The outline of the framework is financial health of the hospital, ensuring provision of essential services, sustainability of other services, and strategic planning. Alena Berube reviewed the public comment received to date, staff input, the adjusted timeline, and proposed next steps. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

The Board Members had a discussion regarding the hospitals relying on commercial rates to reach top lines, thin or non-existent margins, the transition to APM 2.0, the connection to the Health Resources Allocation Plan (HRAP), a flexible timeline, the need for a practical exercise instead of theoretical, the importance of having information on what it takes to provide health care, and the framework. Board Member Jessica Holmes moved to approve the hospital sustainability framework presented by staff and to delegate GMCB staff to work on metrics to

begin phase 1. Board Member Maureen Usifer seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

Jeff Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Richard Slusky, Owner, Slusky Consulting

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

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Activist

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

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