

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 29, 2019  
1:00 pm

**Attendance**

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair  
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director  
Michael Barber, General Counsel – *not present*  
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS  
Maureen Usifer  
Jessica Holmes, PhD  
Tom Pelham  
Lynn Combs, Staff Attorney

**Executive Director's Report**

Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and explained that they had broken out into groups of two to visit Gifford Medical Center and the Chelsea Health Center earlier that morning. She explained that the mission of the Board is to reduce the cost of health care while also ensuring access to high quality health care for all Vermonters. The All-Payer ACO Model agreement between the State of Vermont and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) focuses on population health and value-based care. The three overarching goals of the agreement are: fewer deaths due to suicide and drug overdose, reduce the prevalence and morbidity of chronic disease, and improve access to primary care. She explained that the presentation from Gifford Medical Center will focus on how they are contributing to those goals in their community.

Susan Barrett announced that the Board has approved rates for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and the Vermont Health Plan Large Group Rate filings, effective the third quarter of 2019. On February 21, 2019, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and the Vermont Health Plan proposed an average annual rate increase of 14.9% for their large employer groups, effecting 68 large employer groups (with approximately 14,600 covered lives). On May 23, 2019, the GMCB ordered Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and the Vermont Health Plan to reduce their overall rates by approximately 0.3% to address a calculation error in the generic drug unit cost trend, and by 0.5% to reduce the annual medical utilization trend and the impact of administrative costs. The Board approved the modified rate, resulting in an overall average annual rate increase of approximately 14.0%. As mentioned at the last meeting, the Board has received the 2020 Vermont Health Exchange proposed rates. The Rate Hearings will be held on July 22, 2019 for MVP and July 23, 2019 for BCBS, as well as a Public Comment Forum on July 23, 2019 at 4:30 pm. For the Vermont Rate Review website click [here](#), and for the special comment period on the 2020 Proposed Vermont Health Connect Filing Rates click [here](#).

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from May 15, 2019.

## **Gifford Medical Center – Accountable Communities for Health Presentation**

Rebecca O’Berry, VP of Operations, Gifford Medical Center  
Monica Boyd, Director of Quality and Risk Management, Gifford Medical Center  
Ashley Lincoln, Director of Development & PR, Gifford Medical Center  
Bethany Silloway, RiseVT Program Manger & Gifford Medical Center’s Community Outreach Coordinator  
Lt. Scott Clouatre, Orange County Sheriff’s Department  
John Lincoln, 7<sup>th</sup> Grader at RUHS  
Jason Gingold, Director, RTCC  
Deb Lary, Health Teacher, RUHS  
Dr. Christopher Lukonis, Gifford Medical Center

Dan Bennett, CEO, Gifford Medical Center, welcomed the GMCB and gave an overview of the presentation from Gifford Medical Center and the partners in the community. Rebecca O’Berry presented an overview of the Chelsea Health Center, which two GMCB Members visited that morning. The Chelsea Health Center hosts both the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy and the Clara Martin Center. Rebecca O’Berry spoke about HealthHub which provides dental services, First Branch Ambulance which provides the House Call Program, and the Clara Martin Center which provides mental health and substance abuse services. Monica Boyd presented Gifford’s Quality Initiatives which include the Antibiotic Stewardship Program, reducing admissions, and population health/chronic illness prevention. She discussed the challenges that they face with mental health care and the emergency department, as well as potential solutions: Telepsychiatry, psychiatrists running consult style services, and an increased focus on social determinants of health. Josh White, CMO, Gifford Medical Center, spoke to the Board’s questions about Telepsychiatry. Monica Boyd gave an overview of the hospital layout and future facility needs. Ashley Lincoln presented Gifford Medical Center’s partnerships with the Randolph Rec Department, the Randolph Area Food Shelf, and Senior Centers.

Ashley Lincoln presented the community needs assessment done by Gifford Medical Center. The areas of focus and priority they found were drug addiction, mental health issues, obesity, and preventative health care. She then reviewed the community outreach that has been done in the past. Bethany Silloway presented the current outreach efforts of the hospital which includes partnerships with the schools, continued support of the LEAD program, safe disposal efforts, and Narcan education. Lt. Scott Clouatre, who supervises the LEAD program, spoke about the program and how beneficial partnering with Gifford Medical Center has been. John Lincoln, a graduate of the Randolph Elementary School LEAD program, spoke about his personal experience taking the program and being in Middle School.

Bethany Silloway discussed the Heroin Epidemic Learning Program (H.E.L.P.) and the participation of Rutland Union High School (RUHS). Deb Lary, health care teacher at RUHS, and Colin Andrzejczyk, SAP at RUHS and RTCC, discussed making the program part of the school’s curriculum and the participation of the students and their parents. Bethany Silloway spoke about the presentation that Gifford Medical Center organized with Randolph Technical Career Center (RTCC) that had the Vermont Department of Poison Control discuss the vaping

issue with the students. Jason Gingold, Director, RTCC, discussed the “Juuling” epidemic that they are facing at the school and how they are educating students and parents. Jason Gingold and Colin Andrzejczyk also discussed how they started giving every student a bag of food to go home with, on the last Friday of every month, with the help of Gifford Medical Center. They both answered questions from the Board regarding “Juuling”/vaping. Bethany Silloway spoke about the CURES grant Gifford Medical Center received from the State, which funded a six-week series called “A Dose of Reality”. In the series they talked to students about opioids, the impact on the community, and a path to recovery. Matt Whalen, Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant, Vermont Department of Health, spoke about the partnership with the Community Outreach Team at Gifford Medical Center, including the safe disposal efforts and the six-week series on opioids. Bethany Silloway then discussed the Take Back Box that she set up at Gifford Medical Center. Dr. Christopher Lukonis presented Gifford’s Addiction Medicine Program that includes medication and counseling. He discussed the different medications they use, case management with MAT nurses, the strategies they use and the referral streams, Narcan reversal kits, integration into primary care, and the collaboration in Central Vermont. Dr. Lukonis answered questions from the Board.

The presentation can be found [here](#) on the GMCB website. Dan Bennett introduced and thanked the Board of Gifford Medical Center, which is volunteer based. He thanked the partners, presenters, and the GMCB for attending the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:45 pm.