GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
GMCB Data Governance Council
Tuesday, October 2, 2018
2:00 pm

Attendance (Voting Members)
Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Pat Jones, Interim Director of Health System Finances, GMCB
Tom Pelham, Board Member, GMCB
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association *(by phone*)*
Andrew Laing, Chief Data Officer, Agency of Digital Services
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC
Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Services Researcher, Blueprint for Health

Others Present
Kate O'Neill, Chief Data Steward, GMCB
Sebastian Arduengo, Staff Attorney, GMCB
David Glavin, Data & Reporting Coordinator, GMCB
Ekua Kotoka, Healthcare Statistical Analyst, GMCB *(by phone)*
Eric Schultheis, Health Care Advocate
Rebecca Heinz, BCBS
Michael Durkin, BCBS

Call to Order, Chair's Report
Susan called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm.

Approve September Meeting Minutes
The Council voted (6-0-1) to approve the minutes from September 17, 2018. Lauri was absent for the vote.

Public Comment
Rebecca Heinz
Eric Schultheis

Council Member Binders

Kate O'Neill described the materials provided in the Council member binders.

GMCB Data Stewardship Principles and Policies

The Council started the process of revising its data stewardship principles and policies. There was discussion around data linkage and keeping a running tally to keep track of what comes up in the conversation to address in the form of an issues log. Kate asked the Council to share their thoughts about the principles the Council would like to address first in a revision process. Principles 1, 2 and 6 were discussed by Council members as particularly timely and important to review. The Council discussed Principle 3 as well, which may be addressed after principles 1,2 and 6 are addressed.

Rule Revision – Potential Vote

Sebastian Arduengo presented slides on data submission and release rules development. He outlined the data governance framework, specific goals the revision proposes to address, and the move to a two-rule structure: a data submission rule and separate data release rule. Sebastian provided a high-level overview of changes proposed in the accompanying submission and release schedule. Pat Jones mentioned the Council seems to have broad authority and discretion. Sebastian acknowledged that this is the case and the reason is that the Council is charged, by delegation of the Board in the Data Governance Charter, with being the expert body on data policy, particularly data policy decisions that the GMCB staff does not have authority to make. Sebastian made clear that there is no recourse to the board for a lot of the policy decisions the Council would revisit the draft language with this concern in mind.

Sebastian shared highlights of some of the changes in the proposed data submission and release schedule and shared them with the Council. Rebecca Heinz (BCBSVT) reminded the Council changes to the submission and release schedule are highly technical, and submitters would need adequate time to get changes implemented. Sarah Lindberg explained why it makes sense for submitters to report monthly rather than quarterly, but that we receive extracts only quarterly.

Sebastian discussed high-level data release changes. The revised draft carries over the current data release standards and there was a fifth standard added to ensure alignment with data stewardship policies. The tentative timeline was reviewed, and if the Council were to vote to recommend the draft Rule changes today, there would be a possible Board vote in November to formally initiate the rulemaking process in 2019. The public can comment during the rulemaking process.

Eric Schultheis asked the Council to prioritize ensuring that the data sources under GMCB stewardship is made available to the public. He feels the qualifications for data release has a bias towards institutional researchers and should be more inclusive. He also stated that if the Council were to consider a fee structure, there should be an opportunity for fee waivers if appropriate. The Council postponed a vote to the next meeting on December 4, 2018.

New Business
None

Adjourn
The Council voted (6-0-1) to adjourn at approximately 3:35 pm. Lauri was absent for the vote.

Lauri Scharf called into the meeting after meeting was called to order, but did not participate due to audio technical difficulties.