

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
GMCB Data Governance Council
Tuesday, December 4, 2018
2:00 pm

Attendance (Voting Members)

Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Pat Jones, Director of Health System Finances, GMCB
Tom Pelham, Board Member, GMCB
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association
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
Lynn Combs, Associate General Counsel, GMCB
David Glavin, Data & Reporting Coordinator, GMCB
Ekua Kotoka, Healthcare Statistical Analyst, GMCB (*by phone*)
Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher
Jessica Mendizabal, Director of Special Data Projects
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT

Call to Order, Chair's Report

Susan called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. Susan introduced the newest staff members at the Green Mountain Care Board. Due to transition in GMCB legal staff assigned to support the Data Governance Council, Susan shared that we will postpone to the February meeting a potential vote on whether to recommend the revised draft Rules to the Board, which was presented in October.

Approve September Meeting Minutes

The Council voted (7-0) to approve the minutes from October 2, 2018.

Issues Log

Kate reviewed the DGC Issues Log.

Data Set Overview

Kate and Sarah provided an overview of the two main data sets for which GMCB has stewardship responsibility: Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) and Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Sets (VUHDDS). Kate provided the schedules of available data for both data sets and reviewed the list of active DUAs for both state entities and non-state entities. The Board currently allows data linkages for state agencies, particularly when there are statutory requirements that support linking data, but, as Sarah Lindberg explained, there currently is no policy providing guardrails around data linkage and suggests this is a topic for the Council to take up, particularly around the possible revision of the Data Stewardship Principles and Policies. Mary Kate shared how the Blueprint uses VHCURES data linkages. There was discussion about shadow claims. As payment systems evolve our data collection and how we capture data

would evolve as well, but for the foreseeable future we will continue to collect shadow claims as they are important for determining utilization and quality results.

DGC Principles and Policies Revision

Kate reviewed the Principles and Policies (adopted by the Board 2015) that guide Data Governance Council decision-making and presented a list of questions for the Council to keep in mind when considering revision: What questions do we have about the current principles and policies? Conceptually, what should change? What is important to remain? Specific recommendations to add, subtract or change the current language? What resources exist for potential guidance? The Council discussed the current language and suggested areas where improvements could be made. Andrew Laing commented on the concern over privacy of using the data since protection is the highest priority. Principle 1 is ensuring the individual interest is being fulfilled. Lauri thought principle 6 is the lowest of their priorities. Pat asked about the definition of “proprietary” in reference to how it is used in our policies and Susan suggested we clarify that meaning or select another term that is clearer about our intent. Mary Kate spoke in support of payment stability and suggested the Council consider adding a new principle or adding language in a current principle around payment structure stability, in addition to financial stability. Kate agreed to bring a recommended draft set of revised Principles and Policies based on today’s discussion for the Council to review at the next meeting (February 2019). The Council also expressed interest in reviewing a summary of other states’ models.

Public Comment

Michael Durkin from BCBSVT expressed support for financial stability and encourage efforts for transparency for Vermonters. He requested that until there is clarity on what non-proprietary means their preference would be for the Council to maintain Principle 2 in its current form.

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Council voted (7-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:20 pm.