

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD  
GMCB Data Governance Council  
Tuesday, June 5, 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  
Matt Snodgrass, Health Services Researcher, DVHA  
Andrew Laing, Chief Data Officer, Agency of Digital Services  
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC (by phone)

**Others Present**

Dian Kahn, Director of Data & Analytics, GMCB  
Kate O'Neill, Director of Data Management Analysis & Data, GMCB  
Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB  
Sebastian Arduengo, Staff Attorney, GMCB  
David Glavin, Data & Reporting Coordinator, GMCB  
Ekua Kotoka, Healthcare Statistical Analyst, GMCB  
Eric Schultheis, Health Law & Policy Analyst, Vermont Legal Aid  
Steve Kappel, Principal, Policy Integrity

**Call to Order**

Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. The council members introduced themselves.

**History and Purpose of GMCB Data Governance**

Dian Kahn provided the history of health care data governance. Susan Barrett provided background on the Green Mountain Care Board statutory duties and authority.

**Review and Discussion of GMCB's Data Governance Charter, 5.2 Roles and Responsibilities**

Sebastian Arduengo reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Council chair and members. He read over page 12 of the charter, section 5.2. (For more information, click [here](#).) Matt Snodgrass asked if the Council's authority is limited to VHCURES and Sebastian replied it is not. Sebastian reviewed page 5 of the charter, which outlines the purpose of the council.

**DUA review: current DUAs, application in the queue, etc.**

Kate O'Neill reviewed current and pending DUAs. Dian Kahn talked about the two distinct types of applications: Vermont state agencies and non-state entities. A state agency can apply for Medicaid, commercial, and CMS' Medicare data. The terms of state agency DUAs are 2 years. Non-state

entities can apply to use commercial and Medicaid data only. Department of Vermont Health Access must approve Medicaid data requests. Dian Kahn reviewed the RTI- opioid study DUA application in which RTI is requesting access to Vermont commercial and Medicaid data. Since RTI is a non-state entity, they are required to go through a pre-application screening and application process. Dian walked through their application. Matt Snodgrass asked about procedures for pre-publication approval. Dian Kahn summarized section 9 of the DUA which addresses pre-publication review.

### **Public Comment**

Eric Schultheis cautioned the Council about the potential for too stringent of pre-publication review, considering the possibility that such review and “absolute right” to deny publication may bump up against academic institution publication rules/policies.

### **Potential Votes**

1. DUA application: Pat made a motion to approve the RTI application for VHCURES data. Tom seconded. There was no discussion. The Board voted by roll to approve the motion (7-0) unanimously.
2. Delegation: Delegation of authority for the Data Governance Council chair to approve certain DUAs. Pat made a motion to approve the authority for DUA approvals to the chair. Tom seconded. There was discussion on this motion; Sebastian explained there is a lot of activity between DGC meetings and it may be efficient for the council to delegate the authority to the Council chair because in some instances, there may be no substantial issues for the Council to discuss in a meeting. The authority may be decided by the Council to be broad or limited. Tom Pelham mentioned he would like to be agile in this process but suggests that GMCB staff send recommendations to the Executive Director and checking in with the Council before approval. The Council agreed to revisit this discussion and approve a motion at a later date. Pat Jones withdrew her original motion. Cathy Fulton made a motion to approve a two-month initial delegation period to the Council chair in order to temporarily expedite application approval, on condition that the delegation question be brought to the next meeting (August). This would provide temporary authority to the Council chair until the next meeting. Lauri Scharf seconded the motion. The Council voted by roll (6-0-1) to approve Cathy Fulton’s motion. Susan Barrett abstained from the motion.

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Council voted (7-0) by roll to adjourn at approximately 3:40 pm.