

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 18, 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 Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced [the active special comment periods on the GMCB website](#). Please check the website for any updates to the November 25, 2020 Board Meeting, which may be removed if it is not needed.

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from November 4, 2020.

**2020 Update to 2018-2022 Health Information Exchange (HIE) Strategic Plan**

Sarah Kinsler, Director of Strategy and Operations, GMCB  
Emily Richards, Health Information Exchange Program Director, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)  
Beth Anderson, President & CEO, Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL)  
Carolyn Stone, Director of Operations, Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL)

Sarah Kinsler reviewed the statutory authority of the Board to review and approve the Health Information Technology (HIT) Plan submitted by DVHA annually, also known as the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Strategic Plan, and to review and approve the Connectivity Criteria submitted by VITL annually.

Emily Richards reviewed the core concepts underpinning the HIE planning in Vermont. The HIE system goals are to create one health record for every person, improve health care operations, and use data to enable investment and policy decisions. The HIE ecosystem includes governance, financing, policy/process, and technology (foundational services, exchange services, and end-user services). Emily Richards reviewed the HIE Steering Committee and clear roles and goals key to Vermont's HIE governance model.

Emily Richards reviewed the progress made in 2020 and plans for 2021 with the Collaborative Services Project. The project includes four phases: Master Patient Index/terminology services/integration engine, the new data repository platform, managing new data, and decision support and analysis. Emily Richards reviewed the datatypes roadmap. Board Member Robin Lunge asked Emily Richards questions regarding the interaction of claims data between the VHIE and VHCURES, how the data is collected from payers and providers, and Blueprint for Health involvement. Emily Richards reviewed the challenges from COVID-19, Vermont's solution, and leveraging the VHIE. Board Member Tom Pelham asked questions about funding for VITL and reporting. Chair Mullin thanked VITL for the help given in response to COVID-19 and the recent cyberattack on UVMHN.

Emily Richards reviewed how the VHIE will continue to be used, the expansion of protocols to continue supporting the Vermont Department of Health, the interoperability rules passed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), 2020 progress and 2021 plans of the Steering Committee, and components of DVHA and VITL's contract that is in negotiation. Board Member Robin Lunge asked Emily Richards questions regarding the provider access to protected health information protocol. Emily Richards reviewed the component parts of the HIE ecosystem and the maturity models for each: policy, finance, governance, and technology.

Carolyn Stone presented the 2020 Connectivity Criteria update. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with the presenters regarding vaccine data, the impact of the recent cyberattack, maintenance funding from the Federal Government, meeting deliverables, integration of new Federal rules, and social determinants of health.

Sarah Kinsler presented the process for approval of the HIE plan and Connectivity Criteria, suggested principles for HIE plan review, the GMCB staff assessment of the HIE plan, suggested principles for reviewing the Connectivity Criteria, and the GMCB staff assessment of the Connectivity Criteria. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

### **Public Comment**

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate  
Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

### **Old Business**

Michael Barber announced on August 14, 2020, MVP Health Plan submitted its 2021 Large Group HMO rate filing. MVP proposed a -1.2% annual rate change for members renewing in the first quarter of 2021. On November 12, 2020, the Board modified and approved the filing, resulting in an average annual rate change of approximately -4.6%. Approximately 2,100 members are enrolled in MVP Large Group plans in Vermont.

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:35 pm.