

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 25, 2020
1:00 pm

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Michael Barber, General Counsel *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Maureen Usifer *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Jessica Holmes, PhD *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Tom Pelham *(via Microsoft Teams)*

Minutes

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from November 18, 2020.

Executive Director's Report

Susan Barrett announced [the December 2020 Board Meeting schedule was posted on the GMCB website](#) and reviewed the schedule. Susan Barrett introduced the presentation from the Agency of Human Services on the All-Payer Model (APM) Implementation Plan and explained that the intention was to have the independent Board publicly discuss the regulatory strategies outlined in the plan.

All-Payer Model (APM) Implementation Improvement Plan

Mike Smith, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont
Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, AHS, State of Vermont

Secretary Smith spoke to the intention of the All-Payer ACO Model Agreement Implementation Improvement Plan and the importance of a value-based payment system. Ena Backus described the collaboration with the GMCB as cosignatories of the APM and the four key areas the implementation improvement plan focused on (using and maximizing Federal partnership, reorganizing and prioritizing the program in AHS, regulation recommendations for the GMCB, and strengthening the Accountable Care Organization leadership strategy).

The Board Members had a discussion with the presenters and asked questions regarding leadership for the APM, the Medicare risk corridor reduction past 2021, distribution of risk across the system, Dartmouth Hitchcock participation, tactics under recommendation seven, value-based incentives, the impacts of recommendation fourteen, potential studies on low value care, the proposed path for the Medicare payment model to mirror Vermont Medicaid Next Generation fixed prospective payments, outreach to providers regarding the benchmark, timing

of the Medicaid pilot with the HIE plan, the care navigator tool, the feasibility of the Blueprint for Health recommendation, commercial payer participation, the timelines of conditions eight and nine, the benchmark plan, the cost shift, implementation of recommendation seven, the ACO leadership strategy, the integration of the ACO and Blueprint for Health, and resources for social determinants of health discovered by recommendation sixteen. [The presentation can be seen here](#) and [the report can be seen here](#) on the GMCB website.

Public Comment

Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Proposed Response to Scale Letter

Alena Berube, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB

Sarah Kinsler, Director of Strategy and Operations, GMCB

Susan Barrett introduced the GMCB staff and the request to the Board. Alena Berube gave an overview of the presentation. Sarah Kinsler reviewed the background of scale targets for provider and payer participation, care patterns, scale target performance and estimates, State scale strategies to date, the warning letter received on September 14, 2020, and GMCB staff work to date on a response to the letter. Alena Berube reviewed the content of the response draft, the draft strategies for increasing Medicare scale, the draft strategies for increasing All-Payer scale, and next steps. Board Member Robin Lunge commented on the challenges of changing the denominator in the state's scale and process for the letter. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Board Member Robin Lunge moved to delegate the authority to Chair Mullin to work with GMCB staff and other signatories of the APM to write a response to the scale target warning letter dated September 14, 2020. Board Member Maureen Usifer seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

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