

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 15, 2020  
2:00 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 Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the GMCB annual billback report was submitted to the Legislature on September 15, 2020. The September schedule was updated and can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from September 9, 2020.

**COVID Relief Funds Update**

Mike Smith, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont  
Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont  
Alicia Cooper, Health Care Project Director, Department of Vermont Health Access

Secretary Smith presented an overview of the Health Care Stabilization Grant Program and the conditions of the grant funding. Alicia Cooper reviewed the application inputs and the funding formula. Secretary Smith presented the program update details and Alicia Cooper presented the application review status. Secretary Smith discussed the hospital applicants and awards and the considerations to keep in mind. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website. The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with the presenters.

**Public Comment**

Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS  
Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS  
Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

## **FY21 Hospital Budget Deliberations**

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB  
Lori Perry, Health Systems Analytics Director, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the updates to the FY21 Vermont Hospital Budgets Board Deliberations presentation. The presentation can be seen [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Lori Perry presented the ACO accounting adjustment and provider transfer of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH). Board Member Robin moved to acknowledge BMH's request to adjust its FY 2021 budget to reflect the consideration of its Just So Pediatrics clinic into Brattleboro Primary Care (BCP), an independent practice, on July 31, 2020, with an impact to BMH's FY 2021 NPR/FPP of 1.0% and conditioned on required notice to patient pursuant to Act 143. Board Member Maureen Usifer seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Robin Lunge moved to acknowledge BMH's requested accounting adjustment reclassifying their dues to OneCare Vermont from an offset to NPR/FPP to operating expenses, with an impact to NPR/FPP of -0.5%. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Lori Perry presented the expansion of services of Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center. The Board discussed that this would be a consideration in the written order.

Lori Perry presented the provider transfers of Northwestern Medical Center (NMC). Board Member Robin Lunge moved to acknowledge NMC's request to adjust its FY 2021 budget to reflect its transfers of Cold Hollow Family Practice and Northwestern Partners in Hope with an impact to NMC's NPR/FPP of 0.9% and conditioned on required notice to patients pursuant to Act 143. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Lori Perry presented the expansion of services and the ACO accounting adjustment of NMC. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to acknowledge NMC's requested accounting adjustment reclassifying NMC's dues to OneCare Vermont from an offset to NPR/FPP to operating expenses, with an impact to NPR/FPP of -0.8%. Board Member Tom Pelham seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the staff recommendations for Gifford Medical Center. Board Member Tom Pelham moved to approve Gifford Medical Center's budget as submitted, 0.6% decrease from FY 2020 to FY 2021 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 4.0% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on slide 27. Board Member Robin Lunge seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the staff recommendations for Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to approve Southwestern Vermont Medical Center's budget as submitted, with a 3.0% decrease from FY 2020 to FY 2021 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 3.5%

increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on slide 27. Board Member Tom Pelham seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the staff recommendations for North Country Hospital. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to approve North Country Hospital's budget as submitted, with a 1.1% decrease from FY2020 to FY 2021 budget NPR/FPP, a 3.6% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined in slide 27. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the standard budget conditions outlined on slide 27. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to approve the items on slide 27 of the presentation to be included in every hospital's FY21 budget order. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the staff recommendations for Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital. Robert Hersey, CFO, NVRH, answered clarifying questions for the Board. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to approve Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital's budget as submitted, with a 3.7% increase from FY 2020 to FY 2021 budget NPR/FPP, a 2.8% standard increase to overall charges, a 1.1% COVID-19 related increase to overall charges, subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on slide 27. Board Member Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the staff recommendations for Grace Cottage Hospital. Board Member Maureen Usifer moved to approve Grace Cottage Hospital's budget, with an NPR/FPP increase of 3.5% from FY 2020 to FY 2021 budget with commensurate reductions to expenses, 3.2% increase to overall charges as submitted, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on slide 27. Board Member Robin Lunge seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

### **Public Comment**

Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 4:25 pm.