

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:00 PM

Attendance

Owen Foster, JD, Board Chair via MS Teams
Jessica Holmes, PhD via MS Teams
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS via MS Teams
David Murman, MD via MS Teams
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT via MS Teams
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director via MS Teams
Michael Barber, JD, General Counsel via MS Teams

Call to Order

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

Executive Director's Report

We continue to provide education on the fundamentals of our regulatory work. Today's meeting will include information and an update on the Health Resource Allocation Plan (HRAP) and an update on the Hospital Budget Review Process.

Our Jan 18, 2023 Board Meeting will start at 2pm instead of 1pm. During that meeting, we will hear background that will inform our regulatory hospital budget oversight. We'll also hear a presentation on Rural Hospitals' Financial Health from the Director of the Sheps Center at the University of North Carolina, Mark Holmes, PhD. The Sheps Center studies the challenges of rural health care and ways to sustain that care in rural communities throughout the country. Additionally, we'll hear from Eric Shell of Stroudwater Associates. Eric is an expert on rural hospitals, value-based care, and critical hospital finances. And lastly, we'll hear an update from the GMCB staff on the work we were given through Act 167 of 2022 specifically on hospital and community engagement and work on developing global payments.

The Board has asked its advisory committees to provide written comment to inform a potential future agreement with the State of Vermont. The Board also encourages the general public to comment on this information at any time. Comments are shared with the Governor's Office and the Agency of Human Services who lead the negotiations.

Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from December 21, 2022.

Presentations

Hospital Financial Reporting for FY23 – schedule change proposal

Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Click [here](#) to view the presentation slides.

Board Discussion

The Board discussed the presentation and sought clarification on Days Cash On Hand threshold and non-financial data reporting to the Board.

Vermont Health Care Advocate (HCA)

The HCA provided comments in support for this change.

Public Comments

Jennifer Bertrand, CFO, Gifford Hospital

MOTION: Chair Foster moved to modify the hospital financial reporting schedule to require hospitals to report mid-year actual results twice per year instead of quarterly, with mid-year reporting deadlines at the end of March and the end of June, as presented today by GMCB staff. Actual year end reporting will continue to be due on December 31.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Hospital Budget Review Process

Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Click [here](#) to view the presentation slides.

Board Discussion

The Board discussed the presentation and sought clarification on how we go about reaching out to consumers/Vermonters and seeking public comment.

Vermont Health Care Advocate (HCA)

HCA supports the efforts of community engagement.

Public Comments

Walter Carpenter

Health Resource Allocation Plan (HRAP) Update

Veronica Fialkowski, Director of Data Analysis Management, GMCB

Jessica Mendizabal, Data Project Director, GMCB

Click [here](#) to view the presentation slides

Board Discussion

The Board discussed the presentation and inquired about including in the HRAP how we improve our agility to meet the needs of Vermonters, especially in regard to mental health needs. The Board also inquired about Mathematica data collection/flow and if other states have similar programs to Vermont's

HRAP. (There are no other states doing something similar.) GMCB Staff shared information about the relationship between HRAP and Act 167.

Board Chair Foster encouraged all to visit the GMCB Data and Analyses page.

Vermont Health Care Advocate (HCA)

HCA inquired about which data reports are being used most/least frequently and shared the State of Oregon's health resource allocation tool.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:50pm

Recordings of GMCB Board Meetings can be found at the [ORCA Media website](#).