

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:30 AM / 1:00 PM

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Attendance

Board Members

Owen Foster, Board Chair

Jessica Holmes, PhD

Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS

David Murman, MD

Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT

Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director

Call to Order

GMCB Board Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Presentations

Modification of UVMMC FY2017 Enforcement Action – Potential Vote

- a. Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB
- b. Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Slides from this presentation can be found [here](#).

Board Discussion

Health Care Advocate

Supportive of the recommended motion language.

Public Comment

Robert Hoffman

Ham Davis

Board Member Robin Lunge made a motion:

1. Move that GMCB find that premature general public knowledge regarding legal advice of our counsel about the Board's hospital budget enforcement authority in this action would clearly place the Board at a substantial disadvantage in any appeal or other challenge that arose out of our decision. (have a finding for executive session per open meeting law)
The motion was seconded by Board Chair Foster. The board unanimously approved the motion.
2. Move that we enter into executive session to consider confidential attorney client

communications regarding the Board's enforcement authority for hospital budgets under the provisions of [Title 1 section 313\(a\)\(1\)\(f\)](#) of Vermont statute. Attendance at the executive session would be board members, the board's legal team, the board's executive director, and board staff working on the hospital budgets.

The motion was seconded by Chair Foster and unanimously approved.

GMCB Executive Session started at 10:33am and resumed at approximately 11:30am.

Called to Order - 1:00pm

Updated Motion: *Move to modify the UVMHC FY17 enforcement action to (1) permit the funds self-restricted to be used to increase capacity of mental health services in the state (not limited to inpatient capacity), (2) require UVMHN to develop a proposal that reflects and incorporates priorities from the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH) and contributions from community members identified by DMH for planned use of those funds, and (3) require that until utilized, such funds shall be held in the UVMHN Funded Depreciation account, with funds expected to be deployed in less than 9 months shall be held in the short-term investment portfolio; funds expected to be deployed in more than 9 months shall be held in the 60/40 portfolio, and all interest, earnings, and appreciation shall be accounted for and used to increase capacity of mental health services in the state.*

For the Board to determine progress is being made:

- *The proposal must be submitted to the GMCB by May 31, 2023,*
- *The Board will need confirmation from DMH that it is satisfied the proposal adequately reflects its contributions, and*
- *The proposal must include*
 - *An analysis showing how the use of funds will reduce the frequency and length of stay for adults, adolescents, and children experiencing a mental health episode who are boarded in EDs, and*
 - *An analysis showing how the use of funds will increase capacity for mental health services.*

Board Discussion

Board Chair Foster made the motion as displayed. Board Member Lunge seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Health Care Advocate

Public Comment

Presentation

FY 24 Hospital Budget Guidance – Potential Vote

- a. Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB
- b. Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Slides for this presentation can be found [here](#).

Board Discussion

Health Care Advocate - Eric Schulties

HCA would like to see this discussion move forward.

Public Comments

Ham Davis

Walter Carpenter

Michael Del Trecco, VAHHS

No Board vote will be conducted in this meeting.

Roundtable Discussion: *What We Are Learning About Cost Shifts vs Price Discrimination*

Jeffrey Stensland is a Principal Policy Analyst with MedPAC, an independent federal body that advises the U.S. Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program. His areas of research include hospital payment, geographic variation, rural health, and physician-hospital integration. Prior to joining MedPAC, Mr. Stensland was a Senior Research Director with the Project HOPE Center for Health Affairs. He has extensive experience conducting research on the financial performance of hospitals and rural health issues. His findings have been published in health policy and health care financing journals. In addition to his research experience, Mr. Stensland worked in the banking industry as a financial analyst and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst certification. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics with a minor in Health Services Research and Policy.

Slides for this presentation can be found on [our website](#).

Health Care Advocate - Eric Schulties

Public Comments

Sharon Gutwin

Walter Carpenter

Board Minutes: Minutes from March 15, 2023 were approved unanimously.

Executive Director Report: The Board continues to encourage the public to comment on a potential new All-Payer Model (APM) with our federal partners. Comments are shared with the Governor's Office and the Agency of Human Services who lead this work.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Adjourned

The Board unanimously approved a motion to adjourn at 3:15pm.

A recording of this meeting will be available on the [ORCA Media website](#).