

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
2:00 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*)

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced at the Primary Care Advisory Group on Wednesday, February 17, there will be [a presentation on the public engagement to inform a potential future Vermont All-Payer ACO Model](#). At the Board Meeting on February 24, GMCB staff will present the annual report for 2020. The GMCB will be presenting its FY22 budget to the House Committee on Appropriations this week. [Public comment information can be seen here on the GMCB website](#).

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from February 10, 2021.

**Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC): Quality Systems Overview**

Catherine Fulton, BS, MS, CPHQ, Executive Director, VPQHC  
Hillary Wolfley, Associate Director, VPQHC

Catherine Fulton presented the mission, vision, and aims of VPQHC. Their main mission is to improve health care quality in Vermont by studying the system and making it work better. Statute 18 V.S.A. § 9416 defines VPQHC as the statewide quality assurance organization, the billback formula, and caps the 9416 funding at 75% of VPQHC's budget. Catherine Fulton presented the Board of Directors, core funding and deliverables, the annual billback budget summary provided to the Department of Financial Regulation, the quarterly report submitted and reviewed by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), and VPQHC's website. VPQHC is a subcontractor to VDH for the patient safety surveillance and improvement system since 2011, which collects and reviews Serious Event Reports. VPQHC also works with the Vermont Department of Corrections to do independent case reviews of serious safety events.

Hillary Wolfley presented the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), which VPQHC works on as a subcontractor. It is a Federal program run through the Vermont

State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care. Hillary Wolfley presented the measures in the project that are used to provide comparative performance data. Catherine Fulton discussed the National Quality Improvement and Innovation Contract (NQIIC, a contract issue by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), the Hospital Quality Improvement Contract (HQIC, task order 3 of the NQIIC program), and the Eastern States Quality Improvement Collaborative (EQIC, a partnership with VPQHC, VAHHS, and six other states to reduce harm and improve patient safety). Hillary Wolfley discussed the Independent Training Project to improve the quality of suicide-specific treatment in Vermont. Catherine Fulton presented the GMCB analysis-ready data set report and the work with Corona virus relief funding connectivity cares packages. Hillary Wolfley discussed the audio-only telemedicine clinical quality speaker series and report and the recommendations that focused on healthcare quality measurement, monitoring & evaluation, patient engagement & empowerment, and provider education & training. Catherine Fulton discussed the statewide workgroup facilitated by VPQHC to improve continuing care and treatment in the community following hospitalization for mental health. Hillary Wolfley described the telehealth open office hours and training, health equity trainings, and the VAHHS annual meeting workshop on women in healthcare leadership.

Catherine Fulton discussed the VPQHC team, lessons learned by VPQHC, and potential collaboration with the GMCB. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board Members had a discussion and asked the presenters questions regarding the roll of VPQHC in the health care continuum, data analysis, how to measure the statutory requirements of the Health Resource Allocation Plan (HRAP), potential analysis of Medicare beneficiaries who have adverse events in Vermont, consistency of Medicare quality improvement initiatives with All-Payer Model metrics, the alignment of metrics to help reduce administrative burden, what VPQHC's vision is for data in the future, the PPP loan in their income statement, and the benefit of producing dashboards for hospitals.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:20 pm.