

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
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)*

Executive Director's Report

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the Board is continuing to accept [public comment](#) to inform a potential new agreement with the State of Vermont and CMS that will be shared with the other All-Payer Model signatories. [The March 2021 Board Meeting schedule can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from February 24, 2021.

Hospital Operating Performance FY20 Year-End Report

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Patrick Rooney explained that Vermont hospitals are required to report their FY 2020 actual operating results and submit their FY20 audited financial statements as part of the GMCB's FY20 budget orders. Springfield Hospital did not submit audited FY20 data at the time of the report, so the report uses unaudited data submitted by the hospital. On May 27, 2020, the Board voted to waive enforcement for FY20 due to the uncertainty from the pandemic.

Patrick Rooney reviewed the system wide analysis. For the Vermont hospital system, the variance in Net Patient Revenue/Fixed Prospective Payments (NPR/FPP) between actual 2020 and budgeted 2020 results was -10.7% and the operating expenses variance was 0.4%. The variance in NPR/FPP between actual 2020 and actual 2019 results was -6.3% and the operating expenses variance was 3.1%. Patrick Rooney discussed the impacts on the operating expenses, the operating margin for the system, the potential impacts of the stimulus guidance, and the operating margin from a quarterly perspective. The system wide payer mix did not indicate much shift from prior years despite the impact of COVID-19, though on a per hospital basis FY20 payer mix affected each differently. Patrick Rooney reviewed the chart of NPR/FPP variance for each hospital, the budgeted growth ceiling versus the actual growth in NPR/FPP for FY16

through FY20, the uncertainties of the CARES Act funding, the increasing reliance on other operating revenue, the chart of operating expenses variance by individual hospital, the charts of five year operating margin and total margin for each hospital, the fiscal year actual-to-actual growth below the system target, the charts of current assets and liabilities of each hospital, and the chart of budget to actual variance and percent total of the system for each hospital.

Patrick Rooney presented an overview of the common financial highlights across hospitals. Patrick Rooney then presented the NPR/FPP variance between actual 2020 and budgeted 2020 results, the operating expenses variance between actual 2020 and budgeted 2020 results, the NPR/FPP variance between actual 2020 and actual 2019 results, the operating expenses variance between actual 2020 and actual 2019 results, the operating margin, payer mix, utilization percent change, days cash on hand, and age of plant for each individual hospital in alphabetical order.

[The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board Members asked Patrick Rooney questions and had a discussion regarding the impact of cash on hand, total margin, & the balance sheet on the financial health of the hospitals, the differences in margin among hospitals, getting an update about the rules of the Covid-19 funds, the impact of telehealth on utilization, the financial health of hospitals before the pandemic, and the varying impact of the pandemic on the use of traveler staff.

Public Comment

Eric Schultheis, Staff Attorney, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS
Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

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