

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 17, 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 there is a Primary Care Advisory Group meeting at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. The Board is continuing to accept public comment to inform a potential new agreement with the State of Vermont and CMS, which will be shared with the other All-Payer Model signatories. The Board will continue to accept public comment on the FY22 Hospital Budget Guidance. [Special comment periods and instructions on submitting public comment can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

**Minutes**

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

**FY22 Hospital Budget Guidance**

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB  
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the scheduled Board meetings regarding the FY22 hospital budget guidance, the public comment received as of March 16, 2021, the changes to the draft guidance and appendices since the last meeting, discussion points for consideration of the Board, and the public comment from the HCA requesting additions to the guidance.

Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, and Eric Schultheis, Staff Attorney, from the Health Care Advocate (HCA) spoke about [the requests made in the public comment submitted by the HCA](#). Board Member Robin Lunge moved to include question #1 in the public comment from the HCA in the FY22 hospital budget guidance and leave the remaining questions to the parties, including VAHHS, to work through in a different process. Board Member Tom Pelham seconded the motion. The Board discussed the motion and opened the meeting to public comment. Board Member Robin Lunge amended the motion to put a place holder in the FY22

hospital budget guidance for a question along the lines of question 1 submitted by the HCA, with a work group to finalize the details before hospitals submit in July. Board Member Tom Pelham agreed with the revision. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

The Board discussed the HCA request to add to the guidance narrative in the first bullet of the letter. Board Member Robin Lunge moved to include in the guidance narrative the language “Please describe, to the best of your knowledge, other potential COVID-19 relief funds that your hospital could receive including amounts and that the Board would collect information regarding factors and process prior to the budget process.” Board Member Maureen Usifer seconded the motion. The Board opened the meeting to public comment. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Patrick Rooney discussed the Net Patient Revenue/Fixed Prospective Payments (NPR/FPP) component of the budget guidance, different looks at past NPR/FPP, the staff recommendation of a 3.0% budget-to-budget NPR/FPP growth ceiling, the rationale, and potential motion language. The Board Members discussed the NPR/FPP charts, a potential presumptive approval instead of a ceiling, historical NPR/FPP performance and use in regulation, and what the potential ceiling or presumptive approval percentages could be. The Board opened the meeting to public comment and had a discussion with representatives from the hospitals.

Russ McCracken discussed how the Board could use its authority in Act 91 to create an exemption from public hospital budget hearings. Patrick Rooney reviewed the potential prior year exemption from hearing policy and the staff recommendations. The Board discussed the potential presumptive approval and hearing exemption process, the potential NPR/FPP percentage that would be required, still requiring the budget submission in the potential presumptive approval process, potential charge increase, and continuing to look at the individual hospital stories in the hospital budget process.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS

Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, HCA

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

Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

Claudio Fort, President and CEO, Rutland Regional Medical Center

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

Thomas Dee, President and CEO, Southwestern Vermont Health Care

Stephen Majetich, Chief Financial Officer, Southwestern Vermont Health Care

Steven Gordon, President and CEO, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

Dean French, MD, CEO, Northwestern Medical Center

Michael Halstead, MBA, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Springfield Hospital

Isabelle Desjardins, MD, Chief Medical Officer, The University of Vermont Medical Center

Carol Conroy, Trustee, SVHC Board of Trustees, Southwestern Vermont Health Care

Judi Fox, CFO, Rutland Regional Medical Center

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Chair Mullin discussed with the Board Members and decided to start the Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 am instead of 1:00 pm.

**Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 4:15 pm.