

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 7, 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 current special comment periods](#) and reviewed [the agenda for the Board Meeting on April 14, 2021](#).

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from March 31, 2021.

Act 159 of 2020 Section 5 – Provider Sustainability and Reimbursement Equity

Alena Berube, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Sarah Kinsler, Director of Strategy and Operations, GMCB

Sarah Kinsler explained that the report on options for regulating provider reimbursement was submitted to the Legislator on March 15, 2021 per Act 159 of 2020 Section 5 and the GMCB staff is presenting the report to Senate Health and Welfare over three sessions. Sarah Kinsler presented the executive summary, key points to consider, and background on value-based care, the Federal shift from Fee-For-Service (FFS) to value-based care, & the State of Vermont's move towards value-based payments. Alena Berube discussed Vermont's focus on controlling health care spending through utilization, how the report focuses on changing unit cost of total spending, the Legislative language in Act 159 of 2020 Section 5, definitions of key terms, consideration of sustainability and equity in the report, and the implications for access and consumer affordability. Sarah Kinsler discussed the two primary bases for provider reimbursement on which payment models are built (cost-based and FFS), how provider reimbursement can be regulated, how provider reimbursement is commonly negotiated, a summary of the three regulatory approaches in the report, the report development process, and the report's scope by providers/services and by payers.

The three options for regulating provider reimbursement in the report are health system budgets, setting reimbursement parameters, and fee-for-service rate setting. Alena Berube presented the health system budgets option (definition, issues that could be approached, issues that are hard to address, and cost estimate ranges) and how this option has been implemented in Maryland's All-Payer Model and Pennsylvania's Rural Health Model. Alena Berube presented the setting reimbursement parameters option (definition, issues that could be approached, issues that are hard to address, and cost estimate ranges) and how this option has been implemented in Vermont's hospital budget review and in Rhode Island's affordability standards. Sarah Kinsler presented the fee-for-service rate setting option (definition, issues that could be approached, issues that are hard to address, and cost estimate ranges) and how this option was implemented by Maryland pre-2014.

Alena Berube discussed next steps, areas for further exploration, and key questions for the General Assembly. The Board Members had a discussion and asked the GMCB staff questions regarding Maryland lowering its rate of cost growth, providers' cost estimate ranges, the need to address determining the right level of services, defining sustainability and equity, the impact of payer mix, enhancing affordability considerations, and the State of Vermont moving fixed prospective payment implementation forward.

Public Comment

Rick Dooley, PA-C, Clinical Network Director, Health First
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont
Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network
Eric Schultheis, Staff Attorney, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:25 pm.