

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 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 10:00 am. Susan Barrett announced the [current special comment period](#) and reviewed the [April 2021 schedule](#).

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from April 7, 2021.

VITL Budget Guidance – Potential Vote

Sarah Kinsler, Director of Strategy and Operations, GMCB

Sarah Kinsler summarized [the draft changes to the VITL budget guidance](#) that were presented to the Board on March 31, 2021 and the public comment received. Board Member Pelham moved to approve the VITL budget guidance as presented. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

None

Act 159 of 2020 Section 4 – Update on Hospital Sustainability Planning

Alena Berube, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB

Alena Berube reviewed the language in Act 159 of 2020 Section 4, the context of value-based care, the relevant duties of the GMCB, the problems that the hospital sustainability planning is aiming to solve, the background of hospital closures, the decline in hospital margins, and how to define the sustainability work. The sustainability framework includes three parts: current state and gap analysis, hospital engagement, and potential paths forward. Alena Berube presented the

components of the state and gap analysis and examples of each: hospital financial health, hospital reimbursement and variation in prices/costs, and essential services and health outcomes using capacity and quality. Alena Berube reviewed hospital engagement in the process, the goal of outlining potential paths forward, and the timeline. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) Board Member Pelham asked Alena Berube questions regarding collaborative feedback from the hospitals, coordination with the GMCB data and analytics team, and how this work could be incorporated into regulatory duties of the Board.

Public Comment

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Catherine Fulton, BS, MS, CPHQ, Executive Director, VPQHC

Update on All-Payer ACO Model Agreement Implementation Improvement Plan from the Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, AHS, State of Vermont
Wendy Trafton, Deputy Director of Health Care Reform, AHS, State of Vermont

Ena Backus provided background that the State of Vermont received a scale target warning from CMS in Fall 2020, AHS' collaborative work on the implementation improvement plan and response to CMS, and CMS' letter of acceptance of the response. Ena Backus reviewed the progress on recommendations one through fourteen in Appendix A of the plan that was originally presented to the Board on November 25, 2020. Wendy Trafton reviewed the progress on recommendations fifteen and sixteen and Ena Backus reviewed the progress on recommendations seventeen and eighteen. [The implementation improvement plan can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) Ena Backus discussed engagement with the Board to help inform what works/does not work with the model and to inform a potential next model. The Board Members had a discussion and asked the presenters questions regarding the impact of the pandemic on the timeline of the current APM, creating a goal for Fixed Prospective Payments (FPP), alignment of the benchmark plan, work already done in the SIM program, care navigation, moving away from a provider led model, barriers and learnings, and recommendations nine and ten.

Public Comment

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Richard (Mort) Wasserman, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont
Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

Old Business

Board Member Lunge announced that the Prescription Drug Advisory Group Meeting on April 19, 2021 may be canceled because the group has decided to shift to subgroups to enhance focus and develop policy work.

New Business

None

Adjourn

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