

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 23, 2021  
10:00 am

**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 a.m. Susan Barrett announced the state of emergency declared in 2020 in response to COVID-19 expired June 15, 2021, at midnight. As a result, the temporary measures enacted by the Vermont Legislature tied to the declared emergency also expired. This means the Board must have a physical location available for the public per Vermont's open meeting law. Please note that presenters and Board Members will be participating in all of the Board Meetings remotely through Microsoft Teams at least through September 1, 2021. Members of the public can attend all meetings at the physical location 144 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602, through the Microsoft Teams application, or via the call-in number.

[The Board has several open special comment periods which can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) 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 Agency of Human Services and the Governor's Office who are taking the lead on this work.

Chair Mullin announced that a special comment period is open from June 23, 2021 until June 29, 2021 regarding Clover Health Partners' waiver request and clarified further that Board Members and presenters will continue to participate remotely in Board Meetings until further notice.

**Future of Rural Healthcare: Vermont Vision 2030**

Eric K. Shell, CPA, MBA, Chairman, Stroudwater Associates

Alena Berube, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB, explained that per Act 159 of 2020, the Board is tasked with working with Vermont hospitals to ensure there is sustainability as the State makes the shift from fee for service to value-based care. With the support from Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) and the Office of Rural Health, Eric Shell was invited to speak with the Board. Susan Barrett introduced Eric Shell and his professional background.

Eric Shell presented a national perspective of high insurance premiums, growth of high deductible plans, declining in-patient volume, accelerating growth in technology, increased provider competition, declining out-patient volume, declining Medicare margins, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMMI)'s new strategy, and the considerations from the June 2020 MedPAC Annual Report. Eric Shell discussed the implications of the national trends on value-based payment systems, the future hospital financial value equation, the challenges to overcome, an outline of payment transition, and how the transition framework can be shifted. Eric Shell presented a high-level summary of the transformational efforts in Vermont, the providers in Vermont, and the payers in Vermont, and discussed his observations and recommendations for the State. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with Eric Shell regarding service network rationalization, centralized decision making, budget-based payments, global budgets, Medicare hospital designations, Vermonters receiving care out of state, the long timeline of reform, an effective level of value-based payments, the Medicaid cost shift, and how to ensure the proper amount of patient care in a fixed-payment system.

### **Public Comment**

Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Lou McLaren, Director of Contracting, BCBSVT

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

Michael Costa, CEO, Northern Counties Health Care

Senator Virginia Lyons, Vermont

Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

### **Adjourn**

Chair Mullin recessed the meeting at 12:15 pm until 1:00 pm.