

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.

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Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from June 9, 2021.

**Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) Budget Presentation and Quarterly Update**

Sarah Kinsler reviewed the GMCB oversight of VITL, a summary of VITL's FY22 budget, the budget review criteria, and the GMCB staff recommendation. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website](#). Board Member Pelham moved to approve VITL'S FY22 budget with the two conditions outlined on slide ten, with additional language "VITL's strategic planning process including the sustainability model profiling the desired level of unrestricted net assets." Board Member Lunge seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

**Public Comment**

None

**FY 2022 Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Budget Guidance Presentation**

Marisa Melamed, Associate Director of Health Care Policy, GMCB

Marisa Melamed explained [the materials posted on the GMCB website](#) and that the draft reporting manual has been posted as well. Marisa Melamed reviewed the public comment received during the special comment period and the substantive changes to the FY22 ACO budget guidance since the June 9, 2021 presentation to the Board. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website](#). Board Member Lunge moved to approve the FY22 certification eligibility form as presented on June 9, 2021 and the FY22 ACO budget guidance and the staff recommended changes presented June 23, 2021 and delegate the final review of the budget guidance financial workbook and the budget guidance appendices to the Board Chair. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Clover Health Partners, LLC Waiver Request**

Kevin Murphy, Direct Contracting Executive Officer, Clover Health  
David Ault, Outside Counsel, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath

Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB, explained that Clover Health Partners, LLC (Clover Health) is participating as a direct contracting entity in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) new direct contracting model which began its first performance year in 2021. Clover Health is requesting a waiver of GMCB Rule 5.400 regarding annual budget review and approval and GMCB Rule 5.500 regarding monitoring and enforcement.

Kevin Murphy explained that Clover Health's program went live April 1, 2021 and is participating in multiple states including Vermont. Kevin Murphy gave an overview of Clover Health, their direct contracting entity, alignment with the goals of CMS and Vermont's model of care, the technological advantage of Clover Health, and the alignment with Vermont Blueprint for Health. David Ault presented Clover Health's waiver request for GMCB Rules 5.400 and 5.500. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board Members asked questions and had a discussion with the Clover Health presenters regarding the reporting requirements to CMS, potential expansion beyond the Medicare program, a grievance process for participants, the length of time Clover Health has been active, when 2021 quality and performance data is expected, how benefits enhancements are implemented in the model, who provides the in-home care model, potential development of a shared savings program, the projected number of beneficiaries in Vermont, the evidence base of the Clover Assistant technology, if the data collected will be sold to other entities, what data is being used in Vermont to determine referral management, alignment with the All-Payer Model and Act 113, alignment of reporting with CMS, and media appearances of Clover Health.

## **Public Comment**

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate  
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 3:20 p.m.