

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 4, 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 (*Absent*)  
Jessica Holmes, PhD (*via Microsoft Teams*)  
Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)

**Certificate of Need Hearing: Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH), A Secure Residential Treatment Program in Essex**

Karen Godnick Barber, General Counsel, DMH  
Samantha Sweet, Mental Health Services Director, DMH  
Anna Strong, Financial Director, DMH  
Ralph Irish, Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence Program Director, DMH  
Kathy Hentcy, Director Mental Health & Health Care Integration, DMH  
Tabrena Karish, Project Manager, Vermont Agency of Administration, Buildings and General Services (BGS)  
Joe Aja, Director of Design and Construction, BGS

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm and appointed Laura Beliveau, Staff Attorney, GMCB, as the Hearing Officer. Laura Beliveau swore in the representatives from DMH and BGS. Karen Godnick Barber presented the legislative history and project overview/need. Tabrena Karish presented the design of the facility. Karen Godnick Barber presented the financing of the project and the specific criteria considered in GMCB Rule 4.000 and 18 V.S.A. § 9437. Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, and Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate, asked DMH questions as an interested party. The Board Members asked DMH and BGS questions regarding the project's alignment with the goals of the All-Payer Model, the fire doors in the design, electronic health records, construction cost benchmarks, the global commitment cap, community versus institutional facilities, staffing challenges at Brattleboro Retreat, capacity, need, and potential savings.

**Public Comment**

Zachary Hozid, Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights Vermont  
Representative Anne Donahue  
Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

The Board voted (4-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:25 p.m.