

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2021
8:30 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*)

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am. Chair Mullin discussed hospital and other provider access issues and health care workforce shortages in the State, including previous GMCB discussions and presentations on the issues. Chair Mullin announced the GMCB's commitment to work with Agency of Human Services Secretary Mike Smith and Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Michael Pieciak with the workforce and access issues in the state. Chair Mullin asked GMCB staff to prepare a presentation on access, asked Board Member Holmes to work with AHS on the joint agency analysis of access and workforce challenges, and asked legal staff and the hospital budget team to present specific ideas for inclusion in the budget order for UVM Medical Center, noting the particular challenges in the Burlington health service area.

FY 2022 Vermont Hospital Budgets Board Deliberations

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB
Lori Perry, Health Systems Analytics Director, GMCB
Kaitlyn Hoffman, Health System Finances Principle Analyst, GMCB
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the updates to the slide deck reflecting the feedback from the Board Members on September 1, 2021. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Patrick Rooney presented Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's (BMH) requested NPR/FPP, requested overall charge master increase, a graph of performance versus 3.5% trending, the hospital's justification, NPR/FPP drivers, operating expense drivers, FY21 operating performance, historical performance, a breakdown of change in charge, the NPR/FPP payer mix, gross to net revenue, and staff recommendations. The Board discussed BMH's submitted budget.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve BMH's budget, as modified hereby, with an NPR/FPP increase of 0.3% from FY21 to FY22 budget, a 4.6% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on Slide 36. Board Member Holmes seconded the

motion. Russ McCracken asked whether the Board intended to include commensurate reductions to operating expense growth in the aggregate in order to protect margins and Board Member Lunge and Board Member Usifer discussed that they would not mandate the reduction in operating expense growth in order to allow for more flexibility for the hospital. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Lori Perry presented Copley Hospital's requested NPR/FPP, requested overall charge master increase, a graph of performance versus 3.5% trending, the hospital's justification, NPR/FPP drivers, operating expense drivers, FY21 operating performance, historical performance, a breakdown of change in charge, the NPR/FPP payer mix, gross to net revenue, and staff recommendations. Patrick Rooney discussed Copley Hospital's NPR growth and history of approved change in charge.

Board Member Lunge moved to acknowledge Copley Hospital's request to adjust its FY21 budget request to reflect acquisition of one Neurologist, along with one non-provider FTE, from Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley, effective as of April 1, 2021, with an impact to Copley's FY21 NPR/FPP of -0.47% and conditioned on required notice to patients pursuant to Act 143. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion (5-0).

The Board discussed Copley Hospital's submitted budget. Jeff Herbert, CFO of Copley Hospital, explained that with the Medicare methodology in a critical access hospital the change in charge includes Medicare as well as Commercial. Board Member Lunge moved to approve Copley Hospital's budget, including the acknowledged provider transfer, as modified hereby, with an NPR/FPP increase of 12% from FY21 to FY22 budget, a 4.00% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as outlined on Slide 36. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Chair Mullin explained that the Board is expecting answers from Springfield Hospital and the University of Vermont Health Network to be used in the Board deliberations going forward.

Public Comment

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 10:00 a.m.