

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 15, 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*)
Jessica Holmes, PhD (*Absent*)
Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)

Executive Director's Report

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett reviewed the October Board Meeting schedule.

GMCB Prescription Drug Advisory Group Presentation

Christina McLaughlin, Health Policy Analyst, GMCB
Nate Awrich, Director, Pharmacy Supply Chain, UVMHN
Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate,
Vermont Legal Aid

Chair Mullin explained the Prescription Drug Advisory Group was created by the GMCB to discover any possible solutions to ensure that Vermonters have access to affordable prescription drugs. Christina McLaughlin provided background on the Legislature's interest in the 2020 session and the advisory group that was subsequently started.

Nate Awrich presented the findings of the out-of-pocket costs sub-group including the problems identified and brainstormed solutions. The sub-group found that the Healthy Vermonters Program (HVP) is not maximizing discounts to eligible members and the sub-group outlined three options with pros and cons: expansion of the Healthy Vermonters and modification of the reimbursement structure, changing HVP to be a limited-funded benefit (State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program), or modify HVP to a 340B contract pharmacy program. Nate Awrich then presented the sub-group's recommendations regarding modifying the out-of-pocket (OOP) maximum rules, the manufacturer assistance programs (coupons), patient assistance programs, and enrollment of Medicaid-eligible Vermonters. Sam Peisch reviewed the Health Care Advocate's suggestion to modify eligibility requirements for the Medicare Savings Program by raising income limits and the pros and cons. Nate Awrich reviewed the two areas that the sub-group believes further involvement from the State is warranted: unused drug repository and pharmacist therapeutic substitution. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Board Member Lunge, the Board Member organizing the Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group, gave a process update for next steps to the Board. The Board Members had a discussion and asked Nate Arwich questions regarding pharmacy participation in the 340B program, SafeNetRx, unused drug repository, fees paid by drug manufacturers, alignment with Federal reform efforts, and the timetable for the other sub-group focusing on PBM issues to present.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (3-0) to adjourn at approximately 10:50 a.m.