

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 20, 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*)  
Jessica Holmes, PhD (*via Microsoft Teams*)  
Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the Primary Care Advisory Group Meeting at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 and the Board Meetings regarding sustainability planning on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 starting at 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#).

**Minutes**

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from October 13, 2021 and October 15, 2021.

**Draft Vermont Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan**

Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont

Chair Mullin thanked Beth Stern, Outreach Representative at the Office of Senator Bernie Sanders, for attending the meeting. Chair Mullin thanked Ena Backus for her work on the plan and discussed the cost of dollars and quality caused by the workforce shortage, especially the high cost of travelers.

Ena Backus explained that Act 155 of 2020, an act relating to increasing the supply of nurses and primary care providers in Vermont, established that the Director of Health Care Reform shall maintain a current health care workforce development strategic plan that continues efforts to ensure that Vermont has the health care workforce necessary to provide care to all Vermont residents. The Director or designee shall consult with an advisory group and Ena Backus described the group's membership and the large range of topics explored by the group. Ena Backus presented the advisory group's recommendations and required action for the categories outlined in the report: coordination of health care workforce development activities in the State of Vermont, data and monitoring, financial incentives for health care workers living and working as permanent employees in Vermont, education and training, regulation, practice, recruitment

and retention, and federal policy. Ena Backus then presented the future considerations described in the report. [The presentation can be seen here](#) and [the draft report can be seen here](#) on the GMCB website.

The Board Members had a discussion and asked Ena Backus questions regarding the process for accountability for the recommendations, how progress will be reported out, the timeline for the recommendations, successful recruiting programs already implemented by hospitals, demand modeling done in the SIM grant, tax incentives for nurses, prioritization of recommendations, the state interagency task team, and funding.

Chair Mullin explained that there is a public comment period open through November 1, 2021 and the Board plans on discussing and potentially voting on the report on November 3, 2021. The draft plan was submitted October 15, 2021 and the Board is required to approve it within 30 days upon receipt.

### **Public Comment**

Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

### **2022 Budget Guidance and Reporting Requirements for Medicare-Only Non-Certified Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) – Potential Vote**

Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Russ McCracken reviewed the public comment received on the 2022 budget guidance and reporting requirements for Medicare-Only Non-Certified ACOs. Russ McCracken noted that after posting the presentation slides a public comment had been received from Clover Health regarding the guidance. Russ McCracken reviewed the discussion points for the Board to consider as modification from the guidance draft presented on October 13, 2021: adding reference to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(i) along with (j) regarding verification under oath, adding question for ACO to report their expected payments to providers based on the LAN categories for fixed prospective payments (FPP), adding an exemption from the guidance and reporting for Medicare-only ACOs with a presence in Vermont of fewer than a threshold number of providers and/or a threshold number of attributed lives, and changing the annual reporting and review timeline in future years to the summer prior to ACO finalizing its provider list with CMS. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website](#). The Board discussed the four points. Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst at the Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA), presented the HCA's stance that there should be no exemption added to the guidance due to the number of providers and/or attributed lives.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve the draft guidance as previously presented to the Board, adding the reference to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(i) along with (j) regarding verification under oath, and adding a question that the GMCB staff will develop related to the payments to providers based

on the LAN categories for FPPs. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

**Public Comment**

Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid  
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

**Old Business**

Board Member Lunge announced the Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group Affordability Sub-Group will likely be invited to talk to the Health Care Affordability Task Force later this month or in November.

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

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