

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 17, 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. Executive Director Susan Barrett announced [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#), and at the Board Meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 1:00pm, the Board will discuss the 2020 ACO Quality and Financial Performance.

**Minutes**

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from:

- November 5, 2021
- November 8, 2021
- November 10, 2021
- November 12, 2021

**2021 Update to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Strategic Plan and 2022 Connectivity Criteria**

Kathryn O'Neill, Director of Data Management Analysis and Data Integrity, GMCB  
Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services  
Emily Richards, Health Information Exchange (HIE) Program Director, Agency of Human Services  
Beth Anderson, President & CEO, Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL)  
Carolyn Stone, Director of Operations, VITL

Kathryn O'Neill presented the GMCB's statutory charge to review and approve Vermont's statewide HIT Plan, now known as the HIE plan. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Agency of Human Services (AHS) are required to revise the HIE plan annually, and this is the 2021 update. The statutory oversight of the Board also includes reviewing and approving the connectivity criteria for the State's health information exchange network. Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) is required to present these criteria for approval annually.

Ena Backus explained the 2021 HIE update is aligning the Health Reform Initiative and moving health reform forward.

Emily Richards reviewed the core concepts of the HIE plan, which include the HIE goals, ecosystem and HIE Steering Committee. Emily Richards then presented the 2021 major changes and accomplishments, which included the Collaborative Services Project and shifts in HIE funding, and the 2022 planned activities, which included governing use of expanded health records on the VHIE, improving public health capabilities through integration with the VHIE, leveraging the unified health data space to support Medicaid operations, and improving access to health information. Emily Richards reviewed the changes to the HIE governance structure. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) The Board asked questions about committees, accessibility, financing, and anticipated progress.

Carolyn Stone presented the 2022 update to the Connectivity Criteria, which is a tiered system that establishes standards for meeting data quality goals. In 2021, claims data was added to expand sources on the VHIE, including mental and behavioral health and, most recently, COVID-19 test results.

Kathryn O'Neill presented the GMCB Staff Analysis, which began with a process reminder and the suggested principles for the HIE plan review. GMCB staff found that the HIE plan does support health care system improvement and more efficient data access and is consistent with the 14 principles for health care reform. GMCB staff found that the Connectivity Criteria is aligned with the HIE plan goals and structure, will support increased availability of data, and is sufficiently clear criteria. Kathryn O'Neill reminded everyone that the special public comment period is open through November 25, 2021, and the final staff recommendation to the Board and potential vote is on December 1, 2021. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

### **Public Comment**

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

Rick Hildebrandt, MD, Chief Medical Information Officer, Rutland Regional Medical Center

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (4-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:50 p.m.