

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
1:00 pm

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney *(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 reviewed [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#). Susan Barrett reminded everyone that there was a Primary Care Advisory Group meeting on December 15, 2021 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Susan Barrett went over the agenda for the Board meeting on December 22, 2021, which includes the Medicare Benchmark Proposal – Potential Vote and the FY22 OneCare Vermont (OCV) Budget – Potential Vote.

Minutes

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from December 8, 2021.

2022 Medicare Benchmark Proposal

Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Data Analytics, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg provided the background on Medicare benchmarks, which included the agreement that the State of Vermont has with CMS and the contracts that payers and providers have with the Accountable Care Organization (ACO). Sarah Lindberg explained that the All-Inclusive Population Based Payment (AIPBP) provides level payments to providers and presented a chart displaying the 2021 AIPBP vs Incurred Expenses. Sarah Lindberg explained the three major benchmark components which are historical experience, ACO-aligned beneficiaries, and trend (which is the GMCB decision). Sarah Lindberg presented the allowable benchmark trends, the trend limits to date, and previous GMCB decisions. Sarah Lindberg presented charts for the 2020 comparison, the All-Payer Model (APM) Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Per Member Per Month (PMPM) target, and Medicare PMPM and growth comparisons. Sarah Lindberg explained OCV's participation with Vermont Medicare and the OCV results to date. Sarah Lindberg presented the 2022 trend rates to help with the GMCB decision and the staff recommendations.

[The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Eric Schultheis, Staff Attorney, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate
Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS
Tom Borys, MBA, Vice President of Finance, OneCare Vermont

2021 Update to 2018-2022 Health Information Exchange (HIE) Strategic Plan and 2022 Connectivity Criteria GMCB Staff Recommendation – Potential Vote

Kathryn O’Neill, Director of Data Management Analysis and Data Integrity, GMCB

Kathryn O’Neill presented a process reminder about how the HIE Strategic Plan works and the revised HIE plan submitted by AHS. Kathryn O’Neill presented the staff recommendation which is to approve the plan as resubmitted. Board Member Lunge moved to approve the revised 2021 Update to the HIE Strategic Plan as resubmitted on December 8, 2021 and approve the 2022 Connectivity Criteria as submitted in the revised update to the plan. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

[The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

All-Payer Model Agreement - Proposal to Request 1-Year Extension of Current Agreement – Potential Vote

Sarah Kinsler, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB

Sarah Kinsler began the presentation and reiterated that this is a request to propose an extension and negotiate with federal partners, and is not a request for the Board to approve an extension itself. Sarah Kinsler also stated that the request is not intended to replace a proposal for a longer-term APM agreement. Sarah Kinsler explained that at AHS’s suggestion, the GMCB staff recommends adding a statement regarding a waiver to allow Medicare reimbursement for mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers. Sarah Kinsler presented the next steps if the request is approved and the staff recommendation to approve the extension. Board Member Lunge made a motion to support a request for a 1-Year extension of the current APM agreement as presented on December 1, 2021, and that the cover letter include the request regarding mental health and substance use treatment providers as presented today. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

[The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

FY 2022 OneCare Vermont ACO Budget and Certification – Additional GMCB Staff Analysis

Sarah Kinsler, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Marisa Melamed, Associate Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Michele Degree, Health Policy Project Director, GMCB

Marisa Melamed presented recommendation updates about the purchase of a benchmarking system. The recommendations were that OneCare Vermont (OCV) must implement an ACO benchmarking system and that they must select and propose the benchmarking system to the GMCB by April 1, 2021. Marisa Melamed presented the updated recommendation on the ACO budget and financials, including the recommendation that OCV operating expenses must not exceed \$15.3 million plus the cost of a third-party benchmarking system if this is required.

Michele Degree presented OCV's proposed FY22 Value-Based Incentive Fund (VBIF) changes which included a reduced budget, explained why the budget is reduced, and that the VBIF priorities remain the same. Michele Degree presented a chart comparing the 2021 budgeted amounts and 2022 budgeted amounts specifically tied to clinical quality performance. Michele Degree presented the two options that the staff recommends the Board consider. The potential vote is scheduled for December 22, 2021.

The Board Members asked questions and made comments about the changes and recommendations.

Sara Barry, Chief Operating Officer of OCV, spoke about accountability and maintaining the network of providers, while being mindful of scale and quality. Sara Barry explained that the meaning of VBIF has evolved over time and that the focus is on the four key quality measures. Sara Barry addressed the questions that were brought up by the Board.

[The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Dr. Dean French, CEO, Northwestern Medical Center
Robert Hoffman, M.A. LPC, MPH

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (4-0) to adjourn at approximately 4:00 PM.