

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
9:00 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 (*via Microsoft Teams*)
Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT (*via Microsoft Teams*)

Certificate of Need (CON) Hearing: The Collaborative Surgery Center (CSC), Proposed Ambulatory Surgery Center in Colchester

Elizabeth Hunt, Founding Member, CSC
Susan Ridzon, Founding Member, CSC
Amy Cooper, Consultant and Manager, CSC
Alexander LaRosa, Esq. MSK Attorneys, Counsel to CSC

Chair Kevin Mullin appointed General Counsel Michael Barber as the Hearing Officer. Michael Barber swore in the witnesses. Alexander LaRosa presented a summary of the CON application. Susan Ridzon presented on why Vermont needs the CSC, which is a 9,000 sq. foot, four operating room facility in Colchester, that would serve northern Vermont. Susan Ridzon explained that adding the CSC would assist in shortening wait times for certain procedures and lessen costs and reiterated their commitment to donate 50% of the profits back into the community. [The CSC presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#) At the conclusion of the presentation, Elizabeth Hunt, Susan Ridzon, Amy Cooper, and Alexander LaRosa responded to questions from the Health Care Advocate about their commitment to donate 50% of their profit, patient financial assistance and staff training. The Board asked questions regarding quality and volume, service area, real estate plans and agreements, and equipment.

Public Comment

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Rick Dooley, PA-C, Clinical Network Director, Health First

Adjourn

Chair Mullin recessed the meeting at approximately 11:50 AM, to resume at 1:00 PM.

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Executive Director's Report

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment period on the GMCB website](#), along with the new special public comment period regarding the Act 159 Section 5 report on hospital sustainability, which is open until January 28, 2022. Susan Barrett announced that the February Board Meeting Schedule would be released soon.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from January 21, 2022.

Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Benchmark Plan Updates

Emily Brown, Director of Insurance Regulation, Department of Financial Regulation (DFR)
Adaline Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Emily Brown presented the EHB Benchmark Plan change process, which involves the GMCB reviewing and approving the benefit packages for qualified health plans. Emily Brown presented the legislative mandate surrounding the EHB plan and design and reviewed the EHB plan analysis timeline. Emily Brown, with assistance from Julie Peper, Principal and Senior Consulting Actuary with Wakely, presented the Wakely EHB Overview and potential 2024 changes. The Wakely presentation reviewed some key points including federal regulations of the EHB, benefit comparisons, benefit pricing, and non-EHB considerations. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website](#). The Board members asked questions about the potential claim and premium impacts, funding, and benefit considerations.

Public Comment

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

Theodore Studdert-Kennedy, Chair, Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council

Discussion of Hospital Budget Regulatory Process and Preliminary 2023 Hospital Budget Guidance

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finance, GMCB

Patrick Rooney presented the GMCB FY 2023 Hospital Budget schedule and reviewed the annual percent increase for net patient revenue by fiscal year for all Vermont community hospitals. Patrick Rooney reviewed the common budgeting themes that may appear during the hospital budget process this year. Patrick Rooney presented the hospital budget guidance recommendations for FY23, along with the challenges and opportunities. Patrick Rooney presented the potential discussion items and goals for FY24. The Board members asked questions and discussed the ideal paths for the hospital budget process. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS

Catherine Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC

Old Business

Chair Mullin announced that there was a special public comment period posted regarding the EHB Benchmark Plan Updates and it would run through Friday, February 11, 2022 to be considered ahead of a potential vote.

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:50 pm.