

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
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)*  
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT *(via Microsoft Teams)*

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the Board submitted two reports to the legislature on February 1, 2022: the Act 159 Section 4 report and the reimbursement variation report. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#) and announced the February Board Meeting schedule was released and is available to view on the GMCB website.

**Minutes**

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from January 26, 2022.

**Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan Updates**

Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Ena Backus presented an update on the Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan, and the recommendation of support for a program of recruitment, retention and training. Ena Backus stated that AHS, along with other departments and agencies within state government, will address recommendations such as convening with the health education programs to attract participation. AHS proposes that dollars be available through the budget adjustment act for recruitment, retention, and training and that AHS administer a needs-based program, which would allow flexibility for employers to propose how to allocate funding, identify recruitment needs, and other creative incentives. Additional dollars were proposed to support nurse scholarships, expand loan repayment programs, add tax incentives, leverage existing platforms for marketing the state of Vermont and establish a specific marketing program to draw in nurses.

The Board asked questions and made comments about the allocated dollars and comparisons to neighboring states, understanding utilization patterns, the inter-agency task force status, and the service agreement duration.

## **Public Comment**

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate  
Eric Schultheis, Staff Attorney, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid  
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst  
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

## **Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) 2023 Proposal of Updates for Standard Qualified Health Plans (QHP)**

Dana Houlihan, Plan Management Director, DVHA  
Julie Peper, Principal Actuary, Wakely Consulting  
Brittney Phillips, Senior Consulting Actuary, Wakely Consulting  
Brooke Steiner, Consulting Actuary, Wakely Consulting

Dana Houlihan presented an overview of the proposed timeline and went over a short summary of the QHP offered by Vermont Health Connect (VHC). This includes 14 standard plans and 14 non-standard plans. Dana Houlihan reviewed the VHC 2022 Plan Designs and Premiums, [which can be seen here on the GMCB website](#). Dana Houlihan presented the planning for the 2023 Standard QHPs Stakeholder Group Composition, the benefit design principles, process highlights and reviewed the QHP certification high-level timeline.

Brittney Phillips presented the key changes from 2022 in relation to benefits and plan designs and provided an overview of the 2023 draft Actuarial Value Calculator (AVC), key changes from 2022, and the estimated premium impact. Brittney Phillips presented a proposal summary of the plan design changes and the changes within each individual plan, including changes to deductibles and copay/coinsurance for different services provided such as inpatient/outpatient services, urgent care, prescriptions, and others. Brittney Phillips presented considerations for each recommended change including trying to maintain low copay amounts, lower premium impact, and keeping changes consistent with prior years.

The Board Members asked questions about the consistency across all plans, the Federal AVC and compliance of cost sharing, percent increases, and estimated premium impacts. [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

## **Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:20 pm